**Nephrology**

2016 Factsheet

The discipline of nephrology is defined by the care of patients with diseases of the kidneys and urinary tract. 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 479 nephrologists employed in Australia, of whom 28.4% worked in the private sector. The majority (89.4%) of nephrologists who completed the 2016 National Health Workforce Survey indicated they were clinicians.

# Demographics of clinicians

Males represented 71.5% of clinicians and had an average age of 50.4 years. Female clinicians represented 28.5% and were 5.7 years younger on average.

# Distribution of clinicians

In 2016, the majority (81.3%) of clinicians 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, 31.1% of clinicians indicated their principal place of practice was in New South Wales and another 31.1% indicated that their principle place of practice was in Victoria.

There was an average of 1.8 clinicians per 100,000 population across Australia in 2016. The Northern Territory had the lowest number of clinicians in 2016, however it had the highest ratio of clinicians with 3.7 per 100,000 population.

# New fellows

The number of nephrology new fellows fluctuated between 2013 and 2015. The number of new fellows in 2015 (35) was 2.8% less than the number of new fellows in 2013 (36). Of the new fellows in 2015, 37% were female.

# Vocational training

The number of nephrology trainees in 2016 (110) was 15.8% higher than the number in 2013 (95). Between 2013 and 2016 the number of female trainees increased by 19.6% from 56 to 67, and males increased by 10.3% from 39 to 43.

# Vocational intentions

In 2016, there were 53 Hospital Non-Specialists (HNS) who indicated their intention to undertake vocational training in nephrology. The majority (69.8%) 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/trainees/advanced-training/advanced-training-programs/nephrology)
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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