



Physician

2016 Factsheet

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 specialities:

- **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.



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

Demographics of clinicians

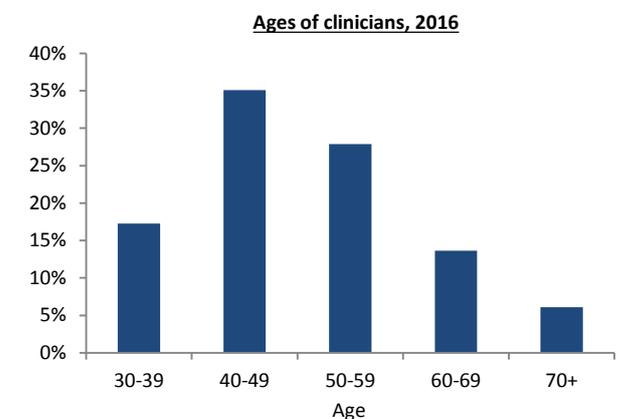
Males represented 67.8% of clinicians in 2016 and had an average age of 51.9 years. Females represented 32.2% of clinicians and were on average 5.3 years younger than male clinicians.

Category	% of clinicians	Average age	Average hours per week
Male	67.8%	51.9	36.9
Female	32.2%	46.6	30.6
Clinician total	100.0%	50.2	34.8

Quick facts of clinician workforce



Over 35% of clinicians were aged 40-49 years and over 27% were aged 50-59 years.



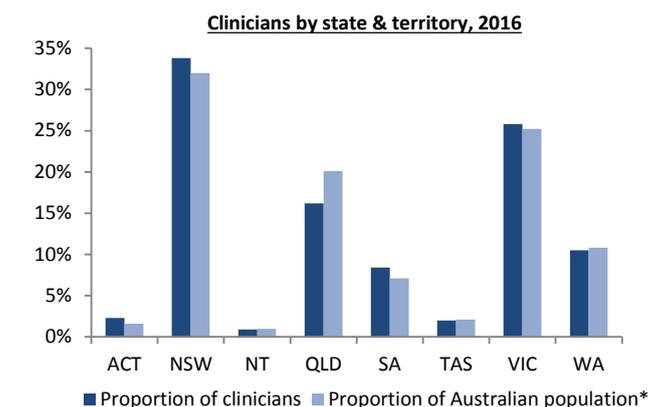
Distribution of clinicians

The majority of clinicians (89.9%) were located in a major city or a location considered as MMM1 under the Modified Monash Model classification system in 2016.

Location of clinicians by remoteness, Modified Monash Model (MMM*)							
MMM category	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
%	89.9	5.9	3.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1

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

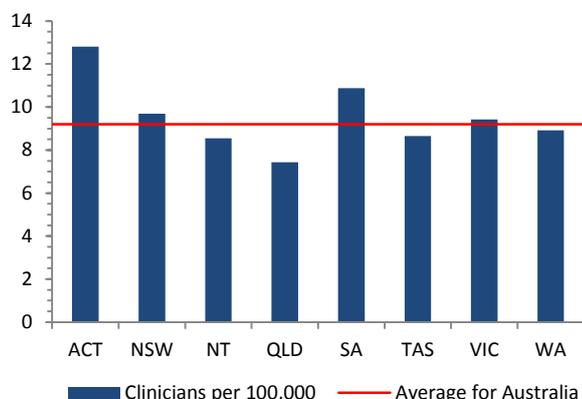
Over 33% of clinicians indicated their principal place of practice was in New South Wales and over 25% indicated it was in Victoria.



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

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.

Clinicians per 100,000 population, 2016



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%.

Number of new fellows, 2013-15

	2013	2014	2015
Males	65	57	69
Females	46	45	71
Total	111	102	140

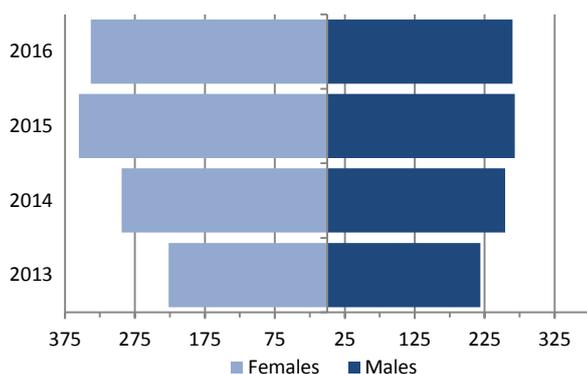
Vocational training

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%.

Trainee numbers, 2013-16

Year	Females	Males	Total
2013	227	219	446
2014	294	254	548
2015	355	268	623
2016	338	265	603
Change 2013-16 (%)	48.9%	21.0%	35.2%

Vocational trainees, 2013-16

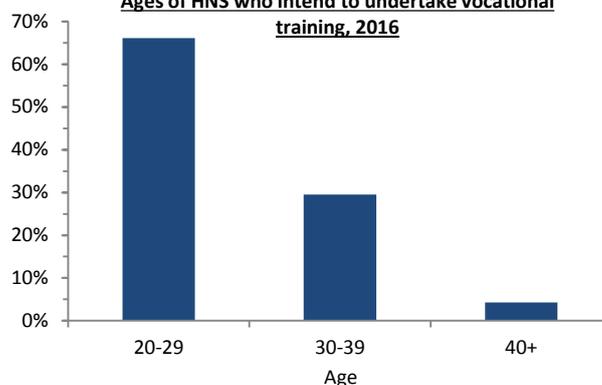


Vocational intentions

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.

Ages of HNS who intend to undertake vocational 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. Indicator considers basic and advanced training components.	●

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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