

Palliative medicine

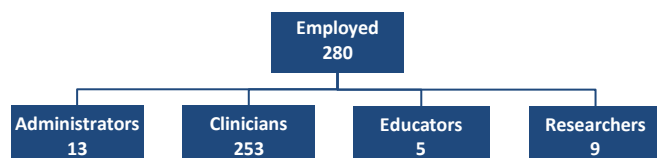


2016 Factsheet

Palliative medicine is the study and management of patients with active, progressive and far-advanced disease, for whom the prognosis is limited and the focus of care is on their quality of life. Up to six years full-time advanced training through the Royal Australasian College of Physicians Australasian Chapter of Palliative Medicine is required to specialise in this area.

Workforce

In 2016, there were 280 palliative medicine specialists employed in Australia, of whom 20.0% worked in the private sector. Over 90% of specialists in this field who completed the 2016 National Health Workforce Survey indicated they were clinicians.

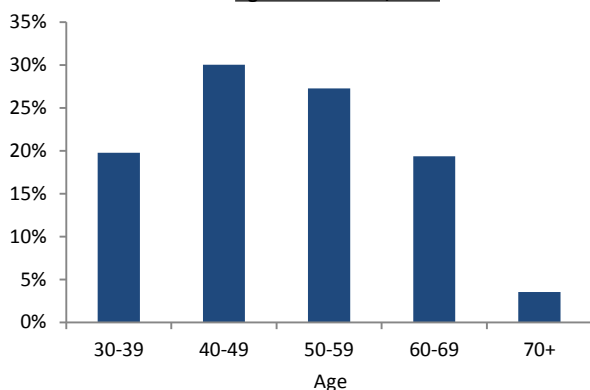


Demographics of clinicians

Males represented 41.1% clinicians in 2016 and had an average age of 54.5 years. Females represented 58.9% of clinicians and were on average 6.9 years younger than male clinicians. Palliative medicine clinicians worked an average of 32.7 hours per week.

Category	% of clinicians	Average age	Average hours per week
Male	41.1%	54.5	32.9
Female	58.9%	47.6	32.5
Clinician total	100.0%	50.5	32.7

Ages of clinicians, 2016



Distribution of clinicians

Most clinicians (84.6%) were located in a major city or a location considered as MMM1 under the Modified Monash Model classification system in 2016.

Location of clinicians by remoteness, Modified Monash Model (MMM*)

MMM category	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
%	84.6	10.3	3.5	0.4	0.4	0.8	-

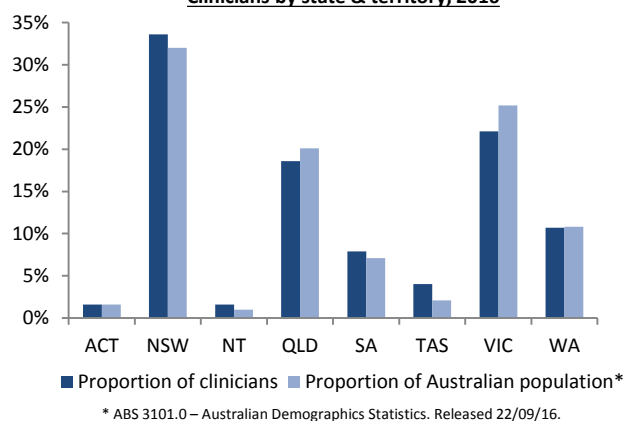
* Further information on the Modified Monash Model is available at doctorconnect.gov.au

Quick facts of clinician workforce

- 22.9 % Aged 60 or older
- 50.5 Average age
- 32.7 Average hours per week
- 58.9 % Female
- 84.6 % Located in a major city
- 42.2 % Intend to retire within 10 years

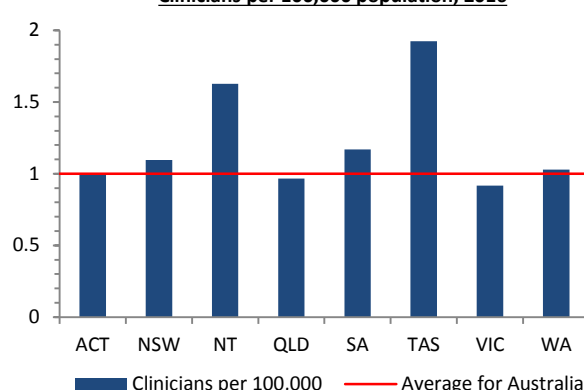
In 2016, New South Wales was listed as the principal place of practice for 33.6% of clinicians and Victoria for 22.1% of clinicians.

