**General & acute medicine**

2016 Factsheet

General physicians (or specialists in internal medicine) are experts in the diagnosis and management of complex, chronic and multisystem disorders. A minimum of 6 years full-time training through the Royal Australasian College of Physicians is required to specialise in this area.

# Workforce

In 2016, there were 1,536 general and acute medicine specialists employed in Australia, of whom 42.6% worked in the private sector. The majority (90.4%) of specialists in this field who completed the 2016 National Health Workforce Survey indicated they were clinicians.

# Demographics of clinicians

Males represented 80.8% of clinicians in 2016 and had an average age of 57.8 years and average hours of 23.3 per week. Females represented 19.2% of clinicians and were on average 7.7 years younger and worked 2.1 fewer hours per week than male clinicians. The total average hours for the general and acute medicine clinician workforce were 22.9 hours per week.

# Distribution of clinicians

Most clinicians (78.2%) were located in a major city or a location considered as MMM1 under the Modified Monash Model classification system in 2016. Further information on the Modified Monash model is available at doctorconnect.gov.au.

In 2016, the jurisdiction with the highest proportion of clinicians was Victoria with 28.3%, followed by New South Wales with 22.3% and Queensland with 22.0%.

There was an average of 5.7 clinicians per 100,000 population across Australia in 2016. South Australia had the highest ratio of clinicians with 11.0 clinicians per 100,000 population, followed by the Northern Territory with 8.1 per 100,000 population. New South Wales had the lowest ratio of clinicians with 4.0 clinicians per 100,000 population.

# New fellows

The number of general and acute medicine new fellows in 2015 was 90, 34.3% higher than the number in 2013 (67). Females represented around one third of new fellows between 2013 and 2015. The number of female new fellows during this period increased by 57.9%, whereas male new fellows increased by 25.0%.

# Vocational training

The total number of vocational trainees from 2013 to 2016 changed by 93.5% from 308 to 596 respectively. Male trainees outnumbered female trainees in every year between 2013 and 2016. However, during this period female trainees increased by 116.8% compared to male trainees which increased by 77.6%.

# Vocational intentions

In 2016, there were 161 Hospital Non-Specialists (HNS) who indicated their intention to undertake vocational training in general and acute medicine. There were almost equal numbers of HNS intending to train in the 20-29 (48%) and 30-39 (43%) age groups. 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.
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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