**Rehabilitation medicine**

2016 Factsheet

Rehabilitation medicine involves the diagnosis, assessment and management of a disability due to illness or injury. Rehabilitation physicians work with people with a disability to help them achieve and maintain an optimal quality of life. A minimum of four years full-time advanced training through the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, is required to specialise in this area.

# Workforce

In 2016, there were 451 rehabilitation medicine specialists employed in Australia, of whom 37.7% worked in the private sector. The majority (96.0%) of specialists in this field who completed the 2016 National Health Workforce Survey indicated they were clinicians.

# Demographics of clinicians

Males represented 53.6% of clinicians in 2016 and had an average age of 53.3 years. Females represented 46.4% of clinicians and were on average 6.0 years younger than male clinicians.

Over 32% of clinicians were aged 40-49 years and 30% were aged 50-59 years.

# Distribution of clinicians

In 2016, the majority (86.1%) 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 45.3% of clinicians indicating their principle place of practice was in this state.

New South Wales had the highest ratio of clinicians in 2016 with 2.5 per 100,000 population. Victoria was the only other jurisdiction with more clinicians than the national average of 1.8 per 100,000 population.

# New fellows

The number of rehabilitation medicine new fellows in 2015 (33) was 65.0% higher than the number in 2013 (20). Over the same period, the number of overseas trained new fellows who obtained their specialist qualification outside of Australia decreased by 50.0% from 2 in 2013 to 1 in 2015.

In 2015, 69.7% of new fellows were female.

# Vocational training

Female trainees outnumbered male trainees in every year between 2013 and 2016. During this period, the total number of trainees increased by 4.2%.

# Vocational intentions

In 2016, there were 23 Hospital Non-Specialists (HNS) who indicated their intention to undertake vocational training in rehabilitation 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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