



# Ophthalmology

## The Workforce

An Ophthalmologist is a specialist doctor who diagnoses and treats diseases and injuries in and around the eye.

In the 2010 calendar year, there were 304 Ophthalmologists who primarily worked within NSW. This workforce had the following characteristics:

**Average Age:** 52.9 years

**Females:** 17.8% of the workforce

**Average Hours:** Ophthalmologists worked an average 34.5 hours per week (of a standard 40 hour week).

**Over 50s:** Approximately 57% were aged 50 years and over and 29% 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Source: AIHW (2012) 2010 Medical Workforce Profile extracts for NSW (unpublished data)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):** 20 BTs in NSW in 2012 with an average of 22 BTs between 2007 and 2012

**Advanced Trainees (AT)\*:** 33 ATs in NSW in 2012 with an average of 29 ATs between 2007 and 2012

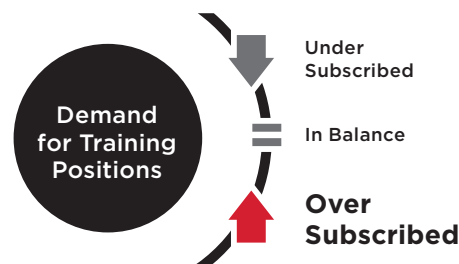
**Females:** Female AT numbers in NSW have increased from 6 in 2007 to 10 in 2012 (35% of total)

**New Fellows:** An average of 8 per year in NSW from 2007-2011 (38% female)

**Medical Specialty College:** Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists ([www.ranzco.edu](http://www.ranzco.edu))

**HETI Supported Training:** Not part of Health Education and Training Institute Training Networks ([www.heti.nsw.gov.au](http://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:** 3.2% of Ophthalmologists intend to retire within 1-2 years

**3-5 Years:** 11.7% of Ophthalmologists intend to retire within the next 3-5 years

**6-9 Years:** 5.5% of Ophthalmologists intend to retire within the next 6-9 years

Source: AIHW (2012) 2010 Medical Workforce Profile extracts (unpublished data)



## Supply and Distribution



**Distribution:** The Ophthalmologist workforce is located mainly within Local Health Districts (LHDs) in metropolitan Sydney, Mid North Coast and Hunter New England.

**Rural & Regional:** Limited number of Ophthalmologists located outside of these LHDs.

## The Future in NSW – Workforce Planning to 2025

**Estimated Demand Growth:** Between 2% to 3.9% to 2025

**Estimated Workforce Size:** In 2025, between 347 to 405 Full Time Equivalents

**Additional Fellows:** All demand scenarios require additional trainees as of 2014

**Range:** Up to 20 additional new trainees per annum

## 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

- Changes in Optometry scopes of practice and impact on Ophthalmology
- Addressing rural and regional workforce maldistribution