



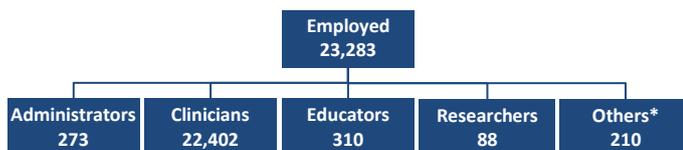
# General practice

## 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.



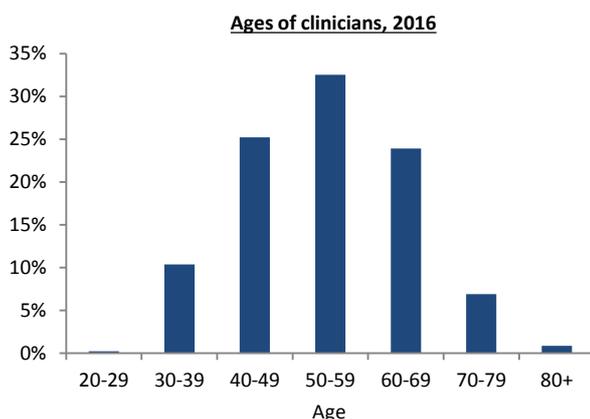
\* Includes roles reported by survey respondents that did not fit predefined survey categories.

### Demographics of clinicians

Males represented 59.4% of clinicians in 2016 and had an average age of 55.8 years. Females represented 40.6% of clinicians and were on average 4.8 years younger than male clinicians.

Category	% of clinicians	Average age	Average hours per week
Male	59.4%	55.8	41.1
Female	40.6%	51.0	31.9
<b>Clinician total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>53.8</b>	<b>37.4</b>

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.

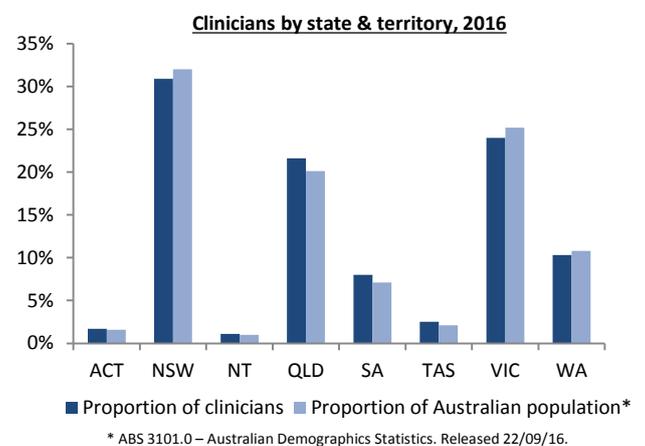
Location of clinicians by remoteness, Modified Monash Model (MMM*)							
MMM category	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
%	74.7	8.4	6.3	3.7	4.5	1.4	1.0

\* Further information on the Modified Monash Model is available at [doctorconnect.gov.au](http://doctorconnect.gov.au)

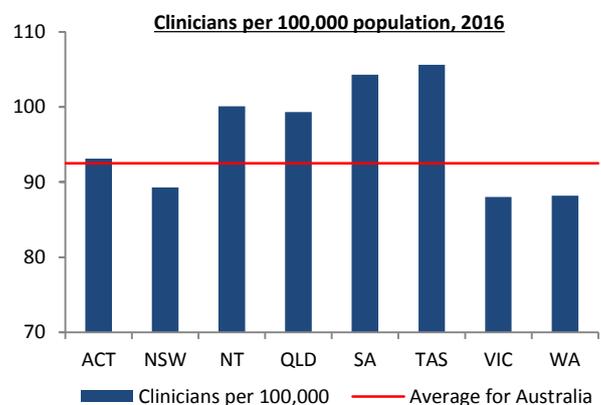
### Quick facts of clinician workforce



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).

