



Neurosurgery

The Workforce

Neurosurgery provides for the operative and non-operative management of disorders that affect the central, peripheral and autonomic nervous system, including their supportive structures and vascular supply.

In the 2010 calendar year, there were 65 Neurosurgeons who primarily worked within NSW. This workforce had the following characteristics:

Average Age: 49.4 years

Females: 7.7% of the workforce

Average Hours: Neurosurgeons worked an average 45.9 hours per week (of a standard 40 hour week)

Over 50s: Approximately 35% were aged 50 years and over

Source: AIHW (2012) 2010 Medical Workforce Profile extracts for NSW (unpublished data)



Trainees and New Fellows

SET Trainees (SET)*: 19 SETs in NSW in 2012 with an average of 17 SETs between 2008 and 2012

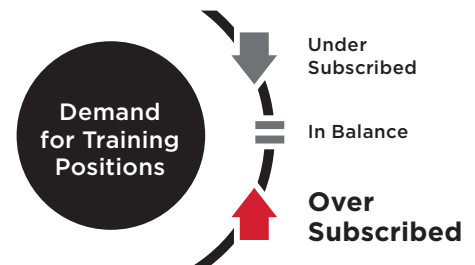
Females: Female SET numbers in NSW have increased from 1 in 2008 to 4 in 2012 (25% of total)

New Fellows: An average of 3 per year in NSW from 2008-2011 (6.3% female)

Medical Specialty College: Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (www.surgeons.org)

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

Source: Royal Australian College of Surgeons * SET – Surgical Education and Training (SET) program



Retirement Intentions in NSW

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

3-5 Years: 10.8% of Neurosurgeons intend to retire within the next 3-5 years

6-9 Years: 1.5% of Neurosurgeons intend to retire within the next 6-9 years

Source: AIHW (2012) 2010 Medical Workforce Profile extracts (unpublished data)



Supply and Distribution



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

Rural & Regional: Small numbers of Neurosurgeons 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 of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Neurosurgery, Paediatric Surgery, Oral and Maxillofacial and Vascular Surgery. These Surgical 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