

Workforce analysis: rural general practitioners in Western Australia



Growing the future general practice workforce 2014

Reporting general practice trends

Rural Health West conducts an annual survey of general practitioners (GPs) working in an Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Remoteness Area (RA) 2 to 5 location in Western Australia at the annual census date of 30 November.

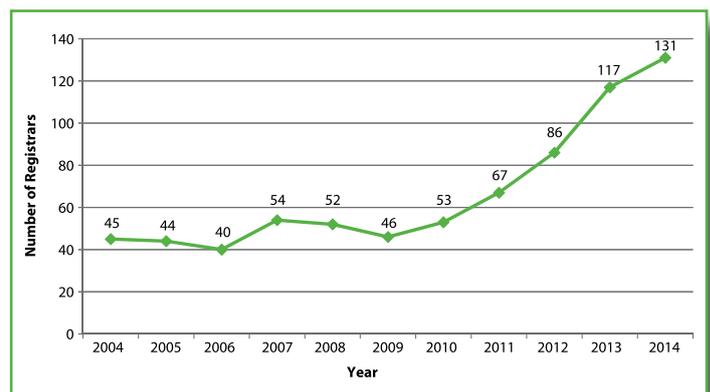
Overall, 67.1% of the rural and remote general practice workforce responded to the 2014 survey. This high response rate, together with ongoing data collection strategies means that Rural Health West offers contemporary valid data about trends in the rural general practice workforce to support workforce policy and planning.

This is the fifth year that Rural Health West has published fact sheets about the general practice workforce in rural and remote Western Australia. This current fact sheet builds on the earlier annual snapshots and reports on the 2014 local and national data¹, where available, for the same period.

The 2014 survey results are set out in the Minimum Data Set Report and Workforce Analysis Update 2014 which is available on the website at www.ruralhealthwest.com.au/workforcedata.

GP registrar numbers 2014

2014 saw the continuation of the upward trend in the number of GP registrars in rural and remote placements in Western Australia.



The total number of GP registrars in the rural and remote Western Australian workforce at the census date of 30 November 2014 was 131, the highest figure recorded. This increase reflected the presence of three training organisations for GP registrars operating in Western Australia and particularly to increases in Western Australian General Practice Education and Training Limited (WAGPET) GP registrar numbers.

In 2014, the numbers in each program at the census date were WAGPET (111, an increase of 23 from 2013), the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) Independent Pathway (7, a decrease of seven from 2013) and the Remote Vocational Training Scheme (RVTS) (13, a decrease of two from 2013).

The trend of GP registrars comprising an increasing proportion of the workforce has been evident over the last four reporting periods. GP registrars represented 15.7% of the rural and remote general practice workforce in 2014, compared to 14.9% in 2013.

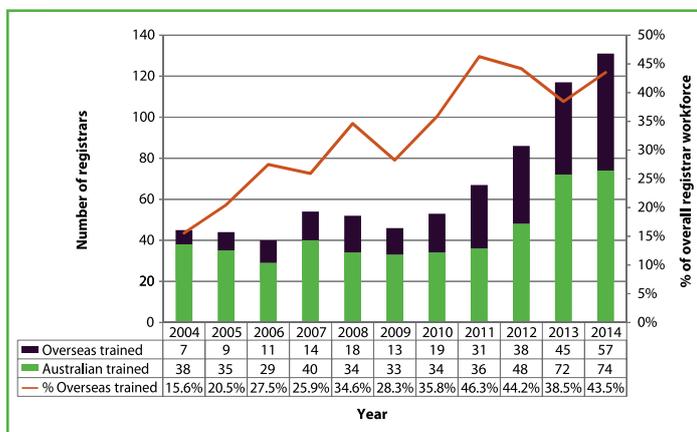
GP registrar age and gender

The average age of GP registrars was 35.8 years in 2014, compared to 36.5 years in 2013. While the average age of GP registrars has increased by 1.7 years since 2004 (34.1 years), it remains well below that of the non-registrar GP workforce (49.6 years in 2014).

In 2014, 67.2% of all GP registrars were female (increased from 54.7% in 2013). 73.9% of all WAGPET GP registrars in 2014 were female (82 of the 111 registrars).

Where GP registrars completed their primary medical training

The number of GP registrars who completed their primary medical qualification overseas increased by 12 doctors in 2014, a 26.7% increase compared to 2013, while the number of Australian trained GP registrars increased by 2 doctors (2.8% increase).



67.6% (50) of the Australian trained GP registrars completed their basic medical training in Western Australia (39 from The University of Western Australia and 11 from The University of Notre Dame Australia).

This is the highest number of Australian trained registrars in rural and remote Western Australia and reflected the overall increase in the WAGPET program, which increased its GP registrar numbers by 23 in 2014.

New graduate GPs

22 doctors who graduated from GP training programs in 2014 joined the permanent rural and remote Western Australian general practice workforce in 2014 (6 more than in 2013).

Five Year Overseas Trained Doctors Scheme

14 doctors successfully completed the Rural Health West Five Year Overseas Trained Doctors Scheme in 2014, of which eight remained working in rural Western Australia. Overall, there were 50 doctors supported on the Scheme in 2014 (21 more than 2013).

Other fact sheets

- Profile of the GP proceduralist workforce 2014
- General practice workforce in Aboriginal Medical Services 2014
- Profile of the female general practice workforce 2014
- Profile of the general practice workforce 2014

¹ National data sourced from the *Medical Practice in Rural and Remote Australia: National Minimum Data Set (MDS) Report as at November 2014*.

