

**Australian Medical Workforce Advisory Committee**

**Australian Institute of Health and Welfare**

# **NEW ZEALAND MEDICAL GRADUATES IN THE AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL WORKFORCE**

**AMWAC Report 1998.3**

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## **Preface**

The Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council requested the Australian Medical Workforce Advisory Committee (AMWAC) to examine the contribution being made to the Australian medical workforce by New Zealand medical graduates. This request arose mainly from concern that New Zealand graduates, whose qualifications are automatically recognised by Australian registration authorities for practice in Australia, were contributing to excessively high growth of the Australian medical workforce.

### **Data sources**

Data sources were the Institute's 1995 medical labour force survey, Medicare data supplied by the Department of Health and Family Services, 1991 census data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, higher education data from the Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs, immigration data from the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, and data on the New Zealand medical workforce provided by the New Zealand Medical Council and the New Zealand Ministry of Health.

### **Acknowledgements**

John Harding, Graham Angus, Warwick Conn, Wendy Cooper and Kathy Southgate of the AIHW Labour Force Unit have prepared this profile. The assistance of the Medicare Estimates and Statistics Section of the Department of Health and Family Services and the New Zealand Medical Council are especially acknowledged for their valuable contributions to this report.

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### **Abbreviations**

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
AMWAC	Australian Medical Workforce Advisory Committee
OMP	Other medical practitioner (a primary care practitioner who is not vocationally registered and who is not a member of a recognised postgraduate training program for general practice)
RACGP	Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
VRGP	Vocationally registered general practitioner

# Terms of reference and membership of AMWAC

The Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) established the Australian Medical Workforce Advisory Committee (AMWAC) to advise on national medical workforce matters, including workforce supply, distribution and future requirements. AMWAC held its first meeting in April 1995.

## AMWAC Terms of Reference

1. To provide advice to AHMAC on a range of medical workforce matters, including:
  - The structure, balance and geographic distribution of the medical workforce in Australia;
  - the present and required education and training needs as suggested by population health status and practice developments;
  - medical workforce supply and demand;
  - medical workforce financing; and
  - models for describing and predicting future medical workforce requirements.
2. To develop tools for describing and managing medical workforce supply and demand which can be used by employing and workforce controlling bodies including governments, learned colleges and tertiary institutions.
3. To oversee the establishment and development of data collections concerned with the medical workforce and analyse and report on those data to assist workforce planning.

## **Membership of AMWAC**

### Independent Chairman

Professor John Horvath, Physician, Sydney

### Members

Ms Meredith Carter, Director, Health Issues Centre

Dr William Coote, Secretary General, Australian Medical Association

Mr Michael Gallagher, First Assistant Secretary, Higher Education Division,  
Commonwealth Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs

Associate Professor Jane Hall, Director, Centre for Health Economics and Research  
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Dr Lloyd Toft, President, Medical Board of Queensland

Dr David Theile, Surgeon, Brisbane

Dr John Loy, First Assistant Secretary, Health Services Development Division,  
Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services

Dr Richard Madden, Director, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Dr Robert Stable, Director General, Queensland Department of Health

Mr Ron Parker, Secretary, Tasmanian Department of Community and Health  
Services

Mr Abul Rizvi, Assistant Secretary, Migration Branch, Commonwealth Department  
of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs

# Summary

## **Principal finding: New Zealand medical graduate contribution to medical workforce growth in Australia**

This report shows that concerns about New Zealand graduates contributing to high medical workforce growth in Australia are not valid. Net increases in the Australian medical workforce from New Zealand medical graduates in recent years have been small. In future years it is expected that there will be a net reduction in the numbers of these graduates in the Australian workforce because most new entrants from New Zealand have entered the workforce as other medical practitioners (OMPs), who are primary care practitioners without vocational registration and are not in a recognised general practice training program. From 1997 this pathway to the Medicare provider workforce was closed to all doctors. Entry to the Medicare provider workforce will only be available to those medical practitioners with recognised postgraduate qualifications, or who are accepted into recognised postgraduate training programs. However there will be no barriers to New Zealand graduates without postgraduate qualifications who are willing to be employed in salaried positions in hospitals and other health care settings in which a Medicare provider number is not necessary for employment.

