

# **Medical labour force 1996**

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare is an independent health and welfare statistics and information agency in the Commonwealth Health and Family Services portfolio. The Institute's mission is to inform community discussion and decision making through national leadership in the development and provision of authoritative and timely information on the health and welfare of Australians.

NATIONAL HEALTH LABOUR FORCE SERIES

Number 13

# **Medical labour force 1996**

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare  
Canberra

AIHW Catalogue Number HWL 10

© Commonwealth of Australia 1998

This work is copyright. Apart from any use as permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part may be reproduced without written permission from AusInfo. Requests and enquiries concerning reproduction and rights should be addressed to the Manager, Legislative Services, AusInfo, GPO Box 84, Canberra ACT 2601.

This is the thirteenth publication of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's National Health Labour Force Series. A complete list of the Institute's publications is available from the Publications Unit, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, GPO Box 570, Canberra ACT 2601, or via the Institute's web-site at <http://www.aihw.gov.au>.

ISSN 1327-4309  
ISBN 0 642 24777 3

### **Suggested citation**

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 1998. Medical labour force 1996. AIHW Cat. No. HWL 10. Canberra: AIHW (National Health Labour Force Series no. 13).

### **Australian Institute of Health and Welfare**

Director  
Dr Richard Madden

Chair  
Professor Janice Reid

Any enquiries about or comments on this publication should be directed to:

Warwick Conn  
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare  
GPO Box 570  
Canberra ACT 2601

Phone: (02) 6244 1154  
Email: [warwick.conn@aihw.gov.au](mailto:warwick.conn@aihw.gov.au)

Published by Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Printed by Elect Printing

## Foreword

During the decade 1986–96 the number of medical practitioners enumerated at the population census increased by 34.7% from 32,790 to 44,160, compared with population growth of 14.3%. Despite this rapid growth, workforce shortages still remain in key areas of medical services: rural and remote medicine, hospital services and some specialty areas. At the same time the Australian Medical Workforce Advisory Committee has found that general practice workforce provision in capital cities significantly exceeds need.

The Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council therefore has considered that regular statistical monitoring of the medical labour force is a high priority in adequately planning and evaluating measures to address such workforce issues. Hence the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, in conjunction with State and Territory health authorities and medical boards, conducts an annual survey of the medical labour force. The support of registered medical practitioners is both needed and appreciated in achieving a high response to the survey and providing reliable data for monitoring, planning and evaluation.

Data in this report generally refer to the registration period of September–December 1996, when there were 47,682 employed medical practitioners in Australia. The Institute is committed to improving the timeliness of the publication of the annual survey data and plans to release the next annual report in early 1999 and to publish the subsequent report before the end of 1999.

This report represents a major change in approach to providing medical workforce information. Additional and more detailed tables are provided but the majority of the tables for the report are excluded from the hard-copy book and are being released (along with the report) on the Institute's Internet site; users without Internet access may purchase the tables on disk. It is expected that this approach will improve the timeliness of publication and better meet user needs to download and extract medical labour force information. The Institute is committed to better meeting the information needs of users and readers are invited to comment on the format, content and dissemination tools used for this report.

Richard Madden  
Director  
July 1998

# Contents

Foreword .....	iv
Abbreviations.....	vii
List of figures and tables .....	viii
List of supplementary tables.....	x
1 Main features.....	1
2 Primary care practitioners.....	14
3 Specialists and specialists-in-training .....	22
3.1 Specialists.....	23
3.2 Specialists-in-training .....	28
4 Hospital non-specialists .....	31
5 Medical workforce in hospitals .....	37
5.1 Public hospitals .....	37
5.2 Private hospitals.....	40
6 Rural and remote medical workforce.....	42
7 Overseas-trained medical practitioners .....	46
8 Aboriginal health service employment.....	51
9 Medical education and training .....	54
10 Additions to the workforce from migration.....	58
10.1 Australian Medical Council approvals.....	58
10.2 Migration by medical practitioners.....	58
11 Medicare statistics .....	62
Explanatory notes.....	65
Definitions.....	69
References.....	76
Related publications.....	77

## Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
AHMAC	Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
AMWAC	Australian Medical Workforce Advisory Council
CMO	career medical officer
DEETYA	Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs
ENT	ear, nose and throat
GP	General practitioner
HMO	hospital medical officer
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
OMP	other medical practitioner
OTD	overseas-trained doctor
Qld	Queensland
RACGP	Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
RMO	resident medical officer
SA	South Australia
Tas	Tasmania
UK	United Kingdom
USA	United States of America
Vic	Victoria
VRGP	vocationally registered general practitioner
WA	Western Australia

