

8 Overseas-trained medical practitioners in the Australian medical labour force

- Of the 48,941 employed medical practitioners in 1995, 82.6% had obtained their initial qualification in Australia (80.4%) or New Zealand (2.2%), with a further 8.0% in the United Kingdom or Ireland, 5.4% in Asia and the remaining 4.0% in other countries.
- These proportions varied across States and Territories. Medical practitioners working in Western Australia and Tasmania were more likely to have obtained their initial qualification overseas—30.2% and 29.4% respectively qualifying initially overseas—and more likely to have qualified in the United Kingdom or Ireland—18.5% and 18.1% respectively. In the Northern Territory, 12.9% of medical practitioners had obtained their initial qualification from Asia, compared with the national average of 5.4%.
- 45,044 (92.0%) employed medical practitioners were Australian citizens, 3,440 (7.0%) were non-citizen permanent residents of Australia and the remaining 458 (0.9%) were temporary residents.
- Of the 3,440 non-citizen permanent resident medical practitioners, 1,187 (34.5%) were trained in Australia and 2,253 (65.5%) were overseas-trained. Of those who were overseas-trained:
 - 42.8% were employed in primary care, 30.9% were specialists, 10.3% were hospital non-specialists, 10.3% were specialists-in-training and the remaining 5.7% were non-clinicians;
 - 43.9% had qualified in the United Kingdom or Ireland initially, 26.9% in New Zealand, 19.1% in Asia and 10.1% in other countries; and
 - 80.6% were employed in their main job in a major urban centre, 17.1% in a rural area and 2.3% in a remote area.
- Permanent resident overseas-trained medical practitioners were more likely to work in a rural or remote area if they had qualified in the United Kingdom or Ireland initially (24.7% worked in rural areas and 3.4% in remote areas), compared with those who had qualified in Asia initially (9.3% in rural areas and 2.6% in remote areas) or New Zealand (11.2% and 0.7% respectively).
- Of the 458 temporary resident medical practitioners, 338 (73.8%) were overseas-trained. Of those who were overseas-trained:
 - 32.2% were employed in primary care, 31.0% were hospital non-specialists, 16.3% were specialists-in-training, 16.0% were specialists and the remaining 4.6% were non-clinicians;
 - 59.2% obtained their initial qualification in the United Kingdom or Ireland, 18.9% in New Zealand, 11.5% in Asia and 10.7% in other countries;
 - 73.7% worked their main job in a major urban centre, 19.2% in a rural area and 7.4% in a remote area; and
 - 53.0% practised in public hospitals and 33.7% practised from private rooms.

Table 72: Employed medical practitioners: occupation, country of initial qualification and States and Territories, 1995

Occupation/country of initial qualification	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Primary care practitioner									
Australia	5,363	4,073	2,855	1,203	1,690	442	346	158	16,131
New Zealand	92	38	76	37	17	7	9	7	282
United Kingdom/Ireland	471	328	464	365	111	140	53	14	1,944
Asia	942	265	57	138	179	5	26	25	1,636
Other countries	583	170	115	61	29	54	26	5	1,043
<i>Total</i>	<i>7,450</i>	<i>4,873</i>	<i>3,567</i>	<i>1,804</i>	<i>2,025</i>	<i>649</i>	<i>460</i>	<i>209</i>	<i>21,037</i>
Hospital non-specialist									
Australia	1,942	1,006	759	251	421	103	89	53	4,625
New Zealand	88	10	11	13	6	1	2	0	133
United Kingdom/Ireland	27	23	98	36	15	10	6	2	217
Asia	88	31	11	0	2	2	9	8	150
Other countries	81	19	23	10	14	3	9	5	163
<i>Total</i>	<i>2,226</i>	<i>1,089</i>	<i>902</i>	<i>310</i>	<i>458</i>	<i>119</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>5,288</i>
Specialist									
Australia	4,346	3,299	1,880	985	1,258	247	269	86	12,370
New Zealand	138	102	83	50	50	8	11	9	452
United Kingdom/Ireland	323	229	257	248	137	62	35	5	1,296
Asia	279	152	55	43	72	23	13	24	661
Other countries	250	87	59	69	31	20	15	9	540
<i>Total</i>	<i>5,336</i>	<i>3,870</i>	<i>2,334</i>	<i>1,395</i>	<i>1,548</i>	<i>360</i>	<i>342</i>	<i>133</i>	<i>15,318</i>
Specialist-in-training									
Australia	1,353	1,207	572	253	415	71	48	38	3,957
New Zealand	51	24	13	13	8	2	6	0	118
United Kingdom/Ireland	26	41	72	47	19	5	2	2	214
Asia	38	18	7	4	2	0	5	0	73
Other countries	50	20	11	12	3	8	2	0	106
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,518</i>	<i>1,310</i>	<i>674</i>	<i>329</i>	<i>447</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>4,468</i>
Non-clinician									
Australia	801	762	328	77	139	33	80	26	2,245
New Zealand	26	22	12	2	4	1	2	2	69
United Kingdom/Ireland	65	80	32	40	29	13	6	3	267
Asia	38	64	3	8	13	1	2	5	134
Other countries	57	38	5	4	3	6	3	0	115
<i>Total</i>	<i>987</i>	<i>965</i>	<i>379</i>	<i>131</i>	<i>188</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>91</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>2,831</i>
Total									
Australia	13,806	10,348	6,394	2,769	3,923	897	832	360	39,327
New Zealand	395	196	195	116	85	21	30	18	1,054
United Kingdom/Ireland	912	701	923	736	311	230	101	25	3,939
Asia	1,385	529	133	192	267	31	55	62	2,655
Other countries	1,020	334	212	156	79	91	54	19	1,966
Total	17,517	12,107	7,857	3,968	4,666	1,269	1,071	485	48,941

