**Geriatric medicine**

2016 Factsheet

A geriatrician has expertise in the diagnosis and management of complex and multifactorial internal medicine disorders that impact upon the cognition and functional status of older individuals. A minimum of six years full-time training is required through the Royal Australasian College of Physicians to specialise in this area.

# Workforce

In 2016, there were 619 geriatricians employed in Australia, of whom 19.6% worked in the private sector. The majority (95.0%) of geriatricians who completed the 2016 National Health Workforce Survey indicated they were clinicians.

# Demographics of clinicians

Males represented 57.0% of clinicians and had an average age of 49.9 and average hours of 38.2 per week. In contrast female clinicians account for 43% of all clinicians and on average were 4.5 years younger and worked 5.9 fewer hours per week than male clinicians. The total average hours for the geriatric medicine clinician workforce were 35.6 hours per week. The age group with the largest proportion of clinician were those aged 40-49 years.

# Distribution of clinicians

In 2016, the majority (87.6%) of clinicians were located in a major city or a location considered as MMM1 under the Modified Monash Model classification system. Further information on Modified Monash model is available at doctorconnect.gov.au.

In 2016, the jurisdiction with the highest number of clinicians was New South Wales with 33.0%, followed by Victoria and Queensland with 28.9% and 15.0% respectively.

There was an average of 2.4 clinicians per 100,000 population across Australia in 2016. The Australian Capital Territory and Victoria had the highest ratio of clinicians with 2.8 per 100,000 population, by contrast the Northern Territory had the lowest ratio with 0.8 per 100,000 population.

# New fellows

The number of geriatric medicine new fellows in 2015 was 59, 47.5% higher than the number in 2013 (40). Between 2013 and 2015 female new fellows increased by 70.6% and male new fellows by 30.4%.

# Vocational training

The number of geriatric medicine trainees in 2016 was266, 51.1% higher than the number in 2013 (175). Between 2013 and 2016, female trainees increased by 94.4% and male trainees increased by 5.8%.

# Vocational intentions

In 2016, there were 80 Hospital Non-Specialists (HNS) who indicated their intention to undertake vocational training in geriatric medicine. 58.8% 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/docs/default-source/default-document-library/at-geriatric-medicine-handbook-2017-18.pdf?sfvrsn=8)
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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