## List of figures and tables

Figure 1: All registered medical practitioners, Australia, 1996 .....	6
Table 1: Employed clinician medical practitioners: States and Territories, 1993–96.....	7
Table 2: Employed clinician medical practitioners: occupation and sex, Australia, 1993–96 .....	7
Table 3: Employed medical practitioners: occupation and sex, States and Territories, 1996.....	8
Table 4: Employed medical practitioners per 100,000 population: occupation, States and Territories, 1996 .....	9
Table 5: All registered medical practitioners: employment status and sex, States and Territories, 1996 .....	10
Table 6: Employed medical practitioners: occupation, age and sex, Australia, 1996.....	11
Table 7: Employed clinician medical practitioners: occupation, total hours worked per week and sex, Australia, 1996 .....	12
Table 8: Employed clinician medical practitioners: occupation, total hours worked per week and region of main job, Australia, 1996.....	13
Table 9: Primary care practitioners: selected characteristics, States and Territories, 1996 .....	19
Table 10: Primary care practitioners: selected characteristics, region of main job, Australia, 1996 .....	20
Table 11: Primary care practitioners: sex, qualification and main field of practice, States and Territories, 1996.....	21
Table 12: Specialists: main specialty of practice, States and Territories, 1996.....	25
Table 13: All medical specialists practising in each specialty: sex, Australia, 1996 .....	26
Table 14: Specialists: total hours worked per week, age and sex, Australia, 1996.....	27
Table 15: Specialists-in-training: total hours worked per week, age and sex, Australia, 1996 .....	29
Table 16: Specialists-in-training: specialty of training, States and Territories, 1996 .....	30
Table 17: Hospital non-specialists: classification, age and sex, States and Territories, 1996.....	33
Table 18: Hospital non-specialists: classification and sector of employment, States and Territories, 1996 .....	34
Table 19: Interns and RMOs: total hours worked per week and sex, States and Territories, 1996 .....	34
Table 20: Other hospital medical practitioners: total hours worked per week and sex, States and Territories, 1996.....	36
Table 21: All medical practitioners working in public hospitals: occupation of main job and region, Australia, 1996.....	39
Table 22: All medical practitioners working in private hospitals: occupation of main job and region, Australia, 1996.....	41

Table 23: Medical practitioners whose main job was in a rural area: region and selected characteristics, Australia, 1996 .....	44
Table 24: Per cent of clinician practitioners who were female: occupation, region of main job and age, Australia, 1996 .....	45
Table 25: Employed medical practitioners: occupation and country of initial qualification, States and Territories, 1996 .....	48
Table 26: Permanent resident overseas-trained medical practitioners: occupation, country of initial qualification and region, Australia, 1996 .....	49
Table 27: Temporary resident overseas-trained medical practitioners: occupation, country of initial qualification and region, Australia, 1996 .....	50
Table 28: Medical practitioners employed in an Aboriginal health service: selected characteristics, States and Territories, 1996.....	53
Table 29: Medical student course completions: citizenship and level of course, Australia, 1988-96.....	56
Table 30: Australian citizens and permanent residents commencing undergraduate medicine courses: university and sex, Australia, 1989-97 .....	57
Table 31: Australian Medical Council examination results: 1992-97 .....	59
Table 32: Permanent migration of medical practitioners to and from Australia, 1992-93 to 1996-97.....	60
Table 33: Temporary migration of medical practitioners to and from Australia for employment: 1992-93 to 1996-97 .....	61
Table 34: Medicare providers: peer group and specialty, Australia, 1989-90 to 1996-97 .....	63
Table 35: Average number of Medicare services per person: service type, Australia, 1988-89 to 1996-97.....	64
Table 36: Survey responses as a percentage of total registrations: sex and age, selected States, 1996.....	66

## List of supplementary tables

These tables are on the Internet at <http://www.aihw.gov.au> or may be purchased on disk from the Institute for \$20 (phone (02) 6244 1032 or fax (02) 6244 1044).