Table 73: Employed medical practitioners: country of initial qualification, citizenship/residency status and sex, Australia, 1995

Occupation/ country of initial qualification	Australian citizens			Permanent residents			Temporary residents			Total		
	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P
Primary care												
Australia	10,464	5,177	15,64	291	174	465	19	6	25	10,77	5,357	16,13
New Zealand	92	27	120	96	56	152	7	3	10	196	86	282
UK/Ireland	1,046	330	1,376	332	174	506	45	18	63	1,423	521	1,944
Asia	1,069	310	1,379	156	81	238	13	6	19	1,238	398	1,636
Other	695	263	957	43	25	68	9	8	17	748	295	1,043
Total	13,366	6,107	19,47	918	511	1,429	94	40	134	14,37	6,658	21,03
Hospital non-												
Australia	2,491	1,814	4,304	168	100	268	36	16	52	2,694	1,930	4,624
New Zealand	16	4	21	54	38	92	10	11	21	80	53	133
UK/Ireland	50	29	79	35	27	62	36	40	76	121	96	217
Asia	48	52	100	20	27	47	2	1	3	70	80	150
Other	83	43	126	15	18	32	4	0	4	102	61	163
Total	2,688	1,942	4,630	291	210	501	88	69	157	3,067	2,221	5,288
Specialist												
Australia	10,456	1,683	12,13	167	45	211	16	4	20	10,63	1,732	12,37
New Zealand	167	28	195	208	33	241	14	2	16	389	63	452
UK/Ireland	852	146	998	238	37	274	20	4	24	1,109	186	1,296
Asia	487	76	563	74	14	88	9	1	10	570	91	661
Other	394	47	442	71	22	93	4	0	4	470	70	540
Total	12,356	1,980	14,33	757	151	908	63	12	74	13,17	2,143	15,31
Specialist-in-training												
Australia	2,560	1,191	3,751	136	60	196	7	4	11	2,702	1,255	3,957
New Zealand	20	5	25	62	17	80	9	3	13	92	26	118
UK/Ireland	53	32	85	62	34	96	20	12	32	135	78	213
Asia	29	11	40	19	10	30	3	0	3	52	21	73
Other	55	19	74	13	13	25	7	0	7	75	31	106
Total	2,717	1,258	3,975	293	134	427	46	20	66	3,056	1,412	4,468
Non-clinician												
Australia	1,486	700	2,187	29	18	47	7	4	11	1,522	722	2,245
New Zealand	21	3	24	23	18	41	2	2	4	47	23	69
UK/Ireland	169	43	213	36	14	50	3	2	5	208	59	267
Asia	75	28	103	12	16	28	2	1	3	88	46	134
Other	71	33	103	3	6	9	2	1	3	75	40	115
Total	1,822	807	2,630	103	72	175	16	10	26	1,941	889	2,831
Total												
Australia	27,456	10,56	38,02	790	397	1,187	85	35	119	28,33	10,99	39,32
New Zealand	317	68	385	443	162	606	43	21	64	803	252	1,055
UK/Ireland	2,170	580	2,750	703	286	989	124	76	200	2,997	941	3,938
Asia	1,708	477	2,185	281	149	430	29	10	39	2,018	636	2,655
Other	1,298	404	1,703	145	84	228	27	9	36	1,469	497	1,966
Total	32,949	12,09	45,04	2,362	1,078	3,440	308	150	458	35,61	13,32	48,94

M=males, F=females, P=persons.

