**Intensive care**

2016 Factsheet

An intensive care medicine specialist is trained to be a leader of a multidisciplinary team proficient in the comprehensive clinical management of critically ill patients. Intensive care medicine specialists have clinical skills to manage severe medical, surgical, obstetric and paediatric illnesses and the skills to treat the conditions that cause them. A minimum of six years full-time training through the College of Intensive Care Medicine of Australia and New Zealand is required to specialise in this area.

# Workforce

In 2016, there were 756 intensive care medicine specialists employed in Australia, of whom 19.7% worked in the private sector. The majority (89.4%) of intensive care specialists who completed the 2016 National Health Workforce Survey indicated they were clinicians.

# Demographics of clinicians

Males represented 83.0% clinicians in 2016 and had an average age of 48.7 years and average hours of 43.6 per week. Females represented 17.0% of clinicians and were on average 3.7 years younger and worker 0.9 fewer hours per week than male clinicians. The total average hours for the intensive care medicine clinician workforce were 43.4 hours per week.

Over 42% of clinicians were aged 40-49 years and over 27% were aged 50-59 years.

# Distribution of clinicians

In 2016, most clinicians (84.5%) 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 28.9%, followed by Queensland and Victoria with 23.7 and 22.9 respectively.

New South Wales had the highest number of clinicians for 2016, however, along with Victoria had the lowest ratio of 2.5 clinicians for every 100,000 population. By contrast, the Australian Capital Territory had the highest ratio with 4.3 clinicians per 100,000 population. The average clinician per 100,000 population for Australia was 2.8.

# New fellows

The number of new fellows from the College of Intensive Care Medicine of Australia and New Zealand decreased 7.7% from 2013 (52) to 2015 (48). Overseas trained new fellows who obtained their specialist qualification outside of Australia decreased 20% during this period from 5 to 4 new fellows.

The number of female new fellows in 2015 (20) was 25% higher than the number in 2013 (16), and the number of males was 22.2% less than in 2013 (36 to 28 respectively).

# Vocational training

Between 2013 and 2016 trainee numbers fluctuated from 480 to 485 respectively. During this this period female trainee numbers decreased by 33.7%, whereas male trainee numbers increased by 20.5%.

# Vocational intentions

In 2016, there were 200 Hospital Non-Specialists (HNS) who indicated their intention to undertake vocational training in intensive care medicine. Of these HNS 64% 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. College of Intensive Care Medicine of Australia and New Zealand.
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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