Anaesthetics

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. The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) is accredited by the Australian Medical Council (AMC) to deliver anaesthetics training.

Workforce Characteristics in 2015

Supply and Distribution

Total NSW Workforce by Sector (percent)

- Public only: 52%
- Private only: 22%
- Public and Private: 9.7%
- Other: 25%

Non-Metropolitan Sydney

- Total NSW headcount: 895
- 40 hours per week
- 49 years average age
- 18% aged over 60

Retirement intentions (60+):
- Next 1-2 years: 33%
- Next 3-5 years: 49%
- Next 6-10 years: 14%

Metropolitan Sydney

- Total NSW headcount: 370
- 41 hours per week
- 49 years average age
- 17% aged over 60

Retirement intentions (60+):
- Next 1-2 years: 35%
- Next 3-5 years: 56%
- Next 6-10 years: 5%

Trainees

Advanced Trainees in NSW:

- 2015: 188
- 2016: 201
- 2017: 208

NSW Trainees as % of Australia 2017: 28.8%

Proportion female trainees in NSW 2017: 46.6%

Data sourced: The National Health Workforce Dataset - Australian Government Department of Health; The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA); The Medical Education and Training in Australia Report (MET).
The Future in NSW – Workforce Planning to 2030

Workforce projections are provided for a low and high demand scenario. Where requirements for both scenarios are met without the need for additional fellows, the projected “No Growth” scenario workforce data is provided.

Workforce Planning Priority and Assessment Framework

- Estimated Demand Growth: Between 1.3% (low demand scenario) to 2.1% (high demand scenario).
- Estimated Additional Fellows: All demand scenarios require additional fellows. Trainee numbers need to increase by approximately 13 per annum to meet projected 2030 requirements.
- Estimated Workforce Size: In 2030, 1684 to 1721 Headcount (assuming all additional fellows will enter the workforce).
- Estimated percentage over 60 years: In 2030, 11.8% to 12.1% of workforce over 60 years.
- Average Age: In 2030, 48.7 to 48.9 years.
- Estimated percentage over 60 years of workforce over 60 years.
- Estimated percentage over 70 years of workforce over 70 years.

Workforce Planning Priority and Assessment Framework

- Retirement Intentions: The factor associated with workforce retiring within the next 2 and the next 5 years.
- Ageing > 60: Moderate factor
- Ageing > 70: Minor factor
- New Fellow Requirements: The factor associated with the requirement to recruit additional trainees, based on workforce planning to 2030.
- Small Workforce Size: The factor associated with the sustainability of small workforces.

Rating Key: Minimal Factor < Minor Factor < Moderate Factor < Major Factor

Workforce Modelling Considerations

- Workforce modelling is based on current models of care. Any change in the models may impact on requirements.
- Any changes to current training programs will affect the workforce modelling outcome.
- Workforce modelling is based on current workforce hours profile by age co-hours. Any changes to hours worked by future clinicians will affect the model.
- There is an accepted error rate of plus or minus two per cent within workforce modelling.
- The model does not address any mal-distribution either by location (rural or regional) or sector (public or private).