

# Anaesthesia

## The Workforce

An Anaesthetist is a specialist medical practitioner who provides general anaesthesia, sedation, regional anaesthesia and pre-operative care and acute pain management for patients for surgical and other procedures including pain relief for women in labour.

In the 2010 calendar year there were 1,079 Anaesthetists who primarily worked within NSW. This workforce had the following characteristics:

**Average Age:** 49.2 years

**Females:** 25.8% of the workforce

**Average Hours:** Anaesthetists worked an average 36 hours per week (of a standard 40 hour week)

**Over 50s:** Approximately 45% were aged 50 years and over and 20% of the workforce were older than 60 years

Source: AIHW (2012) 2010 Medical Workforce Profile extracts for NSW (unpublished data)



## Trainees and New Fellows

**Basic Trainees (BT):** 197 in 2012 with an average of 175 BTs in NSW between 2009 and 2012

**Advanced Trainees (AT)\*:** 177 in 2012 with an average of 173 ATs in NSW between 2009 and 2012

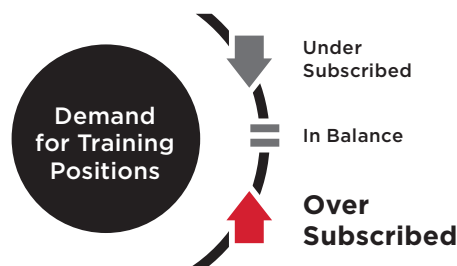
**Females:** Female AT numbers in Australia have increased from 51 in 2006 to 88 in 2012 (50% of total)

**New Fellows:** An average of 53 per year in NSW from 2008-2011 (26% female)

**Medical Specialty College:** Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists - ANZCA ([www.anzca.edu.au](http://www.anzca.edu.au))

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

Source: Medical Training Review Panel (MTRP) \* Basic Training must be completed before entering Advanced Training



## Retirement Intentions in NSW

**1-2 Years:** 3.9% of Anaesthetists intend to retire within 1-2 years

**3-5 Years:** 10.3% of Anaesthetists intend to retire within the next 3-5 years

**6-9 Years:** 4.8% of Anaesthetists intend to retire within the next 6-9 years

Source: AIHW (2012) 2010 Medical Workforce Profile extracts (unpublished data)



## Supply and Distribution



**Distribution:** Anaesthetists are located in nearly all Local Health Districts (LHDs) in NSW.

**Rural & Regional:** Workforce outside of metropolitan Sydney LHDs is older (19% over 60) than the workforce in Sydney (17% over 60).

Fly-in Fly-out Anaesthetists provide services in some rural and regional LHDs.

## The Future in NSW – Workforce Planning to 2025

**Estimated Demand Growth:** Between 2.1% to 3.1% to 2025

**Estimated Workforce Size:** In 2025, between 1,615 and 1,673 Full Time Equivalents

**Additional Fellows:** Higher % demand scenarios require additional fellows

**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

- Role of the Anaesthetist outside of the Operating Theatre. i.e.: complex imaging or therapeutic procedures, perioperative/peri-procedural care and management
- Addressing rural and regional workforce distribution