

# General & acute medicine

## 2016 Factsheet

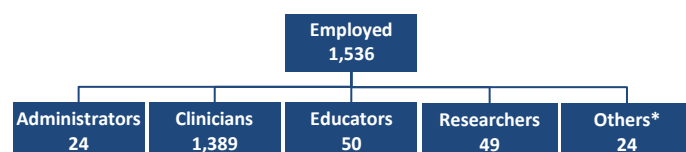


Australian Government  
Department of Health

General physicians (or specialists in internal medicine) are experts in the diagnosis and management of complex, chronic and multisystem disorders. A minimum of 6 years full-time training through the Royal Australasian College of Physicians is required to specialise in this area.

### Workforce

In 2016, there were 1,536 general and acute medicine specialists employed in Australia, of whom 42.6% worked in the private sector. The majority (90.4%) of specialists in this field who completed the 2016 National Health Workforce Survey indicated they were clinicians.



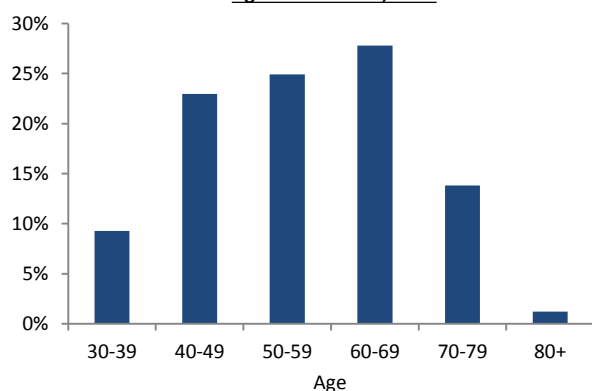
\* Includes roles reported by survey respondents that did not fit predefined survey categories.

### Demographics of clinicians

Males represented 80.8% of clinicians in 2016 and had an average age of 57.8 years. Females represented 19.2% of clinicians and were on average 7.7 years younger than male clinicians.

Category	% of clinicians	Average age	Average hours per week
Male	80.8%	57.8	23.3
Female	19.2%	50.1	21.2
<b>Clinician total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>56.3</b>	<b>22.9</b>

Ages of clinicians, 2016



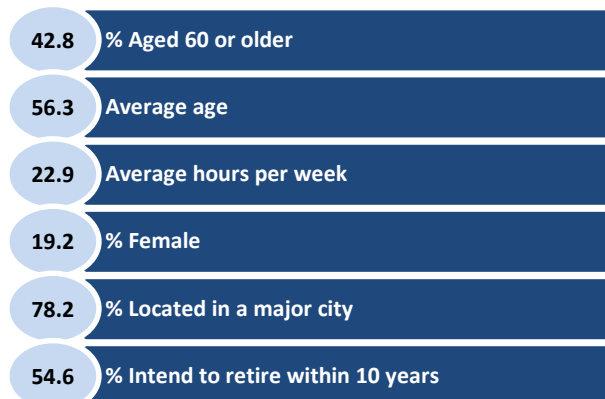
### Distribution of clinicians

Most clinicians (78.2%) 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
%	78.2	10.9	7.6	1.3	0.6	1.0	0.4

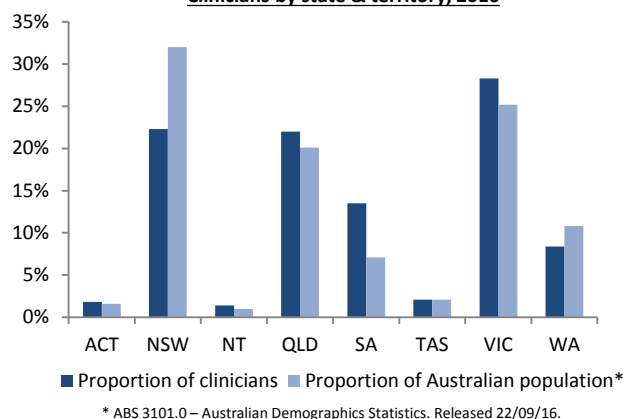
\* Further information on the Modified Monash Model is available at [doctorconnect.gov.au](http://doctorconnect.gov.au)

### Quick facts of clinician workforce



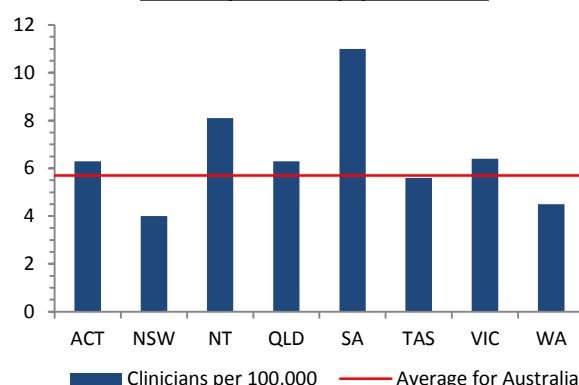
In 2016, the jurisdiction with the highest proportion of clinicians was Victoria with 28.3%, followed by New South Wales with 22.3% and Queensland with 22.0%.