- Table 37: Employed medical practitioners: occupation, age and sex, New South Wales, 1996
- Table 38: Employed medical practitioners: occupation, age and sex, Victoria, 1996
- Table 39: Employed medical practitioners: occupation, age and sex, Queensland, 1996
- Table 40: Employed medical practitioners: occupation, age and sex, Western Australia, 1996
- Table 41: Employed medical practitioners: occupation, age and sex, South Australia, 1996
- Table 42: Employed medical practitioners: occupation, age and sex, Tasmania, 1996
- Table 43: Employed medical practitioners: occupation, age and sex, Australian Capital Territory, 1996
- Table 44: Employed medical practitioners: occupation, age and sex, Northern Territory, 1996
- Table 45: Vocationally registered general practitioners: selected characteristics, States and Territories, 1996
- Table 46: General practitioner trainees: selected characteristics, States and Territories, 1996
- Table 47: Other medical practitioners: selected characteristics, States and Territories, 1996
- Table 48: Vocationally registered general practitioners: selected characteristics and region of main job, Australia, 1996
- Table 49: General practitioner trainees: selected characteristics and region of main job, Australia, 1996
- Table 50: Other medical practitioners: selected characteristics and region of main job, Australia, 1996
- Table 51: Primary care locums: selected characteristics, States and Territories, 1996
- Table 52: Primary care deputising service practitioners: selected characteristics, States and Territories, 1996
- Table 53: Primary care practitioners mainly practising in a special interest area: special interest area, sex and qualification, Australia, 1996
- Table 54: Specialists per 100,000 population: main specialty of practice, States and Territories, 1996
- Table 55: Specialists: main specialty of practice, sex and age, Australia, 1996
- Table 56: Specialists: main specialty of practice, sex and total hours worked per week, Australia, 1996
- Table 57: Specialists: main specialty of practice and region of main job, Australia, 1996
- Table 58: All specialist services: specialty of practice and sex, States and Territories, 1996
- Table 59: Specialists: main specialty of qualification and sex, States and Territories, 1996
- Table 60: Specialists: main specialty of qualification, sex and age, Australia, 1996

- Table 61: Specialists: specialty of qualification and sex, States and Territories, 1996
- Table 62: Specialists-in-training: specialty and sex, States and Territories, 1996
- Table 63: Interns and RMOs: training status, age and sex, Australia, 1996
- Table 64: Salaried career medical officers: training status, age and sex, Australia, 1996
- Table 65: All medical practitioners working in public hospitals: occupation and sex, States and Territories, 1996
- Table 66: All medical practitioners working in public hospitals: country of initial qualification and citizenship/residency status, Australia, 1996
- Table 67: All medical practitioners working in private hospitals: occupation and sex, States and Territories, 1996
- Table 68: All medical practitioners working in private hospitals: country of initial qualification and citizenship/residency status, Australia, 1996
- Table 69: Medical practitioners whose main job is in a rural area: region, occupation, age and sex, Australia, 1996
- Table 70: All medical practitioners: region of main job and age, States and Territories, 1996
- Table 71: Employed medical practitioners per 100,000 population: region of main job, States and Territories, 1996
- Table 72: Primary care practitioners: geographic location of main job, sex and age, Australia, 1996
- Table 73: Hospital non-specialists: geographic location of main job, sex and age, Australia, 1996
- Table 74: Specialists: geographic location of main job, sex and age, Australia, 1996
- Table 75: Specialists-in-training: geographic location of main job, sex and age, Australia, 1996
- Table 76: All clinicians: geographic location of main job, sex and age, Australia, 1996
- Table 77: Employed medical practitioners: country of initial qualification, citizenship and residency status and sex, Australia, 1996
- Table 78: Temporary resident medical practitioners: occupation and country of initial qualification, States and Territories, 1996
- Table 79: Temporary resident overseas-trained medical practitioners: work setting and region of main job, Australia, 1996
- Table 80: Medical practitioners with main job in Aboriginal health services: selected characteristics, States and Territories, 1996
- Table 81: Australian citizens or permanent resident students completing medicine courses: university and level of course, Australia, 1988-96
- Table 82: Australian citizen and permanent resident bachelor course completions: country of birth, Australia, 1993 to 1996
- Table 83: Australian citizens and permanent residents completing medicine courses: average age, level of course and sex, Australia, 1988-96
- Table 84: Australian citizens and permanent residents commencing bachelor medicine courses: university and State of home residence, 1997

- Table 85: Australian citizens and permanent residents commencing bachelor medicine courses: university and State of home residence, 1989-97
- Table 86: Australian citizens and permanent residents commencing bachelor medicine courses: State and region of home residence, 1989-97
- Table 87: Australian citizens and permanent residents commencing bachelor medicine courses: average age, university and sex, Australia, 1989-97
- Table 88: Australian citizens and permanent resident medicine students: level of course and sex, Australia, 1989-96
- Table 89: Australian citizens and permanent resident students: country of birth and sex, Australia, 1994, 1995, 1996
- Table 90: Persons holding medical qualifications permanently migrating to Australia: category of visa, Australia, 1991-92 to 1996-97
- Table 91: Persons holding medical qualifications permanently migrating to Australia: country of residence and category of visa, Australia, 1996-97
- Table 92: Medicare providers: occupation, Australia, 1984-85 to 1996-97
- Table 93: Medicare providers per 100,000 population, Australia, 1984-85 to 1996-97
- Table 94: Mean number of Medicare services per Medicare provider, Australia, 1984-85 to 1996-97
- Table 95: Medicare: Average number of services per capita by age and sex, Australia, 1987-88 to 1996-97