

Medical oncology

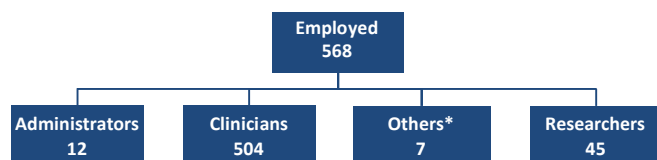
2016 Factsheet



A medical oncologist is a consultant physician who specialises in the investigation, study, diagnosis, management and treatment of benign and malignant growths, tumours, cancers and diseases. A minimum of six years full-time training through the Royal Australasian College of Physicians is required to specialise in this area.

Workforce

In 2016, there were 568 medical oncologists employed in Australia, of whom 29.8% worked in the private sector. The majority (88.7%) of medical oncologists who completed the 2016 National Health Workforce Survey indicated they were clinicians.



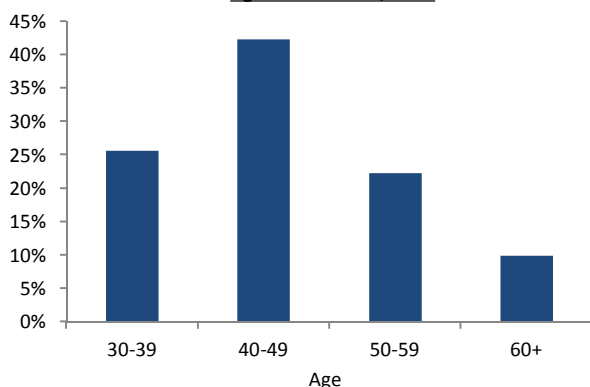
* Includes educators, teachers and roles reported by survey respondents that did not fit predefined survey categories.

Demographics of clinicians

Males represented 60.9% of clinicians in 2016 and had an average age of 48.0 years. Females represented 39.1% of clinicians and were on average 4.5 years younger than male clinicians.

Category	% of clinicians	Average age	Average hours per week
Male	60.9%	48.0	45.5
Female	39.1%	43.5	37.0
Clinician total	100.0%	46.3	42.2

Ages of clinicians, 2016



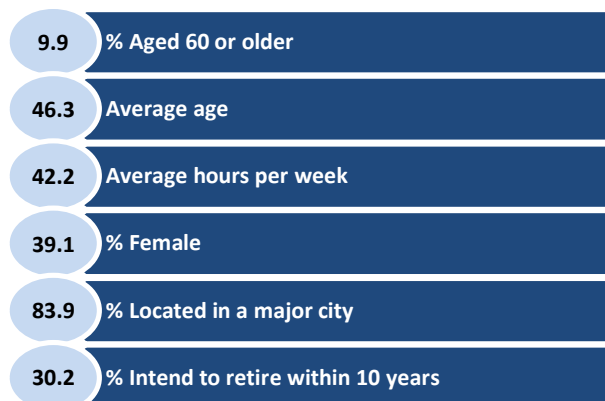
Distribution of clinicians

The majority (83.9%) of clinicians were located in a major city or a location considered as MMM1 under the Modified Monash Model classification system in 2016.

Location of clinicians by remoteness, Modified Monash Model (MMM*)							
MMM category	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
%	83.9	10.1	5.8	-	-	0.2	-

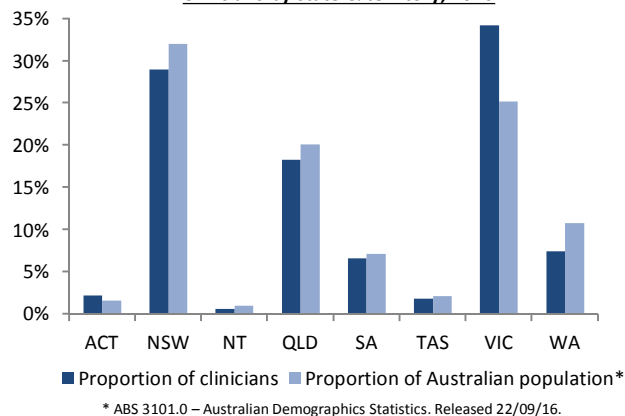
* Further information on the Modified Monash Model is available at doctorconnect.gov.au

Quick facts of clinician workforce



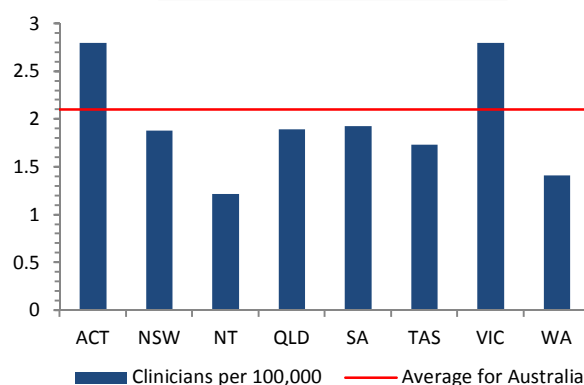
In 2016, Victoria was listed as the principal place of practice for 34.2% of clinicians and New South Wales was listed as the principle place of practice for 29.0% of clinicians.

