



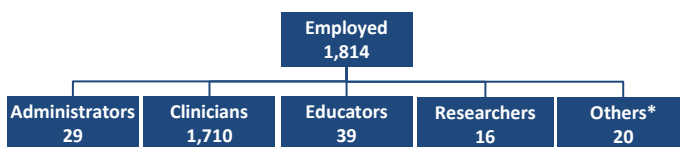
General surgery

2016 Factsheet

General Surgery is the basic core specialty within the discipline of surgery and is the broadest of the surgical specialties. The General Surgeon is a surgical specialist engaged in the comprehensive care of surgical patients and in some situations the General Surgeon may require knowledge of the whole field of surgery. It takes five years full-time training through the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons to specialise in general surgery.

Workforce

In 2016, there were 1,814 general surgeons employed in Australia, of whom 57.1% worked in the private sector. Over 94% of general surgeons who completed the 2016 National Health Workforce Survey indicated they were clinicians.



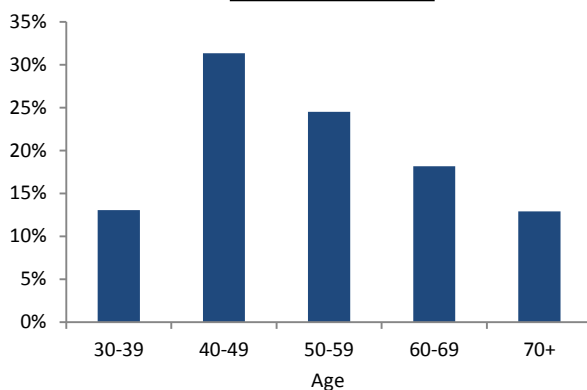
* Includes roles reported by survey respondents that did not fit predefined survey categories.

Demographics of clinicians

Males represented 85.6% of clinicians in 2016 and had an average age of 54.7 years. Females represented 14.4% of clinicians and were on average 9.0 years younger than male clinicians.

| Category | % of clinicians | Average age | Average hours per week |
|------------------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Male | 85.6% | 54.7 | 40.8 |
| Female | 14.4% | 45.7 | 42.3 |
| Clinician total | 100.0% | 53.4 | 41.0 |

Ages of clinicians, 2016



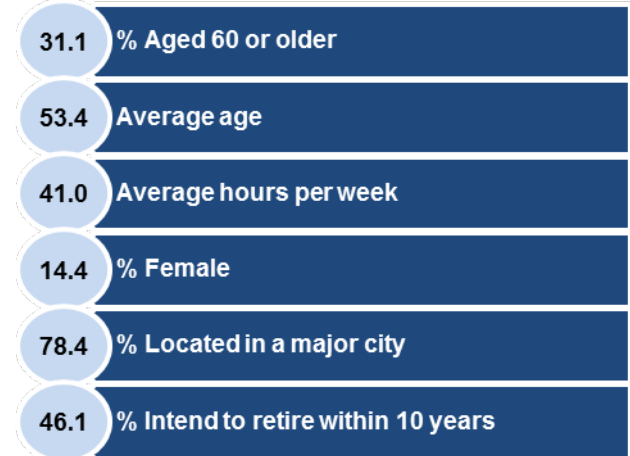
Distribution of clinicians

In 2016, the majority (78.4%) of clinicians were located in a major city or a location considered as MMM1 under the Modified Monash Model classification system.

| Location of clinicians by remoteness, Modified Monash Model (MMM*) | | | | | | | |
|--|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| MMM category | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| % | 78.4 | 10.2 | 8.2 | 1.8 | 0.7 | 0.8 | - |

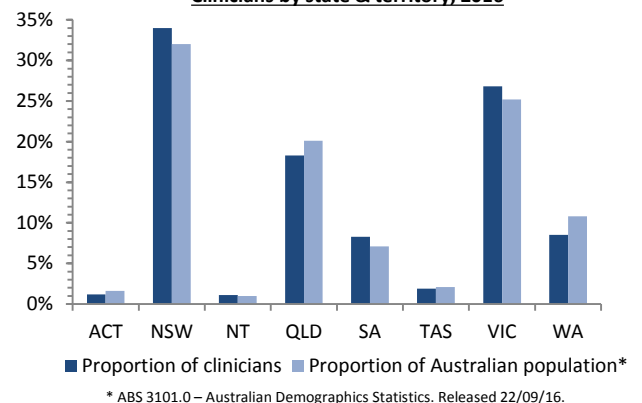
* Further information on the Modified Monash Model is available at doctorconnect.gov.au

