



2019

Medical Practitioners



Medical practitioners diagnose and treat physical and mental illnesses, disorders and injuries, recommend preventative action and refer patients to specialist medical practitioners, other health care workers, and social, welfare and support workers.

All medical practitioners must be registered with the Medical Board of Australia (MBA) and meet the MBA's registration standards in order to practise medicine in Australia. To gain registration, medical practitioners must complete a minimum four year program in a university medical school accredited by the Australian Medical Council.

International medical graduates (IMGs) whose medical qualifications are from a medical school outside of Australia or New Zealand must meet the requirements for one of the assessment pathways (competent authority pathway, standard pathway or specialist pathway) to gain medical registration in Australia.

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2019

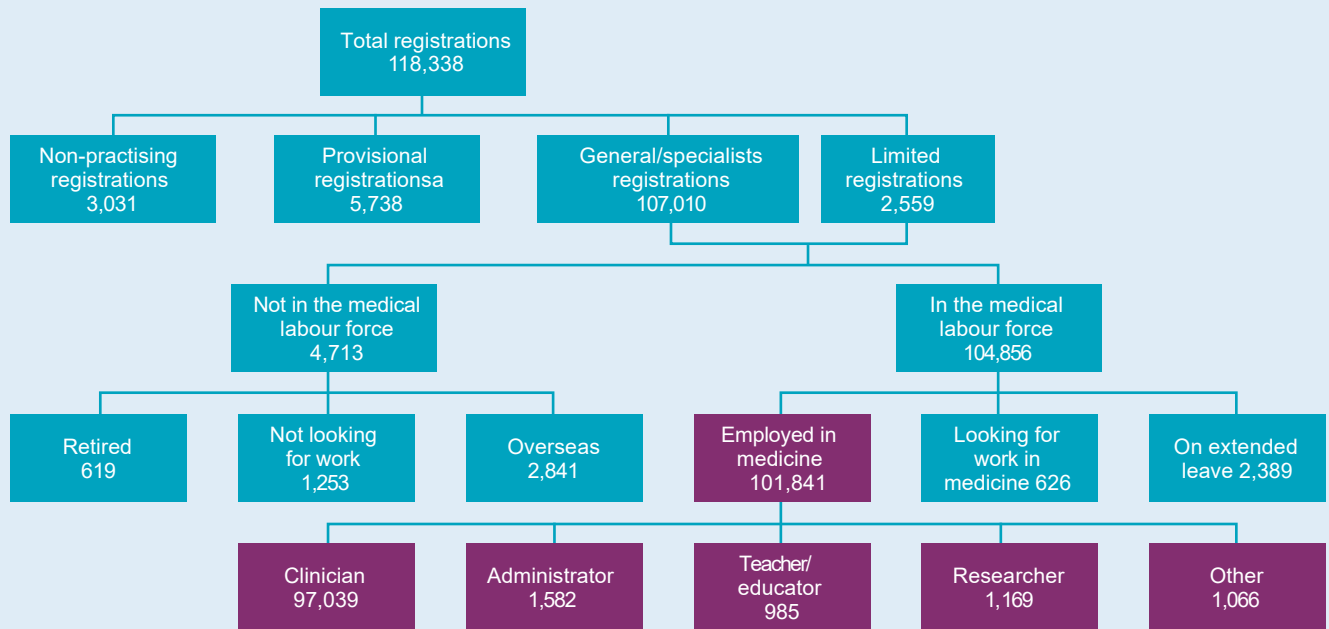
Medical Practitioners



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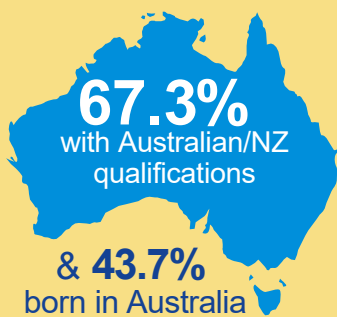
Workforce

Figure 1: Medical Practitioners: Workforce status, 2019



Quick Facts - 2019

Quick facts for Medical Practitioners



79.1%
in MM 1



42.6%
female



41.8
average
weekly
hours



45.7
Average
age



0.5%
identified as
Aboriginal and/or
Torres Strait
Islander



Between 2015 and 2019, the total number of with general, specialist or provisional registration increased by 15.1% from 102,805 to 118,338 (a compound annual growth rate of 3.6%). The number of employed ('workforce') increased 15.7% from 87,999 to 101,841 over the same period (a compound annual growth rate of 3.7%).

