In the 2010 calendar year, there were 49 Cardiothoracic Surgeons who primarily worked within NSW. This workforce had the following characteristics:

- **Average Age:** 52.1 years
- **Females:** 10.2% of the workforce
- **Average Hours:** Cardiothoracic Surgeons worked an average 50.3 hours per week (of a standard 40 hour week)
- **Over 50s:** Approximately 59% were aged 50 years or over

Source: AIHW (2012) 2010 Medical Workforce Profile extracts for NSW (unpublished data)

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**The Workforce**

A Cardiothoracic surgeon has specialised training in the management intrathoracic diseases and abnormalities that involve the lung, heart, and/or the great vessels.

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**Trainees and New Fellows**

- **SET Trainees**: 11 SET Trainees in NSW in 2012 with an average of 12 between 2008 and 2012
- **Females**: Female SET numbers in NSW have remained steady at 1 between 2008–2012 (7% of total)
- **New Fellows**: An average of 1 per year in NSW from 2008-2011 (20% female)
- **Medical Specialty College**: Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (www.surgeons.org)
- **HETI Supported Training**: Not part of Health Education and Training Institute Training Networks (www.heti.nsw.gov.au)

Source: The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons  * SET – Surgical Education and Training (SET) program

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**Retirement Intentions in NSW**

- **1-2 Years**: 2.0% of Cardiothoracic Surgeons intend to retire within 1-2 years
- **3-5 Years**: 16.3% of Cardiothoracic Surgeons intend to retire within the next 3-5 years
- **6-9 Years**: 4.1% of Cardiothoracic Surgeons intend to retire within the next 6-9 years

Source: AIHW (2012) 2010 Medical Workforce Profile extracts (unpublished data)
Supply and Distribution

Distribution: Cardiothoracic Surgeons are located mainly within Local Health Districts in metropolitan Sydney and Hunter New England Local Health Districts (LHDs).

Rural & Regional: Limited numbers of Cardiothoracic Surgeons located in rural and regional LHDs.

The Future in NSW – Workforce Planning to 2025*

Estimated Demand Growth: Not Applicable
Estimated Workforce Size: Not Applicable
Additional Fellows: All demand scenarios suggest a small number of additional trainees required
Range: Not Applicable

*Workforce Planning to 2025 incorporated the workforces of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Neurosurgery, Paediatric Surgery, Oral and Maxillofacial and Vascular Surgery. These Surgical sub-specialties were grouped and modelled together due to small workforce size in the individual sub-specialties.

Workforce Planning Priority and Risk Rating

Ageing: The risk associated with the workforce aged over 60 and 70.
Small Workforce Size: The risk associated with the sustainability of small workforces.
Retirement Intentions: The risk associated with the retirement intentions of the current workforce.
New Fellow Requirements: The risk associated with the requirement to recruit additional trainees, based on workforce planning to 2025.
Training Supervision: The risk associated with the availability of the existing workforce to provide supervision to new trainees.

Priority for Workforce Planning: Minimal

Future Workforce Considerations
Addressing rural and regional workforce maldistribution