

# 2

## PODIATRISTS WORKING IN NSW

This section documents the number and characteristics of podiatrists working in NSW in 2002.

- In 2002, the NSW podiatrist workforce is estimated to be 566 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 was similar between 2000, 2001 and 2002 (86.0%, 85.9% and 86.3% respectively).
- There is a higher proportion of women in the podiatry workforce, with 60.6% female and 39.4% male, with a greater proportion of females in all age groups except for 60 to 64 years, where there is an equal proportion. Some 57.0% of the male workforce were aged under 40, while 58.8% of females were under forty years in 2002. Women are greater in numbers in all age groups except for the 60 to 64 age group, varying from 100.0% of all podiatrists seventy years and over, to the lowest proportion of 50.0% for those aged 60 to 64 years.
- Some 58.0% of the workforce are aged under forty years, 27.0% are aged 40 to 49 years, 10.7% are aged 50 to 59 years, and 4.2% of the workforce are 60 years and older. This indicates a younger workforce overall, with the modal age range for all podiatrists and female podiatrists being 25 to 29 years (ie the age range with the greatest number of working podiatrists), while for male podiatrists it is 35 to 39 years (21.6% of all male podiatrists).
- Some 6.0% of podiatrists working in NSW are also registered interstate, with the highest proportion being registered in Victoria (1.6% of total workforce), followed by Queensland (1.2%).
- Of the 436 podiatrists in the workforce with survey data, some 125 identified that they worked in a second practice location (28.7% of the workforce), while 28 podiatrists (6.4% of the workforce) indicated additional practice locations in terms of hours worked per week (see comments, page 3, non-response to filtering questions)
- Some 97.2% of the workforce are working as a clinical podiatrist in their main practice, with 0.9% working in administration, 0.7% in each of research and other positions and 0.5% in teaching/education only in their main job (two respondents). This varies with the second practice, with 70.7% of those indicating a second practice working as a clinical podiatrist, 22.4% in teaching/education, 3.4 % working in administration, and only one podiatrist in each of research, and other positions (1.7% each).

- Some 75.0% or three quarters of podiatrists are in their own practice as their main practice with or without other arrangements, and this is similar for females (73.5%) and males (77.3%). Some 62.0% of podiatrists have their own practice or partnership with no other arrangements. Some 21.2% are in salaried positions, while 3.7% are in locum positions. This varies with a second practice, with some 51.4% or just over half of podiatrists in their own practice with or without other arrangements, and slightly lower for females (50.1%) than for males (52.9%). Some 17.1% of podiatrists have their own practice or partnership with no other arrangements in a second practice. Some 38.2% are in salaried positions in their second practice/job, while 10.5% are in locum positions.
- The overwhelming majority of the workforce are in the private sector (84.2%) in their main practice, with 15.8% of the total workforce working in the public sector. Over three quarters or 76.5% of the total workforce were in a private surgery or rooms, with 3.8% in a private domiciliary service. The major area of employment in the public sector was hospital outpatient services (9.2% of the total workforce) followed by community centre/ day centre/ health centre (2.6%), tertiary education institutions (1.2%), and hospital inpatient services (0.9%). There is a slightly higher proportion of male podiatrists in the private sector than female podiatrists (85.0% and 83.7% 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 (36.5%), public hospital outpatient services (14.0%), nursing home/long stay facility (12.5%), private domiciliary care service (8.7%), tertiary education institutions (6.7%) and public community centre/day centre/health centres (2.9%).
- Just under half or 43.4% 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 (56.8% of women compared to 29.9% 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 31.4% 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 (53.3% of women compared with 28.2% of men). The modal range of hours worked per week was 40 to 44 hours, with 22.7% of podiatrists working those hours. This was the same for both females and males (21.1% of all female podiatrists, 25.1% of all male podiatrists worked 40 to 44 hours per week on average). Some 16.8% of podiatrists worked on average between 50 and 69 hours per week, with 1.2% working on average greater than 70 hours per week.
- The full time equivalent podiatrist workforce (FTE workforce) consists of an estimated 452.6 FTE (see Table 3.12) from the 424 podiatrists who provided data on their hours worked (Table 3.16). Therefore the ratio of the FTE workforce of 1.0675 compared to total numbers indicates that podiatrists work on average 6.8% 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 244.3 FTE (54.0% of the FTE workforce) and men 208.3 (46.0%), indicating that the greater hours worked by males result in slightly higher productivity rates (males were 39.4% of the headcount workforce).
- In 2002, the main practice location for 83.6% of podiatrists was located in Metropolitan Area Health Services, with 66.2% in Metropolitan Sydney and 17.4% in other major Metropolitan areas. Northern Sydney was the main practice location for 20.9% of podiatrists with South Eastern Sydney having 18.8%. Rural Area Health services were the main practice location for 16.4% of podiatrists, with Greater Murray having the highest proportion in a rural area at 3.6% followed by Northern Rivers with 2.9%. There was a very similar proportion of podiatrists in Metropolitan Area Health Services in their second practice location (84.8%), with Northern Sydney having the highest proportion overall (20.0%).