Quick facts of clinician workforce



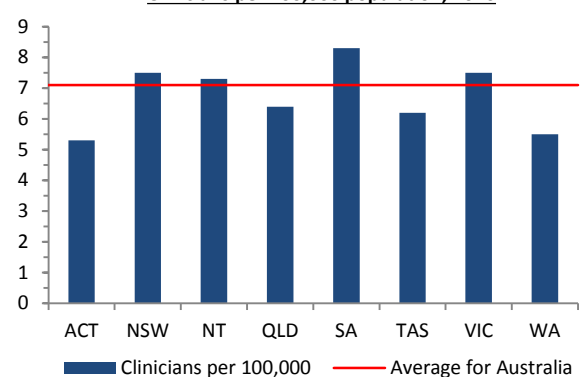
The largest number of clinicians was in New South Wales with over one-third of clinicians indicating their principle place of practice was in this state.

Clinicians by state & territory, 2016



There was an average of 7.1 clinicians per 100,000 population across Australia in 2016. South Australia had the highest ratio of clinicians with 8.3 per 100,000 population.

Clinicians per 100,000 population, 2016



New fellows

The number of general surgery new fellows increased steadily between 2013 and 2015. During this period, the number of female new fellows increased by 33.3% and males increased by 11.1%.

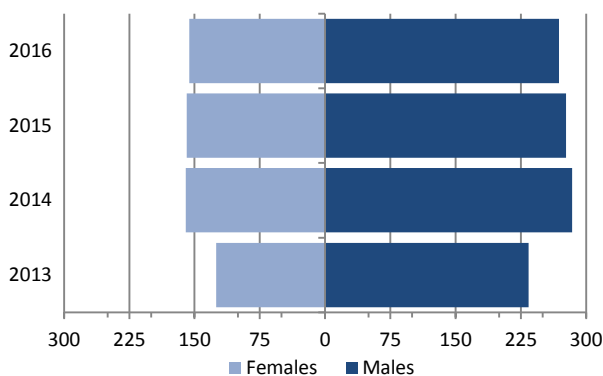
| Number of new fellows, 2013-15 | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
| Males | 45 | 49 | 50 |
| Females | 15 | 17 | 20 |
| Total | 60 | 66 | 70 |

Vocational training

The total number of trainees in 2016 was 18.4% higher than the number in 2013.

| Trainee numbers, 2013-16 | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Year | Females | Males | Total |
| 2013 | 125 | 234 | 359 |
| 2014 | 160 | 284 | 444 |
| 2015 | 159 | 277 | 436 |
| 2016 | 156 | 269 | 425 |
| Change 2013-16 (%) | 24.8% | 15.0% | 18.4% |

Vocational trainees, 2013-16

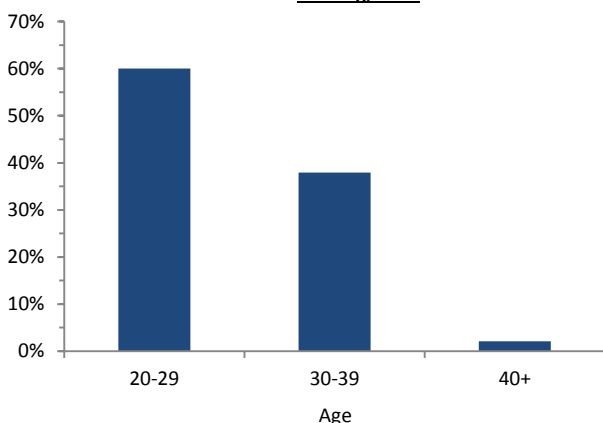


Vocational intentions

In 2016, there were 430 Hospital Non-Specialists (HNS*) who indicated their intention to undertake vocational training in general surgery.

* 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 general surgery training, 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

Minimal concern  Significant concern

| Indicator | Description | Status |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Ageing of workforce | Workforces with higher average ages are more susceptible to higher exit rates due to retirements. |  |
| Replacement rate | This measure indicates whether trainee numbers are sufficient to replace the numbers leaving the workforce. |  |
| Duration of training program | This measure indicates how long it takes to train a replacement workforce. |  |

References

- 1) National Health Workforce Dataset (NHWDS): Medical Practitioners 2016.
- 2) Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.
- 3) Medical Education and Training Report 1st 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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