**Public health medicine**

2016 Factsheet

Public Health Medicine is a medical specialty primarily concerned with the health and care of populations. Physicians interested in Public Health Medicine are trained in both clinical medicine and public health. Specialists in this area support public health research and development and advocate for the highest standard of population health. A minimum of four years full-time advanced training through the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine, is required to specialise in this area.

# Workforce

In 2016, there were 362 public health medicine specialists employed in Australia, of whom 23.2% worked in the private sector. Over 37% of specialists in this field who completed the 2016 National Health Workforce Survey indicated they were clinicians.

# Demographics of clinicians

Males represented 62.8% of clinicians in 2016 and had an average age of 60.8 years. Females represented 37.2% of clinicians and were on average 8.0 years younger than male clinicians. Nearly 80% of clinicians were aged 50 years or older

# Distribution of clinicians

In 2016, the majority (69.3%) of clinicians were located in a major city or a location considered as MMM1 under the Modified Monash Model classification system.

The largest concentration of clinicians was in Queensland with 26.3% of clinicians indicating their principle place of practice was in this state.

The Northern Territory had the highest ratio of clinicians in 2016 with 4.5 per 100,000 population. Victoria and New South Wales both had less clinicians per 100,000 population than the national average of 0.6.

# New fellows

The number of public health medicine new fellows increased every year between 2013 and 2015 from 7 to 16. During this period, overseas trained new fellows only made up a small proportion of new fellows, with 1 additional new fellow in 2013 and 2 additional fellows in 2015.

The total number of new fellows in 2015 (16) was 128.6% higher than in 2013 (7). Between 2013 and 2015, female new fellows increased by 140.0% and male new fellows increased by 100.0%.

# Vocational training

There were 82 vocational trainees in 2016. Between 2013 and 2016, the number of female trainees increased by 5.8% from 52 to 55, whereas male trainee numbers decreased by 6.9% from 29 to 27.

# Vocational intentions

In 2016, there were 34 Hospital Non-Specialists (HNS) who indicated their intention to undertake vocational training in public health 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.

# 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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