The Workforce

A Paediatric Surgeon has specialised training in the management of children (usually up to the age of 15 years) who have conditions that may require surgery.

In the 2010 calendar year, there were 28 Paediatric Surgeons who primarily worked within NSW. This workforce had the following characteristics:

- **Average Age:** 56.4 years
- **Females:** 17.9% of the workforce
- **Average Hours:** Paediatric Surgeons worked an average 49.2 hours per week (of a standard 40 hour week)
- **Over 50s:** Approximately 61% were aged 50 years or over

Source: AIHW (2012) 2010 Medical Workforce Profile extracts for NSW (unpublished data)

Trainees and New Fellows

**SET Trainees (SET):** 8 SETs in NSW in 2012 with an average of 8 SETs between 2008 and 2012

- **Females:** Female SET numbers in NSW have increased from 2 in 2008 to 7 in 2012 (51% of total)

**New Fellows:** An average of 1 per year in NSW from 2008-2011 (50% female)

**Medical Specialty College:** Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (http://www.surgeons.org/)

**HETI Supported Training:** Not part of Health Education and Training Institute Training Networks (www.heti.nsw.gov.au)

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

Retirement Intentions in NSW

- **1-2 Years:** 3.6% of Paediatric Surgeons intend to retire within 1-2 years
- **3-5 Years:** 17.9% of Paediatric Surgeons intend to retire within the next 3-5 years
- **6-9 Years:** 7.1% of Paediatric Surgeons intend to retire within the next 6-9 years

Source: AIHW (2012) 2010 Medical Workforce Profile extracts (unpublished data)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

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

Rural & Regional: Limited numbers of Paediatric 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.

**Future Workforce Considerations**

Provision of paediatric surgical services outside of tertiary level Children's hospitals.