**General practice**

2016 Factsheet

General practitioners (GPs) are often the first point of contact in matters of personal health. General practice provides person centred, continuing, comprehensive and coordinated whole person health care to individuals and families in their communities. A minimum of 3 years full-time training through the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners is required to specialise in this area.

# Workforce

In 2016, there were 23,283 GPs employed in Australia, of whom 90.5% worked in the private sector. The majority (96.2%) of GPs who completed the 2016 National Health Workforce Survey indicated they were clinicians.

# Demographics of clinicians

Males represented 59.4% of clinicians in 2016 and had an average age of 55.8 years and average hours of 41.1 per week. Females represented 40.6% of clinicians and were on average 4.8 years younger and worked 9.2 fewer hours per week than male clinicians. The total average hours for the general practice clinician workforce were 37.4 hours per week.

Over 32% of clinicians were aged 50-59 years and over 25% were aged 40-49 years.

# Distribution of clinicians

In 2016, the majority (74.7%) 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.

Over 30% of clinicians indicated their principle place of practice was in New South Wales and 24% indicated it was in Victoria.

There was an average of 92.5 clinicians per 100,000 population across Australia in 2016. Tasmania had the highest ratio of clinicians in 2016, with 105.6 per 100,000 population followed by South Australia with 104.3. Only three jurisdictions had less than the national average of Australia; New South Wales (89.3), Victoria (88) and Western Australia (88.2).

# New fellows

The number of general practice new fellows in 2015 was 1,310, this increased by 10.9% between 2013 (1,181) and 2015. Overseas trained new fellows who obtained their specialist qualification outside of Australia increased by 12.3% during this period. In 2015 there were 419 (32%) overseas trained new fellows.

In 2015, 58.1% of new fellows were female.

# Vocational training

The total number of vocational trainees in 2016 was 5,689. The total number of trainees increased by 36.3% from 2013 (4,174) to 2016.

61.5% of trainees were female.

# Vocational intentions

In 2016, there were 1,321 Hospital Non-Specialists (HNS) who indicated their intention to undertake general practice vocational training. In 2016 43.5% were aged 30-39 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. RACGP and ACRRM.
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.

# Copyright

© 2017 Commonwealth of Australia as represented by the Department of Health

This work is copyright. You may copy, print, download, display and reproduce the whole or part of this work in unaltered form for your own personal use or, if you are part of an organisation, for internal use within your organisation, but only if you or your organisation:

1. do not use the copy or reproduction for any commercial purpose; and
2. retain this copyright notice and all disclaimer notices as part of that copy or reproduction.

Apart from rights as permitted by the Copyright Act 1968 (Cth) or allowed by this copyright notice, all other rights are reserved, including (but not limited to) all commercial rights.

Requests and inquiries concerning reproduction and other rights to use are to be sent to the Communication Branch, Department of Health, GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, or via e-mail to corporatecomms@health.gov.au.