**Neurology**

2016 Factsheet

The practice of neurology involves the diagnosis and management of diseases affecting the central, peripheral and autonomic nervous systems and muscles. A minimum of six years full-time training through the Royal Australasian College of Physicians is required to specialise in this area. This factsheet excludes paediatric neurology figures.

# Workforce

In 2016, there were 539 neurologists employed in Australia, of whom 46.0% worked in the private sector. The majority (90.9%) of specialists in this field who completed the 2016 National Health Workforce Survey indicated they were clinicians.

# Demographics of clinicians

Males represented the majority (74.7%) of clinicians in 2016 and had an average age of 53.0 years. Females represented 25.3% of clinicians and were on average 7.2 years younger.

# Distribution of clinicians

The majority (93.3%) of clinicians were located in a major city or a location considered as MMM1 under the Modified Monash Model classification system in 2016.

In 2016, the jurisdiction with the highest number of clinicians was New South Wales with 36.1%, followed by Victoria and Queensland with 30.8% and 14.1% respectively.

There was an average of 2.0 clinicians per 100,000 population in 2016. Victoria had the highest ratio of clinicians with 2.5 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 neurology new fellows in 2015 (35) was 29.6% higher than the number in 2013 (27). Between 2013 and 2015, female new fellows increased by 35.7% from 14 to 19 and male new fellows increased by 23.1% from 13 to 16.

# Vocational training

The number of neurology trainees in 2016 (108) was 30.1% higher than the number in 2013 (83). The gender ratio was close to 1:1 each year between 2013 and 2016.

# Vocational intentions

In 2016, there were 64 Hospital Non-Specialists (HNS) who indicated their intention to undertake vocational training in neurology. Over 68% 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/cardiology).
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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