**Sexual health medicine**

2016 Factsheet

Sexual health medicine is the specialised area of medical practice concerned with healthy sexual relations, including freedom from sexually transmissible infections (STIs), unplanned pregnancy, coercion, and physical or psychological discomfort associated with sexuality. A minimum of three years full-time advanced training through the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine is required to specialise in this area.

# Workforce

In 2016, there were 114 sexual health medicine specialists employed in Australia, of whom 28.1% worked in the private sector. Over 85% of sexual medicine specialists who completed the 2016 National Health Workforce Survey indicated they were clinicians.

# Demographics of clinicians

Males represented 45.4% of clinicians in 2016 and had an average age of 56.3 years. Females represented 54.6% of clinicians and were on average 2.2 years younger than males.

# Distribution of clinicians

In 2016, the majority (84.5%) of clinicians were located in a major city or a location considered as MMM1 under the Modified Monash Model classification system.

Nearly half of all sexual health medicine clinicians indicated their principle place of practice was located in New South Wales.

The Australian Capital Territory had the highest ratio of clinicians in 2016 with 1.0 per 100,000 population. The Northern Territory had the second highest ratio with 0.8 per 100,000 population.

# New fellows

The number of sexual health medicine new fellows in 2015 (6) was double the number in 2013 (3). The number of overseas trained new fellows who obtained their specialist qualification outside of Australia in 2015 (4) was four times higher than the number in 2013 (1).

In 2015, 66.7% of new fellows were female.

# Vocational training

The total number of vocational trainees in 2016 was 13. Female trainees outnumbered male trainees in every year between 2013 and 2016. During this period, the total number of trainees decreased by 35.0% from 20 in 2013 to 13 in 2016.

# Vocational intentions

In 2016, there were 5 Hospital Non-Specialists (HNS) who indicated their intention to undertake vocational training in sexual health medicine. They were aged between 25 and 39 years old. 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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