

Occupational & Environmental Medicine



Health

The Workforce

An Occupational Physician applies high-level medical skills to the interface between a person's work and his or her health.

In the 2010 calendar year, there were 70 Occupational & Environmental Medicine Physicians who primarily worked within NSW. This workforce had the following characteristics:

Average Age: 57 years

Females: 21.4% of the workforce

Average Hours: Occupational & Environmental Medicine Physicians worked an average 35.2 hours per week (of a standard 40 hour week)

Over 50s: Approximately 81% were aged 50 years and over

Source: AIHW (2012) 2010 Medical Workforce Profile extracts for NSW (unpublished data)



Trainees and New Fellows

Advanced Trainees (AT)*: 84 ATs in 2012 with an average of 70 in Australia between 2008 and 2012.

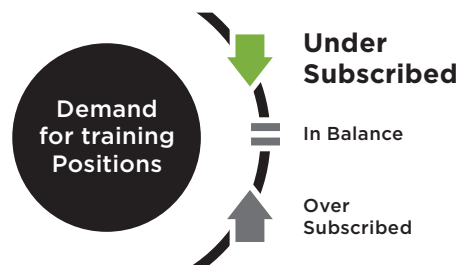
Females: AT numbers in Australia have increased from 10 in 2008 to 17 in 2012 (20% of total).

New Fellows: Nationally, an average of 7 per year from 2008-2011 (24.1 % 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: 4.3% of Occupational & Environmental Medicine Physicians intend to retire within 1-2 years

3-5 Years: 18.6% of Occupational Physicians intend to retire within the next 3-5 years

6-9 Years: 8.6% of Occupational Physicians intend to retire within the next 6-9 years

Source: AIHW (2012) 2010 Medical Workforce Profile extracts (unpublished data)



Supply and Distribution



Distribution: The Occupational & Environmental Medicine Physician workforce is located mainly within Local Health Districts (LHDs) in Sydney, South Eastern Sydney and Northern Sydney LHDs.

Rural & Regional: Limited numbers of Occupational & Environmental Medicine Physician workforce located in rural and regional LHDs (less than four per LHD).

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 combines the physician sub-specialties of Addiction Medicine, Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Pain Medicine, Palliative Medicine, Public Health Medicine, Sexual Health Medicine, Clinical Pharmacology and Clinical Genetics. These physician 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

Occupational and Environmental medicine has experienced major changes with the decline of industries such as manufacturing and heavy engineering, resulting in reduced emphasis on health protection, with more attention now being paid to assessment of fitness for employment and the management of incapacity for work.

There has also been a shift from the provision of occupational health care by internal, directly employed teams to contracted-out services delivered by independent practitioners or larger external providers.