**Psychiatry**

2016 Factsheet

Psychiatrists specialise in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mental illness and emotional problems. They are trained to recognise and treat the effects of emotional disturbances on the body, as well as the effects of physical conditions on the mind. A minimum of five years full-time advanced training through the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists is required to specialise in this area.

# Workforce

In 2016, there were 3,327 psychiatrists employed in Australia, of whom 49.7% worked in the private sector. The majority (91.5%) of psychiatrists who completed the 2016 National Health Workforce Survey indicated they were clinicians.

# Demographics of clinicians

Males represented 61.3% of clinicians in 2016 and had an average age of 54.5 years. Females represented 38.7% of clinicians and were on average 3.4 years younger than male clinicians.

Over 32% of clinicians were aged 40-49 years and over 27% were aged 50-59 years.

# Distribution of clinicians

Most clinicians (87.5%) were located in a major city or a location considered as MMM1 under the Modified Monash Model classification system in 2016.

The proportion of clinicians for South Australia and Victoria were higher than the population proportions for these states.

Over 30% of clinicians reported their principal place of practice was in New South Wales.

New South Wales had the highest number of clinicians for 2016, however South Australia and Victoria were the only states with more clinicians than the national average of 12.6 clinicians per 100,000 population.

# New fellows

The number of new fellows from the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists increased 27.7% from 2013 (141) to 2015 (180). In 2015, 41.1% of new fellows obtained their specialist qualification outside of Australia.

In 2015, 45% of new fellows were female.

# Vocational training

The number of trainees increased every year between 2013 (1,251) and 2016 (1,522). During this period the number of male trainees increased by 44.4% from 567 to 819 and female trainees increased by 2.8% from 684 to 703.

# Vocational intentions

In 2016, there were 217 Hospital Non-Specialists (HNS) who indicated their intention to undertake vocational training in psychiatry. Over 46% 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.

# Workforce projections

The demand for psychiatrists will exceed supply. There is a projected shortage of 74 full-time equivalent (FTE) psychiatrists in 2025 and a shortfall of 124 FTE in 2030.

# References

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3. Medical Education and Training Report 1st edition (Unpublished).
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5. Australia’s Future Health Workforce – Psychiatry 2017.
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