The number of employed Medical Practitioners who worked as clinicians increased 16.2% from 83,490 to 97,039 over the same period (a compound annual growth rate of 3.8%). Clinicians are Medical Practitioners who indicated that the principal role of their main job was clinician (including managers and supervisors also providing clinical services). Non-clinicians are Medical Practitioners who indicated that the principal role of their main job was administrator (including managers not providing clinical services), teacher, educator, research or other.

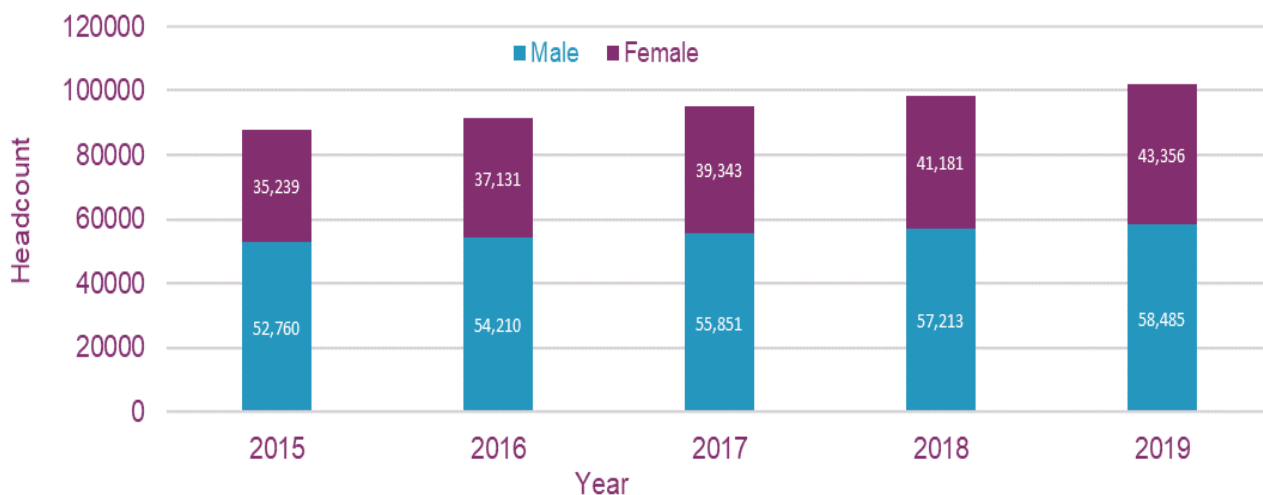
The following analysis of the Medical Radiation 'workforce' is drawn from the number of the Medical Practitioners with general registration who were employed (101,841 in 2019 as indicated by red shading in figure 1) unless otherwise stated.

Table 1: Medical Practitioners, 2015 – 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Annual growth
Registered	102,805	106,634	110,376	114,200	118,338	3.6%
Employed	87,999	91,341	95,194	98,395	101,841	3.7%
Clinicians	83,490	86,550	90,417	93,604	97,039	3.8%

Source: NHWDS Medical Practitioners, 2015-2019

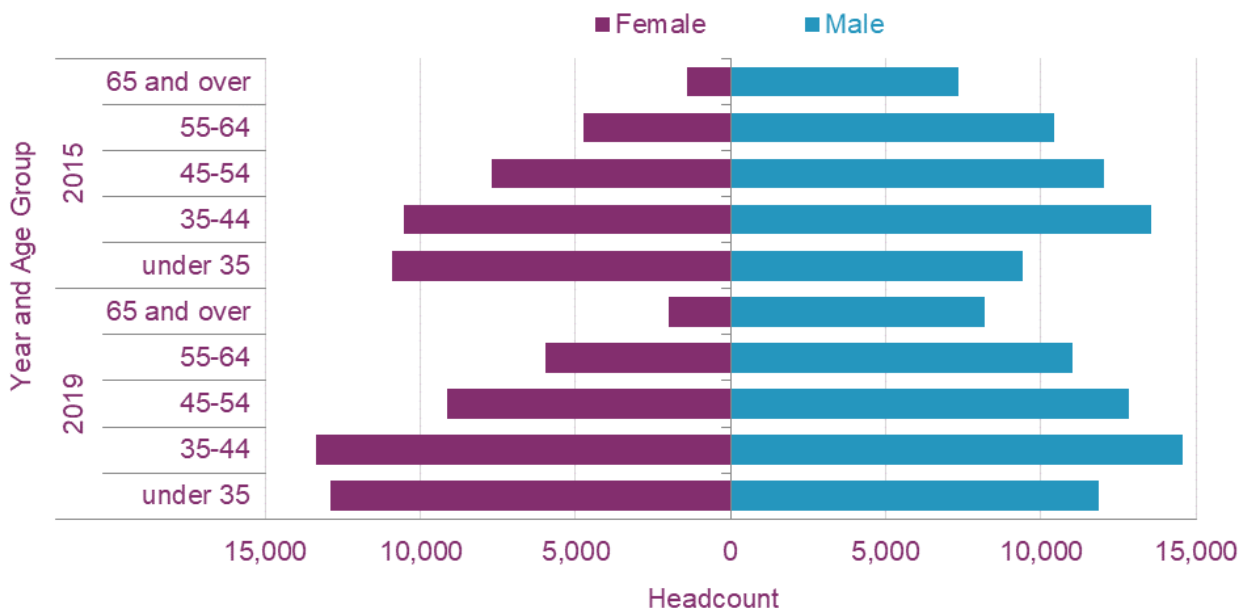
Figure 2: Gender distribution, 2015 - 2019