Clinicians by state & territory, 2016



There was an average of 5.7 clinicians per 100,000 population across Australia in 2016. South Australia had the highest ratio of clinicians with 11.0 clinicians per 100,000 population, followed by the Northern Territory with 8.1 per 100,000 population. New South Wales had the lowest ratio of clinicians with 4.0 clinicians per 100,000 population.

Clinicians per 100,000 population, 2016



## New fellows

The number of general and acute medicine new fellows in 2015 was 34.3% higher than the number in 2013. Females represented around one third of new fellows between 2013 and 2015. The number of female new fellows during this period increased by 57.9%, whereas male new fellows increased by 25.0%.

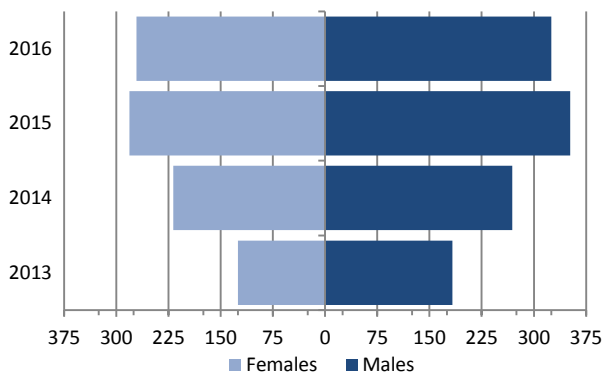
Number of new fellows, 2013-15			
	2013	2014	2015
Males	48	45	60
Females	19	22	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>90</b>

## Vocational training

Male trainees outnumbered female trainees in every year between 2013 and 2016. However, during this period female trainees increased by 116.8% compared to male trainees which increased by 77.6%.

Trainee numbers, 2013-16			
Year	Females	Males	Total
2013	125	183	308
2014	218	269	487
2015	281	352	633
2016	271	325	596
<b>Change 2013-16 (%)</b>	<b>116.8%</b>	<b>77.6%</b>	<b>93.5%</b>

Vocational trainees, 2013-16

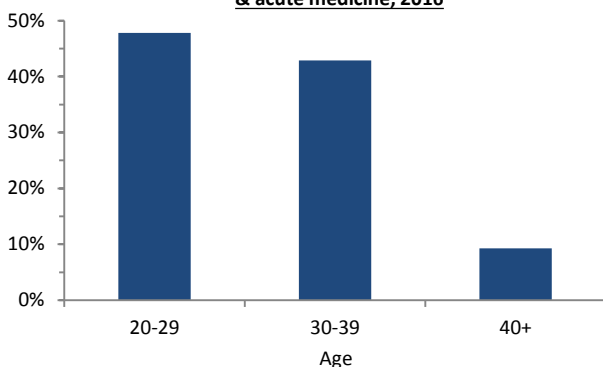


## Vocational intentions

In 2016, there were 161 Hospital Non-Specialists (HNS\*) who indicated their intention to undertake vocational training in general and acute 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 training in general & acute medicine, 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](http://health.gov.au)

Minimal concern Significant concern

Indicator	Description	Status
<b>Ageing of workforce</b>	Workforces with higher average ages are more susceptible to higher exit rates due to retirements.	
<b>Replacement rate</b>	This measure indicates whether trainee numbers are sufficient to replace the numbers leaving the workforce.	
<b>Duration of training program</b>	This measure indicates how long it takes to train a replacement workforce.  Indicator considers basic and advanced training components.	

### References

- 1) National Health Workforce Dataset (NHWDS): Medical Practitioners 2016.
- 2) Royal Australasian College of Physicians.
- 3) Medical Education and Training Report 1<sup>st</sup> edition (Unpublished).
- 4) ABS 3101.0 – Australian Demographics Statistics. Released 22/09/16.
- 5) Australian Medical Association (AMA) Career Pathways Guide.
- 6) National Medical Training Advisory Network (NMTAN) – Prevocational Doctor Factsheet Methodology Paper.

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