Table 74: Permanent resident overseas-trained medical practitioners: occupation, country of initial qualification and region, Australia, 1995

Occupation/ country of initial qualification	Region of main job					Total
	Major urban centre	Large rural centre	Small rural centre	Other rural area	Remote area	
Primary care practitioner						
New Zealand	124	12	9	7	0	152
United	315	41	51	74	24	506
Asia	221	2	4	10	1	238
Other countries	55	0	5	7	2	68
<i>Total</i>	<i>715</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>98</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>964</i>
Hospital non-specialist						
New Zealand	86	4	2	0	0	92
United	43	10	2	2	6	62
Asia	47	0	0	0	0	47
Other countries	28	3	1	0	0	32
<i>Total</i>	<i>205</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>234</i>
Specialist						
New Zealand	207	21	8	0	4	241
United	222	20	22	9	2	274
Asia	57	9	8	4	10	88
Other countries	79	4	11	0	0	93
<i>Total</i>	<i>565</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>697</i>
Specialist-in-training						
New Zealand	78	2	0	0	0	80
United	88	6	0	0	2	96
Asia	30	0	0	0	0	30
Other countries	23	2	0	0	0	25
<i>Total</i>	<i>219</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>231</i>
Non-clinician						
New Zealand	38	3	0	0	0	41
United	42	4	3	2	0	50
Asia	24	4	0	0	0	28
Other countries	9	0	0	0	0	9
<i>Total</i>	<i>112</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>128</i>
Total						
New Zealand	533	42	19	7	4	606
United	709	80	78	86	34	989
Asia	379	15	12	13	11	430
Other countries	193	10	17	7	2	228
Total	1,815	147	125	113	52	2,253

Table 75: Temporary resident medical practitioners: occupation, country of initial qualification and States and Territories, 1995

Occupation/country of initial qualification	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Primary care									
Australia	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
New Zealand	7	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	10
United	17	0	29	17	0	0	0	0	63
Asia	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19
Other countries	5	0	4	8	0	0	0	0	17
<i>Total</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>134</i>
Hospital non-specialist									
Australia	32	2	6	2	0	0	10	0	52
New Zealand	17	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
United	1	0	60	12	0	2	0	1	76
Asia	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3
Other countries	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
<i>Total</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>157</i>
Specialist									
Australia	17	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	20
New Zealand	11	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	16
United	13	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	24
Asia	8	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	10
Other countries	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	4
<i>Total</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>74</i>
Specialist-in-training									
Australia	4	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	11
New Zealand	4	2	3	2	0	0	2	0	13
United	1	0	25	6	0	0	0	0	32
Asia	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3
Other countries	0	0	3	4	0	0	0	0	7
<i>Total</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>66</i>
Non-clinician									
Australia	5	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	11
New Zealand	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
United	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	5
Asia	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3
Other countries	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3
<i>Total</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>26</i>
Total									
Australia	83	11	10	6	0	0	10	0	119
New Zealand	44	7	8	4	0	0	2	0	64
United	34	1	126	35	0	2	0	1	200
Asia	31	0	0	6	0	0	2	0	39
Other countries	6	1	14	14	0	0	0	0	36
Total	198	21	158	65	0	2	13	1	458

Table 76: Temporary resident overseas-trained medical practitioners: occupation, country of initial qualification and region, Australia, 1995