Clinicians by state & territory, 2016



Tasmania had the highest ratio of clinicians in 2016, with 1.9 per 100,000 population followed by the Northern Territory with 1.6 per 100,000 population.

Clinicians per 100,000 population, 2016



New fellows

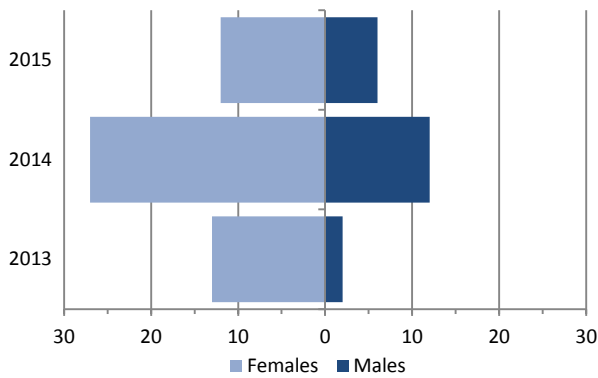
Overseas trained new fellows who obtained their specialist qualification outside of Australia represented 22.2% of new fellows in 2015.

Number of new fellows, 2013-15

	2013	2014	2015
Trained in Australia	14	38	14
Overseas trained	1	1	4
Total	15	39	18

In 2015, 66.7% of new fellows were female.

New fellows by gender, 2013-15



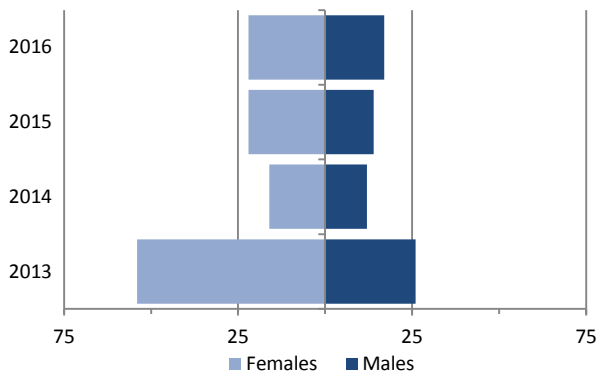
Vocational training

The number of trainees in 2016 was 51.3% less than the number in 2013.

Trainee numbers, 2013-16

Year	Females	Males	Total
2013	54	26	80
2014	16	12	28
2015	22	14	36
2016	22	17	39
Change 2013-16 (%)	-59.3%	-34.6%	-51.3%

Vocational trainees, 2013-16

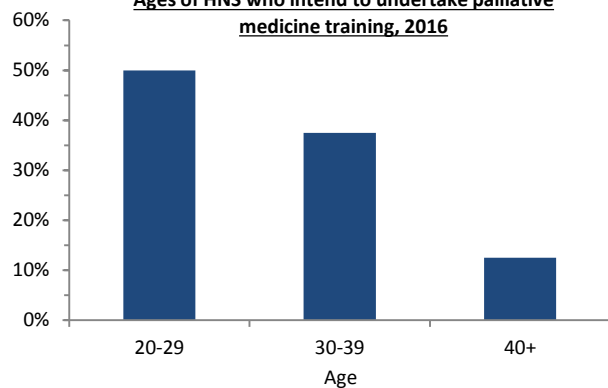


Vocational intentions

In 2016, there were 48 Hospital Non-Specialists (HNS*) who indicated their intention to undertake vocational training in palliative medicine.

* 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.

Ages of HNS who intend to undertake palliative medicine training, 2016



Workforce dynamics indicator*

The workforce dynamics indicator highlights areas of concern in the future. The indicators measured and their current status is highlighted in the table below.

Note: The workforce dynamics indicators are for workforce assessment purposes only and are not intended to guide future training numbers.

* Further information on the workforce dynamics Indicator is available at health.gov.au



Indicator	Description	Status
Ageing of workforce	Workforces with higher average ages are more susceptible to higher exit rates due to retirements.	Orange
Replacement rate	This measure indicates whether trainee numbers are sufficient to replace the numbers leaving the workforce.	Green
Reliance on Overseas Trained Specialists (OTS)	Workforces with high proportions of OTS are of concern because they depend on a supply stream affected by immigration policies that change.	Yellow
Duration of training program	This measure indicates how long it takes to train a replacement workforce.	Dark Orange

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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