Source: NHWDS Medical Practitioners, 2015 - 2019



Figure 3: Age and gender distribution, 2015 and 2019



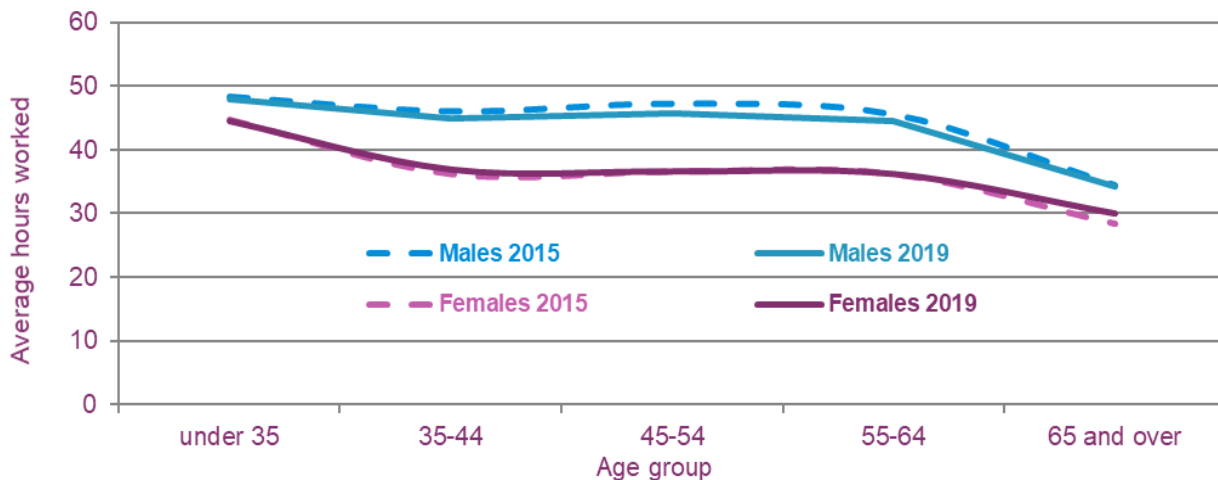
Source: NHWDS Medical Practitioners, 2015 and 2019

Table 2: Replacement rate, 2015 – 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
New entrants	6,204	6,272	6,293	6,513	6,624
Exits	2,530	2,750	2,937	3,079	2,955
Replacement rate	2.5	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.2

Source: NHWDS, Medical Practitioners, 2015 - 2019

Figure 4: Average hours per week by gender and age group, 2015 and 2019



Source: NHWDS Medical Practitioners, 2015 and 2019



Table 3: Principal role, 2019

Principal role	2019		
	Headcount	Average Age	Average hrs worked
Clinician	97,039	45.4	42.1
Administrator	1,582	53.4	40.0
Teacher or educator	985	54.9	31.6
Researcher	1,169	50.0	39.4
Other	1,066	54.4	34.0

Source: NHWDS, Medical Practitioners, 2019

Table 4: Principal area headcount, 2015 and 2019

	2015	2019	Changes 2015-19	
Clinicians	General practitioner (GP)	27,519	31,102	3,583
	Hospital non-specialist	9,755	12,098	2,343
	Specialist	29,416	35,024	5,608
	Specialist-in-training	14,965	16,526	1,561
	Other clinician	1,835	2,289	454
Non-clinicians	4,509	4,802	293	
Headcount Total	87,999	101,841	13,842	

