



Geriatric Medicine

The Workforce

Geriatric medicine is the branch of internal medicine dealing specifically with the medical management and care of older people.

In the 2010 calendar year, there were 131 Geriatricians who primarily worked within NSW. This workforce had the following characteristics:

Average Age: 47.4 years

Females: 42.7% of the workforce

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

Over 50s: Approximately 38% were aged 50 years and over and 11.5% 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Source: AIHW (2012) 2010 Medical Workforce Profile extracts for NSW (unpublished data)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)*: 37 ATs in NSW in 2012 with an average of 40 ATs between 2011 and 2012

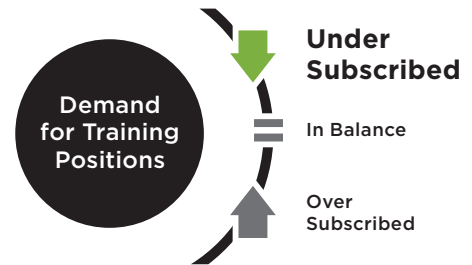
Females: There were 79 female ATs in Australia in 2012 and 70 in 2011

New Fellows: An estimated average of 9 per year in NSW from 2008-2011 (65% 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: 4.6% of Geriatricians intend to retire within 1-2 years

3-5 Years: 7.6% of Geriatricians intend to retire within the next 3-5 years

6-9 Years: 4.6% of Geriatricians intend to retire within the next 6-9 years

Source: AIHW (2012) 2010 Medical Workforce Profile extracts (unpublished data)



Supply and Distribution



Distribution: The Geriatrician workforce is located mainly within Local Health Districts (LHDs) in metropolitan Sydney.

Rural & Regional: There are small numbers (<=10) of Geriatricians located in rural and regional LHDs. Workforce outside of metropolitan Sydney LHDs is small and highly at risk through either retirement or unexpected employment changes.

The Future in NSW – Workforce Planning to 2025

Estimated Demand Growth: Between 2.6% to 7.5% to 2025

Estimated Workforce Size: In 2025, 284 Full Time Equivalents

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

Range: Up to 5 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

- Rural and regional requirements for Geriatricians
- Limited advanced training positions in rural and regional NSW