Occupation/ country of initial qualification	Region of main job					Total
	Major urban centre	Large rural centre	Small rural centre	Other rural area	Remote area	
Primary care practitioner						
New Zealand	8	0	2	0	0	10
United	30	8	11	5	8	63
Asia	17	0	0	2	0	19
Other countries	9	0	0	2	6	17
<i>Total</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>109</i>
Hospital non-specialist						
New Zealand	17	1	3	0	0	21
United	55	8	2	0	11	76
Asia	3	0	0	0	0	3
Other countries	4	0	0	0	0	4
<i>Total</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>105</i>
Specialist						
New Zealand	16	0	0	0	0	16
United	16	5	1	1	0	24
Asia	10	0	0	0	0	10
Other countries	3	1	0	0	0	4
<i>Total</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>54</i>
Specialist-in-training						
New Zealand	13	0	0	0	0	13
United	27	6	0	0	0	32
Asia	3	0	0	0	0	3
Other countries	5	1	0	0	0	7
<i>Total</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>55</i>
Non-clinician						
New Zealand	3	1	0	0	0	4
United	2	2	1	0	0	5
Asia	3	0	0	0	0	3
Other countries	3	0	0	0	0	3
<i>Total</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>15</i>
Total						
New Zealand	57	2	4	0	0	64
United	130	29	16	6	19	200
Asia	37	0	0	2	0	39
Other countries	25	3	0	2	6	36
Total	249	34	20	11	25	338

Table 77: Temporary resident overseas-trained medical practitioners: work setting, region and States and Territories, 1995

Work setting of main job	Region of main job					Total
	Major urban centre	Large rural centre	Small rural centre	Other rural area	Remote area	
New South Wales						
Private rooms	58	2	1	5	0	66
Publicly operated:						
Acute care hospital	33	2	1	0	0	37
Tertiary education institution	2	1	0	0	0	4
Defence forces	1	0	0	0	0	1
Other government	1	0	0	0	0	1
Other public	1	0	0	0	0	1
Privately operated:						
Acute care hospital	2	0	0	0	0	2
Other non-residential health care	1	0	0	0	0	1
Other private	1	0	0	0	0	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>102</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>115</i>
Victoria						
Private rooms	0	0	1	0	0	1
Publicly operated:						
Acute care hospital	3	1	1	0	0	6
Defence forces	1	0	0	0	0	1
Privately operated:						
Acute care hospital	1	0	0	0	0	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>10</i>
Queensland						
Private rooms	21	3	7	2	2	34
Publicly operated:						
Acute care hospital	78	20	2	0	2	101
Aboriginal health service	0	1	0	0	0	1
Other non-residential health care	1	1	0	0	0	3
Tertiary education institution	3	0	0	0	0	3
Privately operated:						
Acute care hospital	5	0	0	0	0	5
Other non-residential health care	0	1	0	0	0	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>107</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>148</i>
Western Australia						
Private rooms	0	0	4	4	4	12
Publicly operated:						
Acute care hospital	22	0	0	0	8	30
Aboriginal health service	2	0	0	0	2	4
Other non-residential health care	0	0	0	0	2	2
Tertiary education institution	2	0	0	0	0	2
Other government	2	0	0	0	0	2
Privately operated:						
Other non-residential health care	0	0	2	0	0	2
Other private	0	0	0	0	4	4
<i>Total</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>59</i>

(continued)

Table 77 (continued): Temporary resident overseas-trained medical practitioners: work setting, region and States and Territories, 1995

Work setting of main job	Region of main job					Total
	Major urban centre	Large rural centre	Small rural centre	Other rural area	Remote area	
Tasmania						
Publicly operated:						
Acute care hospital	2	0	0	0	0	2
<i>Total</i>	2	0	0	0	0	2
Australian Capital Territory						
Publicly operated:						
Acute care hospital	4	0	0	0	0	4
<i>Total</i>	4	0	0	0	0	4
Northern Territory						
Publicly operated:						
Acute care hospital	0	0	0	0	1	1
<i>Total</i>	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total						
Private rooms	79	5	13	11	6	114
Publicly operated:						
Acute care hospital	141	23	4	0	11	179
Aboriginal health service	2	1	0	0	2	6
Other non-residential health care	1	1	0	0	2	5
Tertiary education institution	8	1	0	0	0	9
Defence forces	3	0	0	0	0	3
Other government	3	0	0	0	0	3
Other public	1	0	0	0	0	1
Privately operated:						
Acute care hospital	9	0	0	0	0	9
Other non-residential health care	1	1	2	0	0	5
Other private	1	0	0	0	4	5
Total	249	34	20	11	25	338

Note: There were no temporary resident overseas-trained medical practitioners reported for South Australia.