Source: NHWDS, Medical Practitioners, 2015 and 2019

Table 5: Principal area full time equivalent (FTE), 2015 and 2019

	2015	2019	Changes 2015-19	
Clinicians	General practitioner (GP)	26,362.7	29,019.2	2,656.5
	Hospital non-specialist	11,475.1	14,277.2	2,802.1
	Specialist	32,147.3	37,373.1	5,225.8
	Specialist-in-training	17,373.8	19,165.9	1,792.1
	Other clinician	1,711.7	2,207.4	495.7
Non-clinicians	4,285.4	4,418.1	132.7	
FTE Total	93,356.0	106,460.9	13,104.9	

Source: NHWDS, Medical Practitioners, 2015 and 2019

Due to rounding figures may not sum to the expected total

Full time equivalent (FTE) based on 40 hours per week



Table 6: Endorsement, 2015 - 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Acupuncture	556	540	561	566	557

Source: NHWDS, Medical Practitioners, 2015 - 2019

Table 7: Clinical full time equivalent (FTE) by sector, 2015 and 2019

Sector	2015		2019	
	Clinical FTE	%	Clinical FTE	%
Private sector	40,757.5	49.3%	48,391.7	51.0%
Public sector	41,876.1	50.7%	46,409.3	49.0%
Total	82,633.6	100%	94,801.0	100%

Source: NHWDS, Medical Practitioners, 2015 and 2019

Due to rounding figures may not sum to the expected total

Full time equivalent (FTE) based on 40 hours per week



Table 8: Principal work setting, 2015 and 2019

Principal work setting	2015		2019	
	Headcount	Avg. hours	Headcount	Avg. hours
Hospital	34,793	46.4	42,051	45.8
Group private practice	30,795	39.0	35,475	38.2
Solo private practice	10,352	43.3	10,109	42.4
Outpatient service	3,485	40.3	4,745	40.2
Other	1,562	37.5	1,878	36.9
Tertiary educational facility	1,680	41.9	1,617	41.5
Community mental health service	1,153	40.3	1,417	39.9
Aboriginal health service	704	37.9	827	36.8
Other community health care service	694	35.3	779	35.1
Other government department or agency	684	36.6	738	36.9
Locum private practice	747	37.1	706	36.6
Defence forces	334	40.7	369	38.8
Commercial/business service	334	35.6	321	34.7
Residential aged care facility	162	32.5	248	36.1
Correctional service	122	36.7	163	39.0
Community drug and alcohol service	157	37.5	162	35.7
Other educational facility	148	34.3	139	29.5
Residential mental health care service	85	40.0	73	38.7
School	8	34.3	19	39.1
Non Respondent/Unknown	-	-	5	25.0
Total	87,999	42.4	101,841	41.8

Source: NHWDS, Medical Practitioners, 2015 and 2019



Table 9: Distribution by State/Territory, 2019

State/Territory	Headcount	Full time equivalent (FTE)	Average weekly hours	Population	FTE per 100,000 population
New South Wales	31,817	33524.4	42.1	8,089,817	414.4
Victoria	25,684	26,613.3	41.4	6,596,039	403.5
Queensland	21,041	22,179.0	42.2	5,094,510	435.4
South Australia	7,365	7,598.5	41.3	1,751,963	433.7
Western Australia	10,276	10,601.6	41.3	2,621,509	404.4
Tasmania	2,259	2,299.6	40.7	534,457	430.3
Australia Capital Territory	1,965	2,093.4	42.6	426,704	490.6
Northern Territory	1,282	1,387.8	43.3	245,929	564.3
Australia	101,841	106,460.6	41.8	25,365,571	419.7

Source: NHWDS, Medical Practitioners, 2019
 ABS 3218.0 - Australian Demographic Statistics, Jun 2019
 Australia includes unknown state / territory
 Full time equivalent (FTE) based on 40 hours per week

Table 10: Distribution by Modified Monash Model (MMM), 2019

Modified Monash Model	Headcount	Full time equivalent (FTE)	Average weekly hours	Population	FTE per 100,000 population
MM1 - Metropolitan	80,529	83968.9	41.7	18,320,373	458.3
MM2 - Regional centres	9,187	9,681.3	42.2	2,245,754	431.1
MM3 - Large rural towns	6,298	6,626.4	42.1	1,587,466	417.4
MM4 - Medium rural towns	2,258	2,371.8	42.0	968,583	244.9
MM5 - Small rural towns	2,069	2,129.0	41.2	1,748,340	121.8
MM6 - Remote communities	903	1,015.3	45.0	281,794	360.3
MM7 - Very remote communities	453	512.1	45.2	212,587	240.9
Australia	101,841	106,460.6	41.8	25,365,571	419.7

