



Otolaryngology

2016 Factsheet

Otolaryngology head and neck surgeons investigate and treat conditions involving the ear, nose, throat, head and neck. These include nasal and sinus conditions, snoring and breathing problems, tonsillitis, cancers of the head and neck including thyroid surgery, voice problems, plastic surgery of the nose and face, hearing difficulties and deafness. A minimum of five years full-time advanced training through the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons is required to specialise in this area.

Workforce

In 2016, there were 460 otolaryngologists employed in Australia, of whom 81.5% worked in the private sector. Over 97% of otolaryngologists who completed the 2016 National Health Workforce Survey indicated they were clinicians.



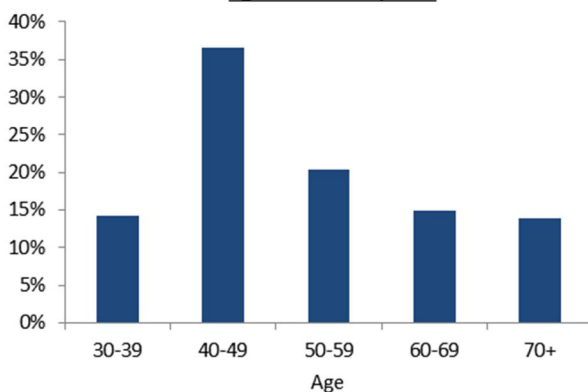
* Includes educators, researchers, teachers and roles reported by survey respondents that did not fit predefined survey categories.

Demographics of clinicians

Males represented 87.0% of clinicians in 2016 and had an average age of 54.0 years. Females represented 13.0% of clinicians and were on average 10.0 years younger than male clinicians.

Category	% of clinicians	Average age	Average hours per week
Male	87.0%	54.0	45.1
Female	13.0%	44.0	45.4
Clinician total	100.0%	52.7	45.2

Ages of clinicians, 2016



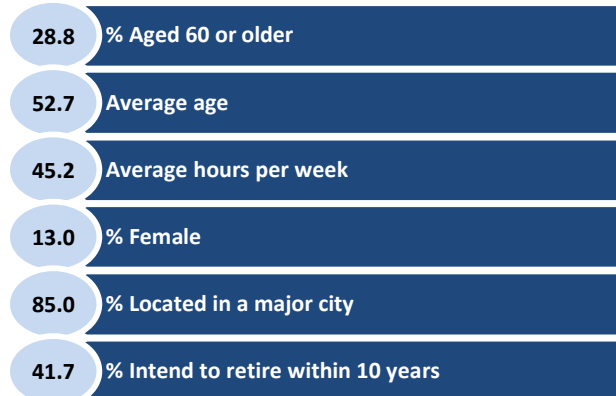
Distribution of clinicians

In 2016, the majority (85.0%) of clinicians were located in a major city or a location considered as MMM1 under the Modified Monash Model classification system.

Location of clinicians by remoteness, Modified Monash Model (MMM*)							
MMM category	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
%	85.0	9.8	4.5	0.5	-	0.2	-

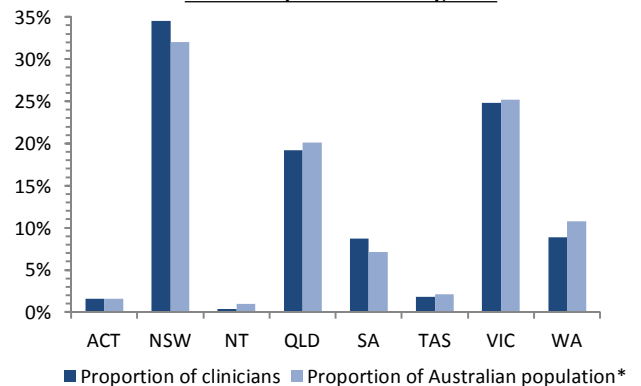
* Further information on the Modified Monash Model is available at doctorconnect.gov.au

Quick facts of clinician workforce



The largest number of clinicians was in New South Wales with over 34.5% of clinicians indicating their principle place of practice was in this state.

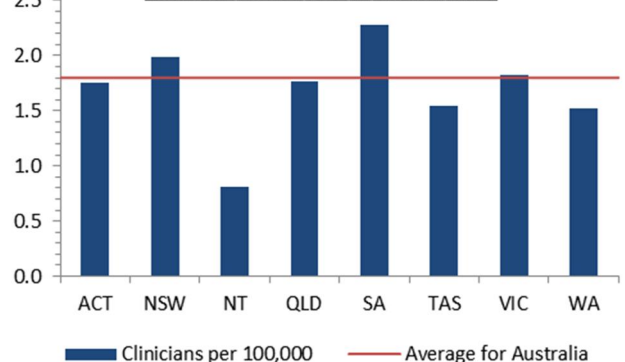
Clinicians by state & territory, 2016



* ABS 3101.0 – Australian Demographics Statistics. Released 22/09/16.

There was an average of 1.8 clinicians per 100,000 population across Australia in 2016. South Australia had the highest ratio of clinicians with 2.3 per 100,000 population.

Clinicians per 100,000 population, 2016



New fellows

The number of otolaryngology new fellows fluctuated between 2013 and 2015. The number of new fellows in 2015 was 23.5% less than the number in 2013.

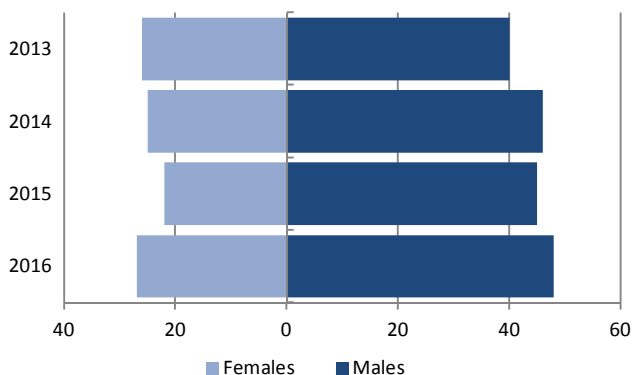
Number of new fellows, 2013-15			
	2013	2014	2015
Males	11	11	10
Females	6	8	3
Total	17	19	13

Vocational training

The total number of trainees in 2016 was 13.6% higher than the number in 2013.

Trainee numbers, 2013-16			
Year	Females	Males	Total
2013	26	40	66
2014	25	46	71
2015	22	45	67
2016	27	48	75
Change 2013-16 (%)	3.8%	20.0%	13.6%

Vocational trainees, 2013-16

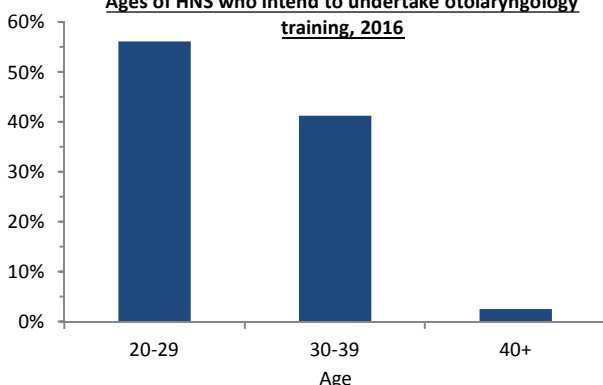


Vocational intentions

In 2016, there were 114 Hospital Non-Specialists (HNS*) who indicated their intention to undertake vocational training in otolaryngology.

* 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.

Ages of HNS who intend to undertake otolaryngology training, 2016



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.	

References

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

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