

Ophthalmology

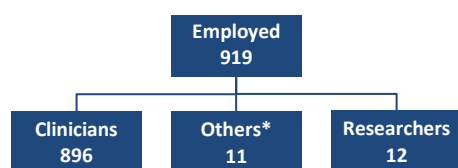


2016 Factsheet

An ophthalmologist is a medical doctor who has undertaken additional specialist training in the diagnosis and management of disorders of the eye and visual system. Ophthalmology training equips eye specialists to provide the full spectrum of eye care, including the prescription of glasses and contact lenses, medical treatment and complex microsurgery. A minimum of six years full-time advanced training through the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists is required to specialise in this area.

Workforce

In 2016, there were 919 ophthalmologists employed in Australia, of whom 89.5% worked in the private sector. Over 97% of ophthalmologists who completed the 2016 National Health Workforce Survey indicated they were clinicians.



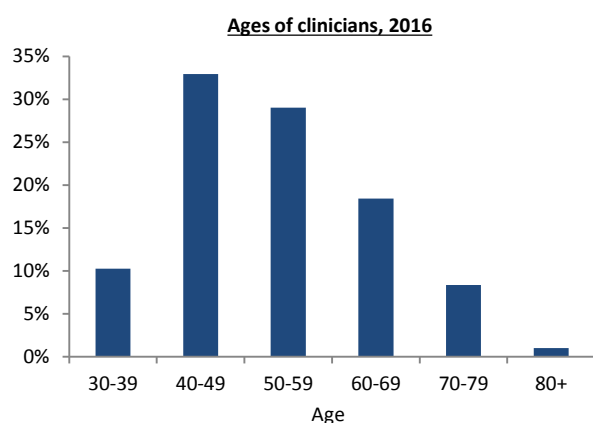
* Includes administrators, educators, teachers and roles reported by survey respondents that did not fit predefined survey categories.

Demographics of clinicians

Males represented 79.5% of clinicians in 2016 and had an average age of 54.3 years. Females represented 20.5% of clinicians and were on average 6.2 years younger than male clinicians.

Category	% of clinicians	Average age	Average hours per week
Male	79.5%	54.3	43.7
Female	20.5%	48.1	37.1
Clinician total	100.0%	53.1	42.3

Over 32% of clinicians were aged 40-49 years and 29.0% were aged 50-59 years.



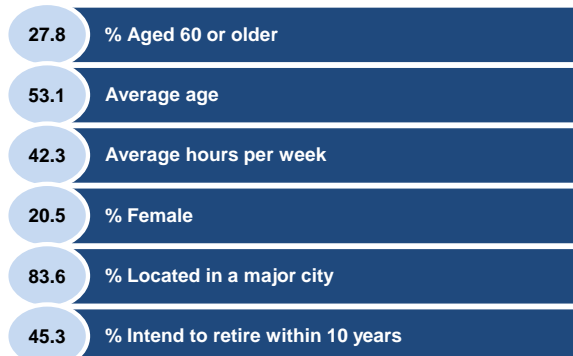
Distribution of clinicians

In 2016, the majority (83.6%) of clinicians were located in a major city or a location considered as MMM1 under the Modified Monash Model classification system.

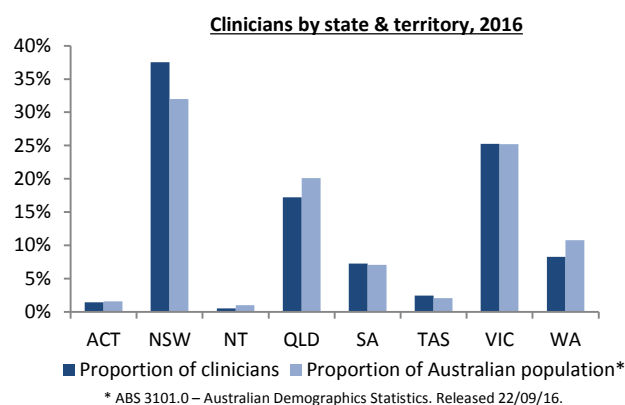
Location of clinicians by remoteness, Modified Monash Model (MMM*)							
MMM category	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
%	83.6	7.7	7.0	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.5

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

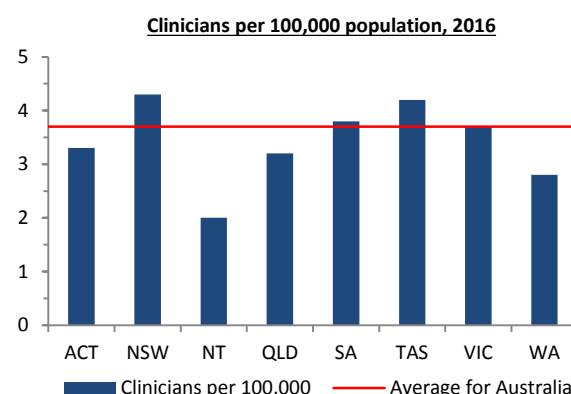
Quick facts of clinician workforce



Over 37% of clinicians reported their principal place of practice was located in New South Wales and over 25% indicated that their principle place of practice was in Victoria.



