**Gastroenterology & hepatology**

2016 Factsheet

Gastroenterology and hepatology are branches of internal medicine concerned with the prevention, investigation, treatment of and research into illnesses involving the gastrointestinal tract and liver. It takes a minimum of 6 years of full time training through the Royal Australasian College of Physicians to specialise in gastroenterology and hepatology. Factsheet excludes paediatric gastroenterology figures.

# Workforce

In 2016, there were 773 gastroenterology and hepatology specialists employed in Australia, of whom 58% worked in the private sector. The majority (94.4%) of specialists who completed the 2016 National Health Workforce Survey indicated they were clinicians.

# Demographics of clinicians

In 2016, male clinicians had an average age of 49 years and represented 79.3% of all clinicians working on average 45.3 hours per week. Females were on average 4.7 years younger and worked 7.4 fewer hours per week; represented 20.7% of all clinicians. The total average hours for the gastroenterology and hepatology clinician workforce were 43.7 hours per week.

35% of the workforce was aged 40-49 years and a further 26% were aged 50-59 years.

# Distribution of clinicians

In 2016, the majority (91.5%) of clinicians were located in a major city or a location considered as MMM1 under the Modified Monash Model classification system. Further information on the Modified Monash Model is available at doctorconnect.gov.au.

In 2016, the jurisdiction with the highest number of clinicians was New South Wales with 30.6% of clinicians, followed by Victoria and Queensland with 28.2% and 20.2% respectively.

There was an average of 3.0 clinicians per 100,000 population across Australia in 2016. The Australian Capital Territory had the highest ratio of clinicians with 5.3 per 100,000 population, by contrast Northern Territory had the lowest ratio with 0.8 per 100,000 population.

# New fellows

There were 42 new fellows in 2015, 64% were male. The number of gastroenterology and hepatology new fellows in 2015 was 7.7% higher than the number in 2013 (39).

# Vocational training

The number of gastroenterology and hepatology trainees in 2016 was129, 17.3% higher than the number in 2013 (110). Between 2013 and 2016 female trainees increased by 40.5%, whereas male trainees increased by 5.5%.

# Vocational intentions

In 2016, there were 83 Hospital Non-Specialists (HNS) who indicated their intention to undertake vocational training in gastroenterology and hepatology. The majority (68.7%) were aged 20-29 years. A HNS is a medical practitioner employed in a salaried position mainly in a hospital. They do not hold a specialist qualification and are not training to obtain one. They include career medical officers, hospital medical officers, interns, principal house officers, resident medical officers and registrars.

# References

1. National Health Workforce Dataset (NHWDS): Medical Practitioners 2016.
2. [Royal Australasian College of Physicians](https://www.racp.edu.au/trainees/advanced-training/advanced-training-programs/cardiology).
3. Medical Education and Training Report 1st edition (Unpublished).
4. ABS 3101.0 – Australian Demographics Statistics. Released 22/09/16.
5. Australian Medical Association (AMA) Career Pathways Guide.
6. National Medical Training Advisory Network (NMTAN) – Prevocational Doctor Factsheet Methodology Paper.

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