**Medical administration**

2016 Factsheet

Medical administration is administration or management utilising the medical and clinical knowledge, skill, and judgement of a registered medical practitioner. This may include administering or managing a hospital or other health services, or developing health operational policy, planning or purchasing of health services. A minimum of three years full-time training through the Royal Australian College of Medical Administration is required to specialise in this area.

# Workforce

In 2016, there were 277 medical administrators employed in Australia, of whom 20.2% worked in the private sector. The majority (72.9%) of specialists in this field who completed the 2016 National Health Workforce Survey indicated their principal role in medicine was an administrator. While 20% (57) indicated that their main role was as a clinician.

# Demographics of workforce

In 2016, males represented 66.8% of medical administrators and had an average age of 58.4 years and average hours of 26.5 hours per week. Females represented 33.2% of the workforce and were on average 2 years younger and worked 9.2 fewer hours per week than male medical administrators. The total average hours for the medical administrator’s workforce were 24.5 hours per week.

# Distribution of workforce

In 2016, most medical administrators (80.9%) 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 32% of medical administrators indicated their principal place of practice was in New South Wales and over 27% indicated it was in Queensland.

The Northern Territory had the highest ratio of medical administrators in 2016 with 2.0 per 100,000 population. By contrast, South Australia had the lowest ratio with 0.8 per 100,000 population. The average for Australia was 1.1 clinician per 100,000 population.

# New fellows

The overall number of new fellows from the Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators decreased by 7.7% between 2013 (13) and 2015 (12). During this period, there were no overseas trained new fellows.

# Vocational training

The number of trainees remained steady each year between 2013 and 2016, at 107 and 110 respectively. Between 2013 and 2016, female trainees increased by 9.3% and male trainees decreased by 1.6%.

# Vocational intentions

In 2016, there were 30 Hospital Non-Specialists (HNS) who indicated their intention to undertake vocational training in medical administration. Over 46% were aged between 30-39 years and over 36% were aged 40 years or older. 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 Medical Administrators.
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.