Source: NHWDS, Medical Practitioners, 2019
 Modified Monash Model (MMM) 2019
 Australia includes unknown state / territory
 Full time equivalent (FTE) based on 40 hours per week
<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/modified-monash-model-fact-sheet>
 ABS estimated population (unpublished)



Table 11: Telehealth practitioners by Modified Monash (MMM), 2019

Modified Monash Model	Percentage
MM1 - Metropolitan	68.6%
MM2 - Regional centres	11.8%
MM3 - Large rural towns	8.6%
MM4 - Medium rural towns	4.2%
MM5 - Small rural towns	3.4%
MM6 - Remote communities	2.0%
MM7 - Very remote communities	1.3%

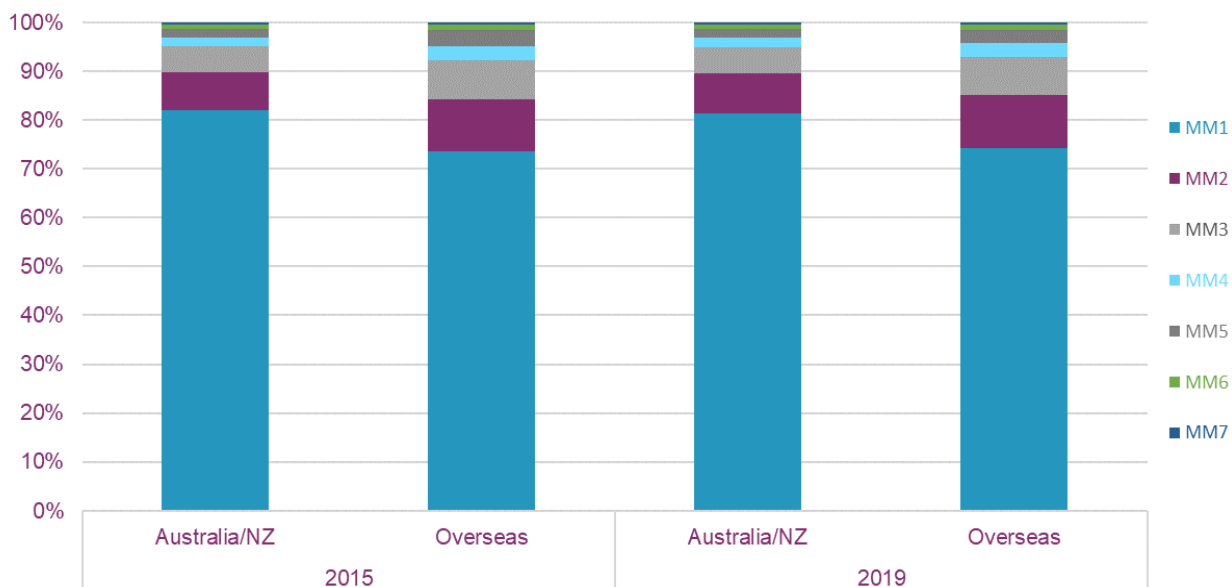
Source: NHWDS, Medical Practitioners, 2019

MMM breakdown for tele-health refers to the location of the Medical Practitioners not the location of the person receiving the service

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/modified-monash-model-fact-sheet>

Modified Monash Model (MMM) 2019

Figure 5: Initial qualification country by Modified Monash Model (MMM 2019), 2015 and 2019



