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PODIATRISTS WORKING IN NSW

This section documents the number and characteristics of podiatrists working in NSW in 2001.

- In 2001, the NSW podiatrist workforce is estimated to be 596 in number (after adjusting for non response, see Section 1, p.5, "Estimating Workforce Size"). This estimate assumes that non-respondents to the survey participated at the same rate in the workforce as respondents.
- The workforce participation rate for podiatrists in NSW increased between 1998 and 2001 (82.2%, 85.3%, 86.0% and 85.9% respectively).
- There is a higher proportion of women in the podiatry workforce, with 59.4% female and 40.6% male, with a greater proportion of females in all age groups except for 35 to 39 years and 40 to 44 years. Some 60.2% of the male workforce were aged under 40, while 60.0% of females were under forty years in 2001. The proportion of females varies from 83.3% of all podiatrists in the 70 to 74 age group, to the lowest proportion of 49.4% for those aged 35 to 39 and 40 to 44 years.
- Some 60.1% of the workforce are aged under forty years, 24.3% are aged 40 to 49 years, 10.2% are aged 50 to 59 years, and 5.4% of the workforce are 60 years and older. This indicates a younger workforce overall, with the modal age range being 25 to 29 years (ie the age range with the greatest number of working podiatrists). The modal age range for female podiatrists is also 25 to 29 years (20.7% of all female podiatrists), while for male podiatrists it is 35 to 39 years (20.4% of all male podiatrists).
- Some 6.0% of podiatrists working in NSW are also registered interstate, with the highest proportion being registered in Queensland (1.4% of total workforce), followed by Victoria (0.4%).
- Of the 507 podiatrists in the workforce with survey data, some 187 identified that they worked in a second practice location (36.9% of the workforce), while 46 podiatrists (9.1% of the workforce) indicated additional practice locations in terms of hours worked per week (see comments, page 3, non-response to filtering questions)
- Some 97.3% of the workforce are working as a clinical podiatrist in their main practice, with another 1.5% in teaching/education while only 0.6% are working in administration in their main job. Two podiatrists worked in research, and one in other positions. This varies with the second practice, with 75.6% of those indicating a second practice working as a clinical podiatrist, 12.2% in teaching/education, 3.3% working in administration, five podiatrists in research, and three in other positions (5.6% and 3.5% respectively).

- Some 73.5% or nearly three quarters of podiatrists are in their own practice which is their main practice with or without other arrangements, and this is lower for females (70.4%) than for males (78.0%). Some 60.3% of podiatrists have their own practice or partnership with no other arrangements. Some 22.0% are in salaried positions, while 4.3% are in locum positions. This varies with a second practice, with some 55.1% or just over half of podiatrists in their own practice with or without other arrangements, and this is relatively lower for females (48.1%) and higher for males (66.0%). Some 25.2% of podiatrists have their own practice or partnership with no other arrangements in a second practice. Some 33.1% or one third are in salaried positions in their second practice/job, while 11.8% are in locum positions.
- The overwhelming majority of the workforce are in the private sector (85.1%) in their main practice, with 14.9% of the total workforce working in the public sector. Over three quarters or 77.7% of the total workforce were in a private surgery or rooms, with 4.0% in a private domiciliary service. The major area of employment in the public sector was hospital outpatient services (8.2% of the total workforce) followed by community centre/ day centre/ health centre and tertiary education institutions (1.9% each), and domiciliary care service (1.5%). There is a higher proportion of male podiatrists in the private sector than female podiatrists (88.9% and 82.5% respectively) in their main practice. The private sector participation drops with the second practice, with 71.2% working in the private sector, and 28.8% in the public sector; including locations in private surgery/rooms (42.3%), public hospital outpatient services (14.7%), private domiciliary care service (11.5%), private nursing home/long stay facility (9.6% each) and public community centre/day centre/health centres (3.8%).
- Just under half or 47.7% of podiatrists reported working part time (hours worked less than 35 hours per week) **in their main practice location**. Women were much more likely to work part time than men (58.8% of women compared to 30.9% of men). All respondents worked less than 35 hours per week in **their second practice location**.
- The hours worked per week were added together across the two specified practice locations and any additional practice locations to give total hours worked per week (Table 3.16). Some 33.4% or one third of podiatrists reported working part time (hours worked less than 35 hours per week) in terms of **total hours worked per week**. Women were more likely to work part time than men (42.9% of women compared with 18.9% of men). The modal range of hours worked per week was 40 to 44 hours, with 22.4% of podiatrists working those hours. This was the same for both females and males (20.6% of all female podiatrists, 25.1% of all male podiatrists worked 40 to 44 hours per week on average). Some 19.5% of podiatrists worked on average between 50 and 69 hours per week, with 2.3% working on average greater than 70 hours per week.
- The full time equivalent podiatrist workforce (FTE workforce) consists of an estimated 517.4 FTE (see Table 3.12) from the 486 podiatrists who provided data on their hours worked (Table 3.16). Therefore the ratio of the FTE workforce of 1.0646 compared to total numbers indicates that podiatrists work on average 6.5% more than a participant in the general workforce working 35 hours a week. This is due to the number of podiatrists who work 35 hours or greater contributing more to the productive workforce than those working less than 35 hours. Women were 279.8 FTE (54.1% of the FTE workforce) and men 237.5 (45.9%), indicating that the greater hours worked by males result in slightly higher productivity rates (males were 40.6% of the headcount workforce).
- In 2001, the main practice location for 84.5% of podiatrists was located in Metropolitan Area Health Services, with 68.8% in Metropolitan Sydney and 15.7% in other major Metropolitan areas. Northern Sydney was the main practice location for 24.1% of podiatrists with South Eastern Sydney having 19.1%. Rural Area Health services were the main practice location for 15.5% of podiatrists, with Northern Rivers and Mid North Coast each having the highest proportion in a rural area at 3.2%. The distribution showed a very similar proportion of podiatrists in Metropolitan Area Health Services in their second practice location (84.8%), with South Eastern Sydney having the highest proportion overall (23.0%).