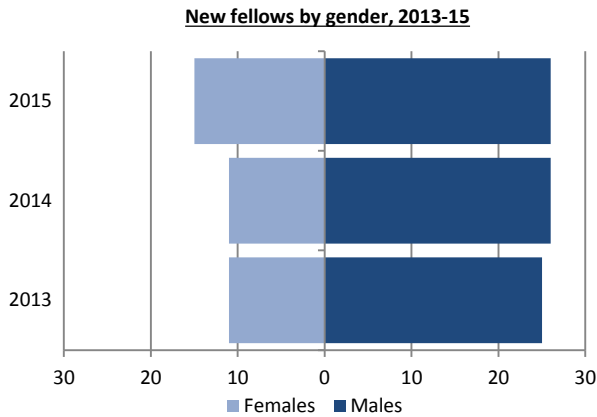
New South Wales had the highest number and ratio of clinicians for 2016. South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria also had ratios equal to, or higher than the national average of 3.7 clinicians per 100,000 population.



New fellows

The number of new fellows from the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists increased 13.9% between 2013 and 2015. During this period overseas trained new fellows who obtained their specialist qualification outside of Australia represented around one-third of all new fellows.

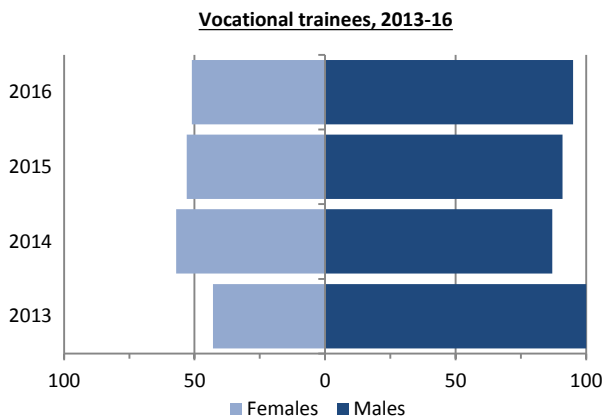
Number of new fellows, 2013-15			
	2013	2014	2015
Trained in Australia	24	26	30
Overseas trained	12	11	11
Total	36	37	41



Vocational training

The total number of trainees for every year between 2013 and 2016 were similar. There were 2.1% more trainees in 2016 than in 2013.

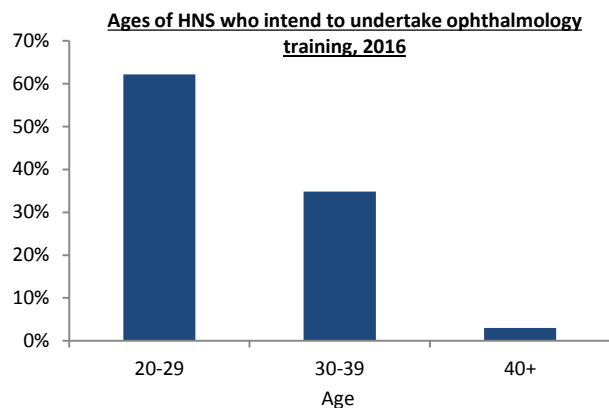
Trainee numbers, 2013-16			
Year	Females	Males	Total
2013	43	100	143
2014	57	87	144
2015	53	91	144
2016	51	95	146
Change 2013-16 (%)	18.6%	-5.0%	2.1%



Vocational intentions

In 2016, there were 135 Hospital Non-Specialists (HNS*) who indicated their intention to undertake vocational training in ophthalmology. The majority were aged 20-29 years.

* 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.	Orange circle
Replacement rate	This measure indicates whether trainee numbers are sufficient to replace the numbers leaving the workforce.	Green circle
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.	Orange circle
Duration of training program	This measure indicates how long it takes to train a replacement workforce. Indicator considers basic and advanced training components.	Orange circle

References

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

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