



Microbiology

The Workforce

Microbiology deals with diseases caused by infectious agents such as bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites. Microbiologists have roles both in the laboratory and directly in patient care.

In the 2010 calendar year, there were 97 Microbiologists who primarily worked within NSW. This workforce had the following characteristics:

- Average Age:** 51 years
- Females:** 40.2% of the workforce
- Average Hours:** Microbiologists worked an average 40.9 hours per week (of a standard 40 hour week)
- Over 50s:** Approximately 44% were aged 50 years and over

Source: AIHW (2012) 2010 Medical Workforce Profile extracts for NSW (unpublished data)



Trainees and New Fellows

Trainees: 16 trainees in NSW for 2012 with an average of 13 trainees between 2008 and 2012

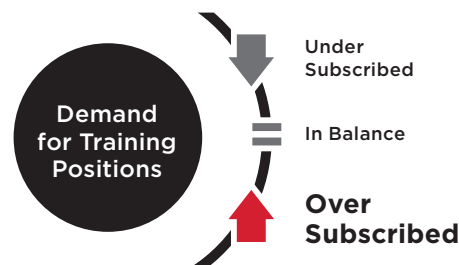
Females: Data on Female Trainees is not available

New Fellows: Nationally, an average of 9 per year from 2008-2011 (57% female)

Medical Specialty College: The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (www.rcpa.edu.au/)

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

Source: The Royal College of Pathologists Australasia



Retirement Intentions in NSW

1-2 Years: 3.1% of Microbiologists intend to retire within 1-2 years

3-5 Years: 8.2% of Microbiologists intend to retire within the next 3-5 years

6-9 Years: 1.0% of Microbiologists intend to retire within the next 6-9 years

Source: AIHW (2012) 2010 Medical Workforce Profile extracts (unpublished data)



Supply and Distribution



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

Rural & Regional: There are no Microbiologists located in rural and regional LHDs.

The Future in NSW – Workforce Planning to 2025*

Estimated Demand Growth: Not Applicable

Estimated Workforce Size: Not Applicable

Additional Fellows: All demand scenarios suggest a small number of additional trainees required

Range: Not Applicable

* Workforce Planning to 2025 incorporated the workforces Chemical, Forensic, General Pathology (which includes Genetics), Immunology and Allergy (including Physicians undertaking clinical immunology), Microbiology (including Physicians undertaking clinical microbiology), and Infectious Diseases. These sub-specialties were grouped and modelled together due to small workforce size in the individual sub-specialties

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