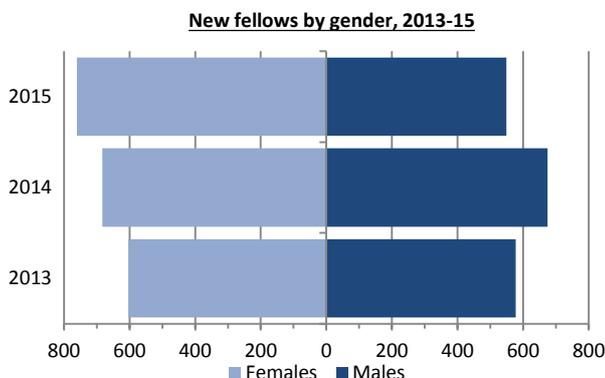


### New fellows

The number of general practice new fellows increased by 10.9% between 2013 and 2015. Overseas trained new fellows who obtained their specialist qualification outside of Australia increased by 12.3% during this period.

Number of new fellows, 2013-15			
	2013	2014	2015
Trained in Australia	808	1,095	891
Overseas trained	373	262	419
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,181</b>	<b>1,357</b>	<b>1,310</b>

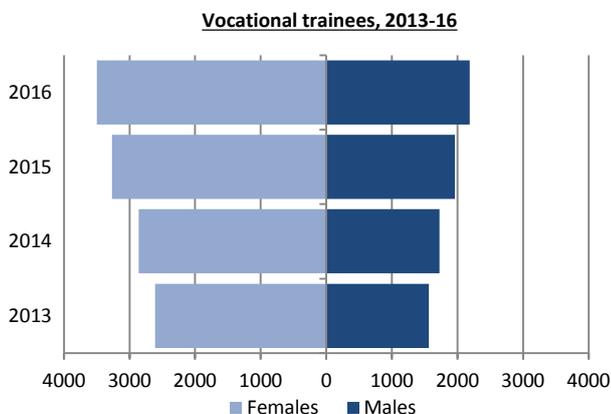
In 2015, 58.1% of new fellows were female.



## Vocational training

The total number of trainees increased by 36.3% from 2013 to 2016. 61.5% of trainees were female.

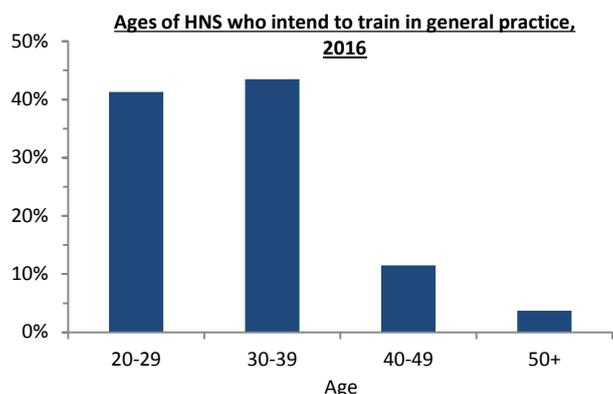
Trainee numbers, 2013-16			
Year	Females	Males	Total
2013	2,609	1,565	4,174
2014	2,861	1,728	4,589
2015	3,267	1,961	5,228
2016	3,500	2,189	5,689
<b>Change 2013-16 (%)</b>	<b>34.2%</b>	<b>39.9%</b>	<b>36.3%</b>



## Vocational intentions

In 2016, there were 1,321 Hospital Non-Specialists (HNS\*) who indicated their intention to undertake general practice vocational training.

\* 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.



## Workforce dynamics indicator\*

The workforce dynamics indicator highlights areas of concern in the future. The indicators measured and their current status is highlighted in the table below.

**Note:** The workforce dynamics indicators are for workforce assessment purposes only and are not intended to guide future training numbers.

\* Further information on the workforce dynamics Indicator is available at [health.gov.au](http://health.gov.au)



Indicator	Description	Status
<b>Ageing of workforce</b>	Workforces with higher average ages are more susceptible to higher exit rates due to retirements.	
<b>Replacement rate</b>	This measure indicates whether trainee numbers are sufficient to replace the numbers leaving the workforce.	
<b>Reliance on Overseas Trained Specialists (OTS)</b>	Workforces with high proportions of OTS are of concern because they depend on a supply stream affected by immigration policies that change.	
<b>Duration of training program</b>	This measure indicates how long it takes to train a replacement workforce.	

## References

- 1) National Health Workforce Dataset (NHWDs): Medical Practitioners 2016.
- 2) RACGP and ACRRM.
- 3) Medical Education and Training Report 1<sup>st</sup> 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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