Psychiatry

NSW GOVERNMENT Health

The Workforce

A Psychiatrist is a qualified medical doctor who has obtained additional qualifications to become a specialist in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mental illness and emotional problems.

In the 2010 calendar year, there were 883 Psychiatrists who primarily worked within NSW. This workforce had the following characteristics:

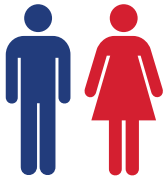
Average Age: 53.3 years

Females: 31.9% of the workforce

Average Hours: Psychiatrists worked an average 33.9 hours per week (of a standard 40 hour week).

Over 50s: Approximately 60% were aged 50 years and over and 30% of the workforce were older than 60 years

Source: AIHW (2012) 2010 Medical Workforce Profile extracts for NSW (unpublished data)



883 psychiatrists

31.9% Females

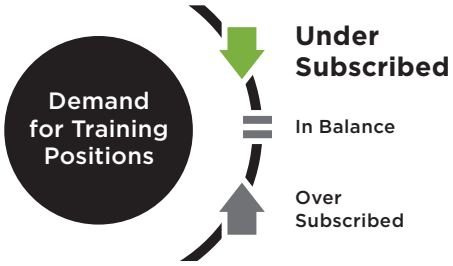
Trainees and New Fellows

Basic Trainees (BT): 261 BTs in NSW in 2012 with an average of 253 BTs between 2009 and 2012

Advanced Trainees (AT)*: 137 ATs in NSW in 2012 with an average of 112 ATs between 2008 and 2012

Females: Female AT numbers in NSW have increased from 27 in 2006 to 72 in 2012 (59% of total)

New Fellows: An average of 34 per year in NSW from 2008-2011 (41% female)



Medical Specialty College: The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) (www.ranzcp.org)

Training Network: Health Education and Training Institute Training (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: 2.7% of Psychiatrists intend to retire within 1-2 years

3-5 Years: 12.0% of Psychiatrists intend to retire within the next 3-5 years

6-9 Years: 4.9% of Psychiatrists intend to retire within the next 6-9 years

Source: AIHW (2012) 2010 Medical Workforce Profile extracts (unpublished data)

112 Average Advanced Trainees in NSW

34 Average New Fellows in NSW

20% Intend to Retire within next 10 years

Supply and Distribution

Distribution: The Psychiatrists workforce in NSW is mainly located in Local Health Districts (LHDs) in metropolitan Sydney and the Newcastle area of Hunter New England.

Rural & Regional: Mid North Coast, Northern NSW, Southern NSW and Illawarra Shoalhaven LHDs have 20 or more Psychiatrists. The remaining LHDs have less than 20 Psychiatrists each.

The Future in NSW – Workforce Planning to 2025

Estimated Demand Growth: Between 2.3% to 4.1% to 2025

Estimated Workforce Size: In 2025, between 996 to 1,142 Full Time Equivalents

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

Range: Up to 40 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

- Addressing rural and regional workforce maldistribution
- Continuing high reliance on International Medical Graduates to meet service requirements

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