**Otolaryngology**

2016 Factsheet

Otolaryngology head and neck surgeons investigate and treat conditions involving the ear, nose, throat, head and neck. These include nasal and sinus conditions, snoring and breathing problems, tonsillitis, cancers of the head and neck including thyroid surgery, voice problems, plastic surgery of the nose and face, hearing difficulties and deafness. A minimum of five years full-time advanced training through the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons is required to specialise in this area.

# Workforce

In 2016, there were 460 otolaryngologists employed in Australia, of whom 81.5% worked in the private sector. Over 97% of otolaryngologists who completed the 2016 National Health Workforce Survey indicated they were clinicians.

# Demographics of clinicians

Males represented 87.0% of clinicians in 2016 and had an average age of 54.0 years. Females represented 13.0% of clinicians and were on average 10.0 years younger than male clinicians.

# Distribution of clinicians

In 2016, the majority (85.0%) of clinicians were located in a major city or a location considered as MMM1 under the Modified Monash Model classification system.

The largest number of clinicians was in New South Wales with over 34.5% of clinicians indicating their principle place of practice was in this state.

There was an average of 1.8 clinicians per 100,000 population across Australia in 2016. South Australia had the highest ratio of clinicians with 2.3 per 100,000 population.

# New fellows

The number of otolaryngology new fellows fluctuated between 2013 and 2015. The number of new fellows in 2015 (13) was 23.5% less than the number in 2013 (17).

# Vocational training

The total number of trainees in 2016 (75) was 13.6% higher than the number in 2013 (66).

# Vocational intentions

In 2016, there were 114 Hospital Non-Specialists (HNS) who indicated their intention to undertake vocational training in otolaryngology. 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. Australian Medical Association (AMA) Career Pathways Guide.
3. Medical Education and Training Report 1st edition (Unpublished).
4. ABS 3101.0 – Australian Demographics Statistics. Released 22/09/16.
5. National Medical Training Advisory Network (NMTAN) – Prevocational Doctor Factsheet Methodology Paper.

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