Source: NHWDS, Medical Practitioners, 2015 and 2019

Modified Monash Model (MMM) 2019



2 All Provisional Registrants

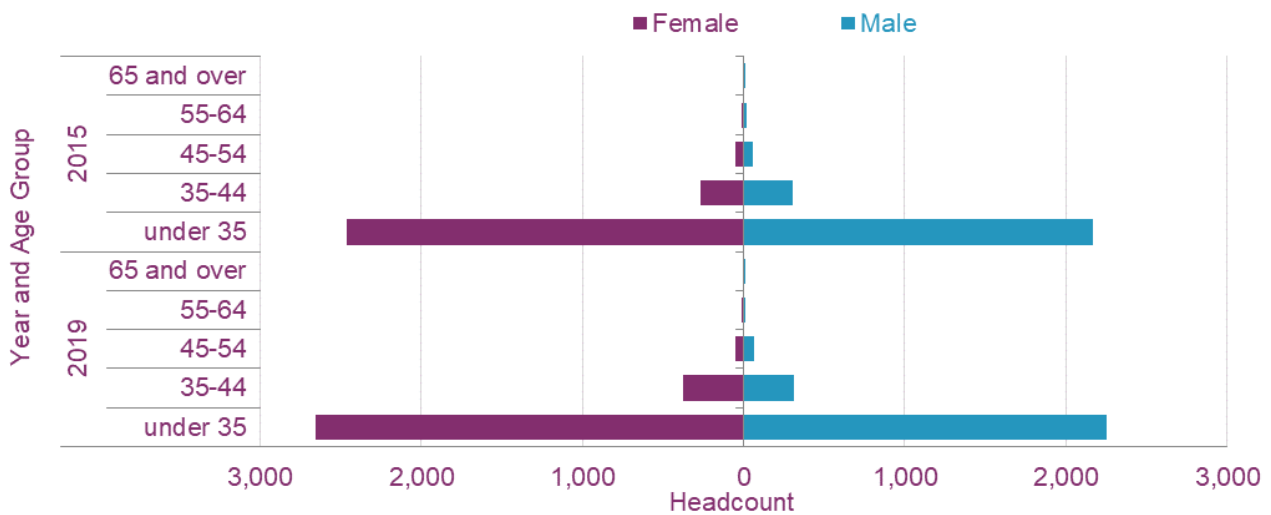
Provisional registration applies to doctors required to complete a period of approved supervised practice to become eligible for general registration.

Table 12 Provisional registrants, 2015 and 2019

Provisional Registrants	2015	2019	Changes 2015 to 2019
Average age	28.9	29.0	0.1
Total headcount	5,339	5,738	399
Female %	52.3%	53.8%	1.5%
% of age under 35	86.6%	85.6%	-1.0%

Source: NHWDS, Medical Practitioners, 2015 and 2019

Figure 6: Age and gender distribution - provisional registrants, 2015 and 2019



Source: NHWDS Medical Practitioners, 2015 and 2019



Table 13: Provisional registrants distribution by State/Territory, 2015 and 2019

State/Territory	2015		2019	
	Headcount	Proportion	Headcount	Proportion
New South Wales	1,460	27.3%	1,533	26.7%
Victoria	1,143	21.4%	1,385	24.1%
Queensland	1,318	24.7%	1,286	22.4%
South Australia	372	7.0%	427	7.4%
Western Australia	713	13.4%	724	12.6%
Tasmania	101	1.9%	108	1.9%
Australia Capital Territory	109	2.0%	117	2.0%
Northern Territory	73	1.4%	90	1.6%
Unknown	50	0.9%	68	1.2%
Australia	5,339	100%	5,738	100%

Source: NHWDS, Medical Practitioners, 2015 and 2019

Table 14: Provisional registrants distribution by Modified Monash Model (MMM), 2015 and 2019

Modified Monash Model	2015		2019	
	Headcount	Proportion	Headcount	Proportion
MM1 - Metropolitan	4,239	79.4%	4,479	78.1%
MM2 - Regional centres	657	12.3%	735	12.8%
MM3 - Large rural towns	253	4.7%	317	5.5%
MM4 - Medium rural towns	73	1.4%	55	1.0%
MM5 - Small rural towns	26	0.5%	37	0.6%
MM6 - Remote communities	NP	NP	NP	NP
MM7 - Very remote communities	NP	NP	NP	NP
Unknown / not stated	50	0.9%	68	1.2%
Australia	5,339	100%	5,738	100%

Source: NHWDS, Medical Practitioners, 2015 and 2019

Modified Monash Model (MMM) 2019

'NP' denotes figure that are not published (suppressed) for confidentiality purposes



3 Hospital non-specialists

The category of Hospital Non-Specialists (HNS) is used to count doctors that work as a salaried medical officer in a hospital setting. The HNS workforce makes a major contribution to the provision of medical services in hospitals. This workforce includes doctors in training as interns, resident medical officers (RMOs), career medical officers (CMOs), hospital medical officers (HMOs), principal house officers (PHOs) and other salaried hospital doctors who are not specialists or in recognised vocational training programs to become specialists.

The HNS workforce accounts for 12.5 per cent of the total clinical workforce; it has seen a big annual growth rate of 5.5 per cent compared to the total medical workforce that has grown at 3.6 per cent in the same period.

