**Medical oncology**

2016 Factsheet

A medical oncologist is a consultant physician who specialises in the investigation, study, diagnosis, management and treatment of benign and malignant growths, tumours, cancers and diseases. A minimum of six years full-time training through the Royal Australasian College of Physicians is required to specialise in this area.

# Workforce

In 2016, there were 568 medical oncologists employed in Australia, of whom 29.8% worked in the private sector. The majority (88.7%) of medical oncologists who completed the 2016 National Health Workforce Survey indicated they were clinicians.

# Demographics of clinicians

Males represented 60.9% of clinicians in 2016 and had an average age of 48.0 years. Females represented 39.1% of clinicians and were on average 4.5 years younger than male clinicians. The total average hours for the Medical oncology clinician workforce were 42.2 hours per week.

# Distribution of clinicians

The majority (83.9%) of clinicians were located in a major city or a location considered as MMM1 under the Modified Monash Model classification system in 2016. Further information on the Modified Monash Model is available at doctorconnect.gov.au.

In 2016, Victoria was listed as the principal place of practice for 34.2% of clinicians and New South Wales was listed as the principle place of practice for 29.0% of clinicians.

The Australian Capital Territory and Victoria had the highest ratio of clinicians with 2.8 per 100,000 population and were the only jurisdictions with more clinicians than the national average of 2.1 per 100,000 population.

# New fellows

The number of medical oncology new fellow numbers peaked in 2013 with 26 new fellows. The ratio of male to female new fellows was close to 1:1 on average between 2013 and 2015. During this period the total number of new fellows decreased by 14.8%.

# Vocational training

Between 2013 and 2016 the number of female trainees increased by 28.2%, whereas male trainees increased by 1.5%.

# Vocational intentions

In 2016, there were 86 Hospital Non-Specialists (HNS) who indicated their intention to undertake vocational training in medical oncology. 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.
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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