



General Medicine

The Workforce

General Medicine Physicians are specialty physicians with expertise in the diagnosis and management of complex, chronic and multisystem disorders in adult patients.

In the 2010 calendar year, there were 98 General Medicine Physicians who primarily worked within NSW. This workforce had the following characteristics:

Average Age: 61.6 years

Females: 5% of the workforce

Average Hours: General Medicine Physicians worked an average 34.8 hours per week (of a standard 40 hour week)

Over 50s: Approximately 88% were aged 50 years and over and 64% of the workforce were older than 60 years

Source: AIHW (2012) 2010 Medical Workforce Profile extracts for NSW (unpublished data)



Trainees and New Fellows

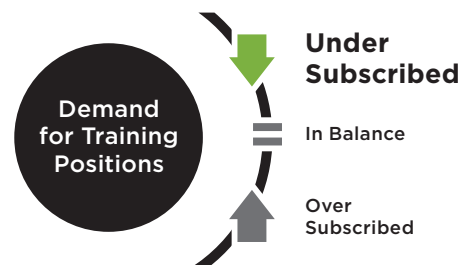
Advanced Trainees (AT)*: 32 ATs in NSW in 2012 with an average of 31 ATs between 2011 and 2012

Females: Nationally, 16.4% of ATs were female in 2012

New Fellows: Nationally, an average of 12 new fellows per year from 2010-2011 (32% Female)

Medical Specialty College: Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) (www.racp.edu.au)

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



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

Retirement Intentions in NSW

1-2 Years: 13% of General Medicine Physicians intend to retire within 1-2 years

3-5 Years: 21% of General Medicine Physicians intend to retire within the next 3-5 years

6-9 Years: 11% of General Medicine Physicians intend to retire within the next 6-9 years

Source: AIHW (2012) 2010 Medical Workforce Profile extracts (unpublished data)



Supply and Distribution



Distribution: The General Medicine Physician workforce has small numbers in all Local Health Districts (LHDs) with Hunter New England LHD having the largest workforce size (15 General Medicine physicians).

Rural & Regional: The General Medicine Physician workforce in rural and regional LHDs is generally small and at risk through either retirement or unexpected employment changes.

The Future in NSW – Workforce Planning to 2025

Estimated Demand Growth: Between 1.7% to 2.3% to 2025

Estimated Workforce Size: In 2025, between 103 to 110 Full Time Equivalents

Additional Fellows: All demand scenarios require additional trainees as of 2014

Range: Up to 8 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

- NSW piloting Dual Training pathway involving General Medicine/Subspecialty training
- Recognition of important role of Generalists
- Rural workforce requirements for General Physicians