Table 15: Hospital Non-Specialists by position held in hospitals, 2015 and 2019

Position in hospital	2015		2019	
	Headcount	Proportion	Headcount	Proportion
Resident Medical Officer (RMO)	3,659	37.5%	4,109	34.0%
Hospital medical officer (HMO)	1,052	10.8%	1,302	10.8%
Career medical officer (CMO)	780	8.0%	972	8.0%
Principal house officer (PHO)	496	5.1%	678	5.6%
Registrar	2,053	21.1%	1,351	11.2%
Other	1,707	17.5%	1,921	15.9%
Registrar accredited	0	0.0%	1,747	14.5%
Registrar unaccredited	0	0.0%	7	0.1%
Australia	9,747	100%	12,087	100%

Source: NHWDS, Medical Practitioners, 2015 and 2019



Table 16: HNS intending to undertake specialty by training by position - 2015 and 2019

Position in hospital		2015	2019	Changes 2015 - 2019
Resident Medical Officer (RMO)	Number	3,659	4,109	450
	Intend to train	3,451	3,834	383
	% intend to train	94.3%	93.3%	-1.0%
Hospital medical officer (HMO)	Number	1,052	1,302	250
	Intend to train	964	1,161	197
	% intend to train	91.6%	89.2%	-2.5%
Career medical officer (CMO)	Number	780	972	192
	Intend to train	282	294	12
	% intend to train	36.2%	30.2%	-5.9%
Principal house officer (PHO)	Number	496	678	182
	Intend to train	467	606	139
	% intend to train	94.2%	89.4%	-4.8%
Registrar	Number	2,053	1,351	-702
	Intend to train	1,922	1,249	-673
	% intend to train	93.6%	92.5%	-1.2%
Other	Number	1,707	1,921	214
	Intend to train	88	82	-6
	% intend to train	5.2%	4.3%	-0.9%
Registrar accredited	Number	0	1,747	1,747
	Intend to train	0	1,573	1,573
	% Intend to train	0.0%	90.0%	90.0%
Registrar unaccredited	Number	0	7	7
	Intend to train	0	5	5
	% Intend to train	0.0%	71.4%	71.4%
Total	Number	9,747	12,087	2,340
	Intend to train	7,174	8,804	1,630
	% intend to train	73.6%	72.8%	-0.8%

Source: NHWDS, Medical Practitioners, 2015 and 2019



The specialty in which a HNS had intended to undertake training could differ from the specialty training undertaken in subsequent years. From the 2015 cohort, there were 1,630 HNS who expressed an intention to undertake specialty training in general practice.

Of those, 432 undertook specialty training in General Practice and 81 undertook training in specialties other than general practice in 2019.

Of the 2015 HNS cohort that reported an intention to train 33.5% were undertaking training in their intended specialty in 2019 and 20.0% in another specialty.

Table 17: Intended specialty in 2015 compared to specialty training undertaken in 2019

Speciality Intention	Headcount in original intention 2015	Undertaking training in 2019	
		In intended speciality	In other speciality
Top 10 Specialities	4,610	1,643	693
General practice	1,630	432	81
Emergency medicine	635	291	105
Anaesthesia	465	266	79
Surgery-general surgery	379	150	67
Surgery-orthopaedic surgery	341	95	44
Physician	243	19	132
Obstetrics and gynaecology	237	122	31
Physician-general medicine	234	50	93
Psychiatry	231	133	12
Intensive care medicine	215	85	49
Other specialities	2,487	736	724

Source: NHWDS, Medical Practitioners, 2019



4 Specialists workforce

The workforce survey asks medical practitioners if they have a specialist registration and if so, which two specialty fields they worked the most hours in the week prior to completing the survey. The specialty with the most hours is assigned as their primary specialty. In the 2019, there were 23 specialties recognised by the MBA.

Between 2015 and 2019 the size of the workforce who indicated they were primarily working as specialists increased from 53,936 to 62,089 for an increase of 15.1% over the four year period or an average of 3.6% per annum. The average age of the specialty workforce decreased marginally from 2015 to 2019, from 52.0 to 51.7 years.

