

Obstetrics and Gynaecology



Health

The Workforce

Obstetricians and Gynaecologists are concerned with separate aspects of women's health care and often managed in the one service. Obstetricians provide medical care before, during and after childbirth. Gynaecologists diagnose, treat and aid in the prevention of female reproductive disorders.

In the 2010 calendar year, there were 483 Obstetricians and Gynaecologists who primarily worked within NSW. This workforce had the following characteristics:

Average Age: 53 years

Females: 28.2% of the workforce

Average Hours: Obstetricians and Gynaecologists worked an average 38.4 hours per week (of a standard 40 hour week)

Over 50s: Approximately 59.6% were aged 50 years and over and 29.8% of the workforce were older than 60 years

Source: AIHW (2012) 2010 Medical Workforce Profile extracts for NSW (unpublished data)



Trainees and New Fellows

Basic Trainees (BT): 105 BTs in NSW in 2012 with an average of 95 BTs between 2008 and 2012

Advanced Trainees (AT)*: 47 ATs in NSW in 2012 with an average of 53 ATs between 2009 and 2012

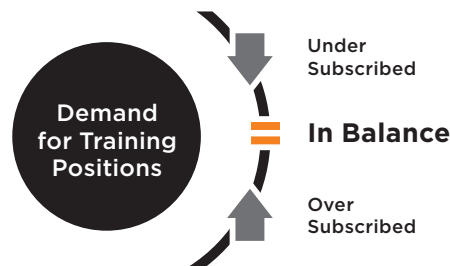
Females: Female AT numbers in NSW have increased from 24 in 2006 to 31 in 2012 (67% of total)

New Fellows: An average of 21 new fellows per year in NSW from 2006-2011 (58.1% female)

Medical Specialty College: The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (www.ranzcog.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 Training must be completed before entering Advanced Training



Retirement Intentions in NSW

1-2 Years: 5.8% of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists intend to retire within 1-2 years

3-5 Years: 13.7% of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists intend to retire within the next 3-5 years

6-9 Years: 4.8% of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists intend to retire within the next 6-9 years

Source: AIHW (2012) 2010 Medical Workforce Profile extracts (unpublished data)



Supply and Distribution



Distribution: The Obstetrics & Gynaecology specialist workforce is located mainly within Local Health Districts (LHDs) in metropolitan Sydney and Hunter New England LHD.

Rural & Regional: There is a limited Obstetrics & Gynaecology specialist workforce located in rural and regional LHDs.

The Future in NSW – Workforce Planning to 2025

Estimated Demand Growth: Between 1.9% to 2.6% to 2025

Estimated Workforce Size: In 2025, 740 Full Time Equivalents

Additional Fellows: All demand scenarios require no additional trainees

Range: No additional new trainees required

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

- Increasing sub-specialisation within Obstetrics & Gynaecology (IVF, gynaecology and foetal medicine) with implications for affordability, distribution and service provision in the public sector
- Support provision of Obstetric services in rural and regional communities and the role of GP Obstetricians.