

Royal Australasian College of Physicians

Selected information from the 2001 Clinical Workforce Survey

Rheumatology Clinical Workforce

Prepared For: Australian Rheumatology Association

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13 May 2002.

Selection of physicians is based on responses to the 2001 clinical workforce survey and includes those who are active or semi-retired and practice in Australia. The region of Australia in which they practice is identified by postcode. [n = 244].

The information contained herein includes all Fellows of the RACP who indicate rheumatology as their primary or secondary area of practice, regardless of the number of hours they are active in delivering clinical services. The total number of Fellows differs from the published *RACP Clinical Workforce Surveys 2001*, as Fellows who work less than 5 hours in clinical practice are excluded from this survey.

1. Size and nature of the rheumatology workforce.

From the 2001 clinical workforce survey returns there are 244 physicians who identify rheumatology as their first or subsequent subspecialty practice area.

216 [88.5%] of physicians indicate rheumatology as their principle specialty area of practice. Many of these physicians have interests in other sub-specialty areas [e.g. Geriatric Medicine, Haematology, Sports Medicine, Immunology and Allergy, Palliative Medicine, Epidemiology]. Two Fellows indicated their practice is in paediatric rheumatology.

Of the remaining 28 [11.5%], 10 [4.1%] are general physicians with an interest in rheumatology. Other specialty areas practiced include geriatric medicine, immunology and allergy, and rehabilitation medicine.

2. Where do rheumatologists practice?

Physicians practicing as rheumatologists have been identified according to the size of the population of the area in which they practice. This is based on the Rural, Remote Metropolitan Area Classification Scheme.

	Frequency	Percent
Capital City	231	94.7
Large Rural Centre	11	4.5
Small Rural Area	2	0.8
Total	244	100.0

* RRMAC based on population sizes

Capital City

Other Metropolitan City = population \geq 100,000

Large Rural Centre = population 25,000 – 99,999

Small Rural Area = population 10,000 – 24,999

Other Rural Centre = population < 10,000

Remote = population \geq 5,000

State/Territory

Physicians have been identified according to which state of Australia they practice.

	Frequency	Percent
ACT	7	2.9
NSW	85	34.8
QLD	28	11.5
SA	28	11.5
TAS	6	2.5
VIC	71	29.1
WA	18	7.4
NT	1	0.4
Total [Aust.]	244	100.0

Geographic region of practice.

Physicians have been identified according to the state and their geographic region of practice [using RRMAC].

STATE	Capital City	Other Metro	Large Rural Centre	Small Rural Area	Other Rural	Total
ACT	7					7
NSW	79		6			85
QLD	23		5			28
SA	28					28
TAS	4		2			6
VIC	71					71
WA	18					18
NT	1					1
Total	244		13			244

3. Age Distribution by State

State/Terr	SEX	30 - 34	35 - 39	40 - 44	45 - 49	50 - 54	55 - 59	60 - 64	65+	Total
NSW	M	1	6	11	13	11	10	4	3	59
	F	4	10	7	3		2			26
Vic	M	2	4	8	11	8	8	2	1	44
	F	6	7	7	3	4				27
Qld	M		3	2	4	4	5	2	1	21
	F	1	2	2	1		1			7
SA	M	1	2	3	4	4	4		1	19
	F	3	3	2		1				9
WA	M		1	1	4	4	5	1		16
	F			2						2
Tas	M		1	3	1					5
	F		1							1
NT	M		1							1
	F									
ACT	M		1	2				1		4
	F			2	1					3
Australia	M	4	19	30	37	31	32	10	6	
	F	14	23	22	8	5	3			
TOTAL		18	42	52	45	36	35	10	6	244