Table 18: Primary Specialty, 2015 and 2019

Primary Specialty	2015		2019		Changes 2015 to 2019	
	Headcount	Average age	Headcount	Average age	Headcount	Average age
General practice	22,416	53.8	25,069	53.4	2,653	-0.4
Physician	7,153	49.9	8,694	49.7	1,541	-0.2
Surgery	4,796	52.5	5,331	52.5	535	0.0
Anaesthesia	4,053	48.6	4,687	48.9	634	0.3
Psychiatry	3,216	53.3	3,717	53	501	-0.3
Paediatrics and child health	1,783	49.4	2,265	49	482	-0.4
Emergency medicine	1,546	45.5	2,211	45.7	665	0.2
Radiology	1,895	49.8	2,208	50.3	313	0.5
Obstetrics and gynaecology	1,710	52.4	1,870	52	160	-0.4
Pathology	1,325	51.9	1,417	51.7	92	-0.2
Ophthalmology	896	53.0	965	53.4	69	0.4
Intensive care medicine	603	47.7	754	48.3	151	0.6
Dermatology	464	51.0	543	50.8	79	-0.2
Rehabilitation medicine	402	50.4	470	50.2	68	-0.2
Radiation Oncology	329	46.8	379	48	50	1.2
Palliative medicine	221	50.4	292	48.5	71	-1.9
Public health medicine	253	56.3	262	56.5	9	0.2
Occupational and environmental medicine	238	57.8	241	58.6	3	0.8
Medical administration	220	56.6	215	56.9	-5	0.3
Pain medicine	124	53.3	161	52.5	37	-0.8
Sport and exercise medicine	106	52.8	122	53.8	16	1.0
Addiction medicine	100	58.1	121	58.3	21	0.2
Sexual health medicine	87	53.3	95	55.2	8	1.9
Total	53,936	52.0	62,089	51.7	8,153	-0.3

Source: NHWDS, Medical Practitioners, 2015 and 2019



5

Registered medical practitioners not in the medical labour force

The In 2019, 4,713 registered medical practitioners were not in the medical labour force: 619 were retired, 1,253 were not looking for work and 2,841 were overseas.

In 2019, the average age of those not in the medical labour force was 48.8 years, with 18.7% aged 65 and over. In comparison, in 2015, the average age was 50.9, with 24.3% aged 65 and over. Between 2015 and 2019, the proportion of female medical practitioners not in the medical labour force increased from 36.5% to 40.5% and the proportion of males decreased from 63.5% to 59.1%.

Figure 7: Age and gender distribution - registered medical practitioners not in the medical labour force, 2015 and 2019



Source: NHWDS Medical Practitioners, 2015 and 2019

Table 19: Distribution by State/Territory, 2015 and 2019

State/Territory	2015		2019	
	Headcount	Proportion	Headcount	Proportion
New South Wales	1,099	24.7%	1,035	22.0%
Victoria	687	15.4%	790	16.8%
Queensland	473	10.6%	549	11.6%
South Australia	186	4.2%	229	4.9%
Western Australia	352	7.9%	300	6.4%
Tasmania	69	1.5%	71	1.5%
Australia Capital Territory	47	1.1%	69	1.5%
Northern Territory	32	0.7%	39	0.8%
Unknown	1,509	33.9%	1,631	34.6%
Australia	4,454	100%	4,713	100%

Source: NHWDS, Medical Practitioners, 2015 and 2019



6 Non-practising registrants

Non-practising registration applies to practitioners who have previously held general or specialist registration in a profession who do not wish to practise the profession but wish to remain registered. Furthermore, under National Law, non-practising registrants are not permitted to practise.

In 2019, 3,031 registered medical practitioners held a non-practising registration. The average age of non-practising registrants in 2019 was 58.9 years. 42.7% of non-practising registrants were aged 65 and over. In 2015, the average age was slightly lower at 58.2 and a slightly lower proportion (39.5%) were aged 65 and over.

Figure 8: Age and gender distribution – non - practising registrants, 2015 and 2019



Source: NHWDS Medical Practitioners, 2015 and 2019

Table 20: Distribution by State/Territory, 2015 and 2019

State/Territory	2015		2019	
	Headcount	Proportion	Headcount	Proportion
New South Wales	658	24.7%	793	26.2%
Victoria	488	18.3%	570	18.8%
Queensland	284	10.7%	332	11.0%
South Australia	128	4.8%	156	5.1%
Western Australia	214	8.0%	212	7.0%
Tasmania	52	2.0%	52	1.7%
Australia Capital Territory	33	1.2%	32	1.1%
Northern Territory	6	0.2%	10	0.3%
Unknown	802	30.1%	874	28.8%
Australia	2,665	100%	3,031	100%

Source: NHWDS, Medical Practitioners, 2015 and 2019



Commonwealth of Australia 2020

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References

- 1) National Health Workforce Dataset (NHWDS) Medical Practitioners 2015-2019 (<http://hwd.health.gov.au>)
- 2) ABS 3218.0 - Regional Population Growth, June 2019
- 3) ABS Estimated Resident Population (unpublished)