Rheumatology

The Workforce

Rheumatologists are specialist physicians with particular expertise in the diagnosis and holistic management of people with diseases that affect joints, muscles and bones.

In the 2010 calendar year, there were 108 Rheumatologists who primarily worked within NSW. This workforce had the following characteristics:

- **Average Age:** 50.6 years
- **Females:** 27.7% of the workforce
- **Average Hours:** Rheumatologists worked an average 41.0 hours per week (of a standard 40 hour week)
- **Over 50s:** Approximately 43% were aged 50 years and over and 22% of the workforce were older than 60 years

Source: AIHW (2012) 2010 Medical Workforce Profile extracts for NSW (unpublished data)

Retirement Intentions in NSW

- **1-2 Years:** 2.8% of Rheumatologists intend to retire within 1-2 years
- **3-5 Years:** 9.3% of Rheumatologists intend to retire within the next 3-5 years
- **6-9 Years:** 5.6% of Rheumatologists intend to retire within the next 6-9 years

Source: AIHW (2012) 2010 Medical Workforce Profile extracts (unpublished data)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

Distribution: Rheumatologists are located mainly within Local Health Districts (LHDs) in metropolitan Sydney, Hunter New England.

Rural & Regional: Small numbers (<=7) of Rheumatologists located outside of these LHDs. Higher proportion of non-metropolitan Sydney Rheumatologists indicate the intention to retire within next 5 years (10%).

The Future in NSW – Workforce Planning to 2025

Estimated Demand Growth: Between 2.0% to 2.7% to 2025
Estimated Workforce Size: In 2025, between 142 to 153 Full Time Equivalents
Additional Fellows: All demand scenarios require additional trainees as of 2014
Range: Up to 10 additional new trainees per annum

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
Addressing rural and regional workforce maldistribution