Intensive care

Australian Government **Department of Health**

2016 Factsheet

An intensive care medicine specialist is trained to be a leader of a multidisciplinary team proficient in the comprehensive clinical management of critically ill patients. Intensive care medicine specialists have clinical skills to manage severe medical, surgical, obstetric and paediatric illnesses and the skills to treat the conditions that cause them. A minimum of six years full-time training through the College of Intensive Care Medicine of Australia and New Zealand is required to specialise in this area.

Workforce

In 2016, there were 756 intensive care medicine specialists employed in Australia, of whom 19.7% worked in the private sector. The majority (89.4%) of intensive care medicine specialists who completed the 2016 National Health Workforce Survey indicated they were clinicians.



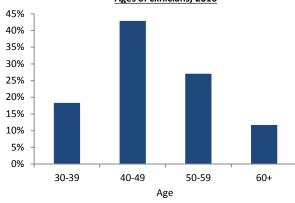
* Includes roles reported by survey respondents that did not fit predefined survey categories.

Demographics of clinicians

Males represented 83.0% clinicians in 2016 and had an average age of 48.7 years. Females represented 17.0% of clinicians and were on average 3.7 years younger than male clinicians.

Category	% of clinicians	Average age	Average hours per week
Male	83.0%	48.7	43.6
Female	17.0%	45.0	42.7
Clinician total	100.0%	48.1	43.4

Over 42% of clinicians were aged 40-49 years and over 27% were aged 50-59 years.



Ages of clinicians, 2016

Distribution of clinicians

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

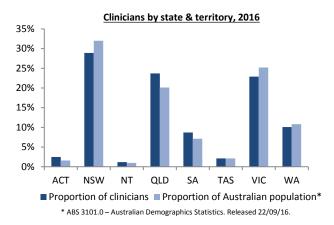
Location of clinicians by remoteness, Modified Monash Model (MMM*)							
MMM category	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
%	84.5	9.8	5.2	-	0.1	0.4	-

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

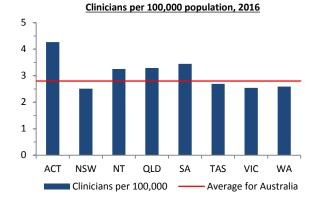
Quick facts of clinician workforce



In 2016, the jurisdiction with the highest number of clinicians was New South Wales with 28.9%, followed by Queensland and Victoria with 23.7 and 22.9 respectively.



New South Wales had the highest number of clinicians for 2016, however, along with Victoria had the lowest ratio of 2.5 clinicians for every 100,000 population. By contrast, the Australian Capital Territory had the highest ratio with 4.3 clinicians per 100,000 population.



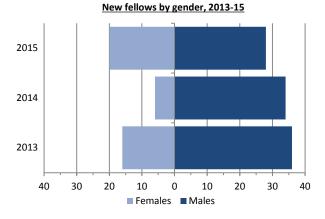
New fellows

The number of new fellows from the College of Intensive Care Medicine of Australia and New Zealand decreased 7.7% from 2013 to 2015. Overseas trained new fellows who obtained their specialist qualification outside of Australia decreased 20.0% during this period.

2013	2014	
	2014	2015
47	38	44
5	2	4
52	40	48
	5	5 2

NHWDS Data Tool and Resources

The number of female new fellows in 2015 was 25% higher than the number in 2013, and the number of males was 22.2% less than in 2013.



Vocational training

Between 2013 and 2016 trainee numbers fluctuated. During this this period female trainee numbers decreased by 33.7%, whereas male trainee numbers increased by 20.5%.

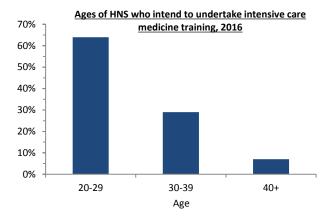
Trainee numbers, 2013-16				
Year	Females	Males	Total	
2013	172	308	480	
2014	192	352	544	
2015	183	381	564	
2016	114	371	485	
Change 2013-16 (%)	-33.7%	20.5%	1.0%	



Vocational intentions

In 2016, there were 200 Hospital Non-Specialists (HNS*) who indicated their intention to undertake vocational training in intensive care 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



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



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.	
Reliance on Overseas Trained Specialists (OTS)	Workforces with high proportions of OTS are of concern because they depend on a supply stream affected by immigration policies that change.	
Duration of training program	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) College of Intensive Care Medicine of Australia and New Zealand
- 3) Medical Education and Training Report 1st edition (Unpublished).
- ABS 3101.0 Australian Demographics Statistics. Released 22/09/16.
 Australian Medical Association (AMA) Career Pathways Guide.
- 6) National Medical Training Advisory Network (NMTAN) Prevocational Doctor Factsheet Methodology Paper.

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