



Orthopaedic Surgery

The Workforce

Orthopaedic surgery is a medical specialty that focuses on the diagnosis, care and treatment of patients with disorders of the bones, joints, muscles, ligaments, tendons, nerves and skin.

In the 2010 calendar year, there were 381 Orthopaedic Surgeons who primarily worked within NSW. This workforce had the following characteristics:

Average Age: 51.7 years

Females: 3.9% of the workforce

Average Hours: Orthopaedic Surgeons worked an average 42.9 hours per week (of a standard 40 hour week)

Over 50s: Approximately 51% were aged 50 years and over and 27% of the workforce were older than 60 years

Source: AIHW (2012) 2010 Medical Workforce Profile extracts for NSW (unpublished data)



Trainees and New Fellows

SET Trainees (SET)*: 72 SETs in NSW in 2012 with an average of 74 SETs between 2008 and 2012

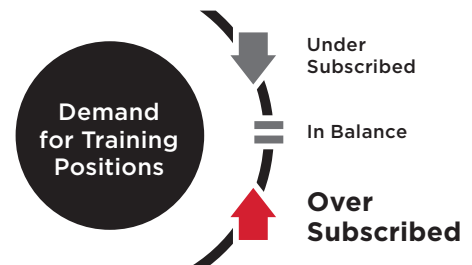
Females: Female SET numbers in NSW have averaged 3 per annum for the period 2008 to 2011 (4% of total)

New Fellows: An average of 13 per year in NSW from 2008-2011 (5.9% female)

Medical Specialty College: Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (<http://www.surgeons.org>)

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

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



Retirement Intentions in NSW

1-2 Years: 3.4% of Orthopaedic Surgeons intend to retire within 1-2 years

3-5 Years: 12.1% of Orthopaedic Surgeons intend to retire within the next 3-5 years

6-9 Years: 1.8% of Orthopaedic Surgeons intend to retire within the next 6-9 years

Source: AIHW (2012) 2010 Medical Workforce Profile extracts (unpublished data)



Supply and Distribution



Distribution: Orthopaedic Surgeons are located in every Local Health Districts (LHDs) in NSW except Far West LHD.

Rural & Regional: Workforce size is generally greater than 10 within rural and regional LHDs except for Northern NSW, Murrumbidgee, Southern NSW and Albury (Network with Vic).

The Future in NSW – Workforce Planning to 2025

Estimated Demand Growth: Between 1.8% to 2.4% to 2025

Estimated Workforce Size: In 2025, 518 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

Addressing rural and regional workforce maldistribution