Clinicians by state & territory, 2016



The Australian Capital Territory and Victoria had the highest ratio of clinicians with 2.8 per 100,000 population and were the only jurisdictions with more clinicians than the national average of 2.1 per 100,000 population

Clinicians per 100,000 population, 2016



New fellows

The number of medical oncology new fellow numbers peaked in 2013 with 26 new fellows. The ratio of male to female new fellows was close to 1:1 on average between 2013 and 2015. During this period the total number of new fellows decreased by 14.8%.

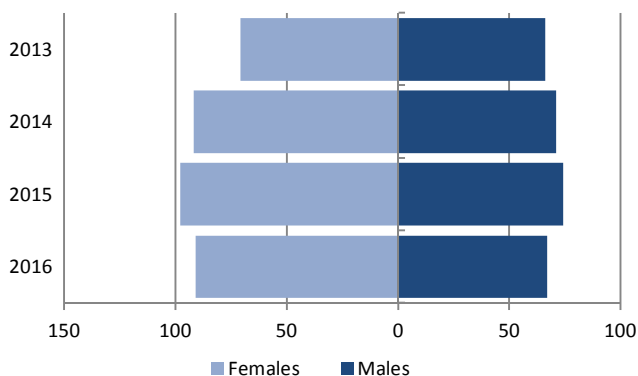
Number of new fellows, 2013-15			
	2013	2014	2015
Males	26	17	22
Females	28	12	24
Total	54	29	46

Vocational training

Between 2013 and 2016 the number of female trainees increased by 28.2%, whereas male trainees increased by 1.5%.

Trainee numbers, 2013-16			
Year	Females	Males	Total
2013	71	66	137
2014	92	71	163
2015	98	74	172
2016	91	67	158
Change 2013-16 (%)	28.2%	1.5%	15.3%

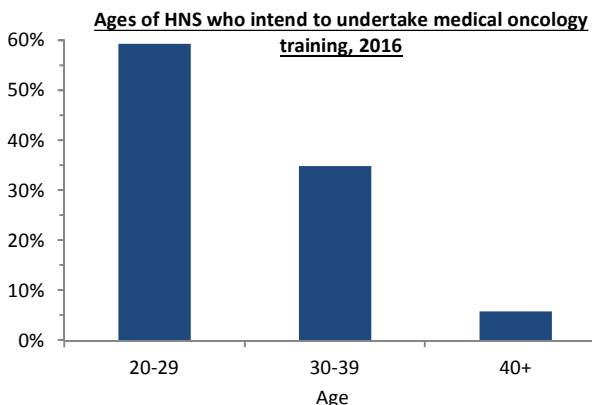
Vocational trainees, 2013-16



Vocational intentions

In 2016, there were 86 Hospital Non-Specialists (HNS*) who indicated their intention to undertake vocational training in medical oncology.

* A HNS is a medical practitioner employed in a salaried position mainly in a hospital. They do not hold a specialist qualification and are not training to obtain one. They include career medical officers, hospital medical officers, interns, principal house officers, resident medical officers and registrars.



Workforce dynamics indicator*

The workforce dynamics indicator highlights areas of concern in the future. The indicators measured and their current status is highlighted in the table below.

Note: The workforce dynamics indicators are for workforce assessment purposes only and are NOT intended to guide future training numbers.

* Further information on the workforce dynamics Indicator is available at health.gov.au

Minimal concern Significant concern

Indicator	Description	Status
Ageing of workforce	Workforces with higher average ages are more susceptible to higher exit rates due to retirements.	
Replacement rate	This measure indicates whether trainee numbers are sufficient to replace the numbers leaving the workforce.	
Duration of training program	This measure indicates how long it takes to train a replacement workforce. Indicator considers basic and advanced training components.	

References

- 1) National Health Workforce Dataset (NHWDS): Medical Practitioners 2016.
- 2) Royal Australasian College of Physicians.
- 3) Medical Education and Training Report 1st edition (Unpublished).
- 4) ABS 3101.0 – Australian Demographics Statistics. Released 22/09/16.
- 5) Australian Medical Association (AMA) Career Pathways Guide.
- 6) National Medical Training Advisory Network (NMTAN) – Prevocational Doctor Factsheet Methodology Paper.

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