Data in this factsheet covers the following physician adult medicine subspecialties: clinical genetics, clinical pharmacology, haematology, immunology and allergy, infectious diseases, nuclear medicine, respiratory and sleep medicine, and rheumatology. A minimum of six years full-time advanced training through the Royal Australasian College of Physicians is required to practice in any of these specialties:

- **Clinical genetics** encompasses the identification of genetic mutations in patients that lead to disease processes;
- **Clinical pharmacology** is the scientific discipline that involves all aspects of the relationship between drugs and humans;
- **Clinical haematology** is an integrated discipline incorporating clinical and laboratory aspects of diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs;
- **Clinical immunology and allergy** physicians care for patients with a diverse range of disorders of the immune system, encompassing allergic disorders, immune deficiency disorders and autoimmune diseases;
- **Infectious diseases** provide a predominantly hospital-based service, specialising in the various clinical, laboratory and public health aspects of infectious disease medicine and microbiology;
- **Nuclear medicine** uses radiopharmaceuticals (radioisotopes) in the diagnosis and treatment of a wide range of medical conditions;
- **Respiratory and sleep medicine** is a specialty of internal medicine encompassing diseases of the respiratory system including the upper airway, the lungs, the chest wall, the pulmonary circulation and the ventilatory control system; and
- **Rheumatology** encompasses the diagnosis and holistic management of people with diseases that affect joints, muscles and bones.

### Workforce

In 2016, there were 2,501 physicians employed in Australia, of whom 36.4% worked in the private sector. The majority (89.0%) of physicians who completed the 2016 National Health Workforce Survey indicated they were clinicians.

### Demographics of clinicians

Males represented 67.8% of clinicians in 2016 and had an average age of 51.9 years. Females represented 32.2% of clinicians and were on average 5.3 years younger than male clinicians.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>% of clinicians</th>
<th>Average age</th>
<th>Average hours per week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>67.8%</td>
<td>51.9</td>
<td>36.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>32.2%</td>
<td>46.6</td>
<td>30.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinician total</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>50.2</td>
<td>34.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
There was an average of 9.2 clinicians per 100,000 population across Australia in 2016. The Australian Capital Territory had the highest ratio of clinicians with 12.8 per 100,000 population, followed by South Australia with 10.9 per 100,000 population.

New fellows

The total number of new fellows increased by 26.1% between 2013 and 2015. During this period, female new fellows increased by 54.3% and male new fellows increased by 6.2%.

Vocational training

Between 2013 and 2016, the total number of trainees increased by 35.2%. During this period the number female trainees increased by 48.9% and males by 21.0%.

Vocational intentions

In 2016, there were 393 Hospital Non-Specialists (HNS*) who indicated their intention to undertake vocational training in clinical genetics, clinical pharmacology, haematology, immunology and allergy, infectious diseases, nuclear medicine, respiratory and sleep medicine and rheumatology.

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.

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

References

4) ABS 3101.0 – Australian Demographics Statistics. Released 22/09/16.

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