## **Total New Zealand graduates working in Australia**

In 1995 there were 1,054 New Zealand trained medical practitioners in the Australian medical workforce and they represented 2.2% of the Australian medical workforce. Of these, 385 (36.5%) identified as Australian citizens, 606 (57.4%) were permanent residents and 64 (6.1%) were temporary residents. It is not known if any of the New Zealand graduates who are Australian citizens had attended New Zealand medical schools because they were not able to obtain a place in an Australian medical school.

## **Occupation of New Zealand graduates**

Of the 1,054 practitioners, 985 were practising as clinicians and 69 were in non-clinical occupations. The clinicians comprised 282 primary care practitioners (1.3% of the total Australian primary care workforce), 133 hospital non-specialists (2.5% of the total Australian hospital non-specialist workforce), 452 specialists (3.0% of the specialist workforce) and 118 specialists-in-training (2.6% of the specialist-in-training workforce).

## **New Zealand graduate Medicare providers**

In 1995-96 there were 871 New Zealand-trained medical practitioners who performed at least one service billed to Medicare. Of the Medicare practitioners, 454 were specialists and 417 were primary care practitioners of whom 202 were vocationally registered (VRGPs) and 215 were other medical practitioners (OMPs).

### **Specialists-in-training**

Specialists-in-training with an initial qualification in New Zealand comprise 2.6% overall of the Australian specialist-in-training workforce. However, practitioners initially trained in New Zealand are represented in only about one-third of the recognised specialties and represented 3% to 6% of the trainees in many specialties. They comprise 43% of trainees in clinical immunology and 12% of renal medicine trainees. This may continue for the numerically smaller specialties due to the larger Australian population providing more cases of the rarer clinical morbidities and the integration of Australian and New Zealand specialist colleges.

### **Australian medical graduates practising in New Zealand**

In 1996 there were 195 Australian medical graduates practising in New Zealand. This represented 2.5% of the New Zealand medical workforce, showing that Australian graduates make a very similar contribution to the New Zealand medical workforce as New Zealand graduates do to the Australian medical workforce (2.2%).

### **Migration flows**

In 1995-96, there were 126 additions to the Medicare workforce in Australia of New Zealand medical graduates, and 96 withdrawals. Of the additions, the majority (76) were OMPs, but this avenue of entry to the Australian medical workforce closed in 1997. Immigration data on the trans-Tasman flows of Australian and New Zealand medical graduates also show only quite small net migration gains to Australia in the years from 1992-93 to 1995-96.

### **Tertiary education**

The number of New Zealand citizens completing undergraduate medical degrees in Australia dropped from 36 in 1989 to 5 in 1995, because of medical education availability in New Zealand and the introduction of higher education charges in Australia.

# Statistical profile

## Medical labour force survey, 1995

### Australian medical workforce with an initial qualification in New Zealand, 1995

- In 1995, the labour force survey estimated 1,054 medical practitioners in the Australian medical workforce held an initial qualification gained in New Zealand and this comprised 2.2% of the Australian medical workforce.
- Of these 1,054 medical practitioners:
  - 385 (36.5%) were Australian citizens, 606 (57.4%) were permanent residents and 64 (6.1%) were temporary residents;
  - 985 (93.5%) were clinicians and 69 (6.5%) were non-clinicians;
  - 87.3% worked 35 or more hours per week.
- Of the 985 clinicians:
  - 282 (28.6%) were primary care clinicians, 133 (13.5%) were hospital-non-specialists, 452 (45.9%) were specialists and 118 (12.0%) specialists-in-training. (In the Australian medical workforce as a whole, 45.6% of clinicians were primary care practitioners and 33.2% specialists).
  - 756 (76.8%) had a main job in a capital city, 93 (9.4%) in another metropolitan centre and 108 (11.0%) in a rural centre. The percentage with a main job in a capital city decreased with age, ranging from 83.4% for those under 35 years down to 56.7% for those aged 65 and over.
- Of the 282 primary care practitioners:
  - 199 were vocationally registered which compares with the 202 identified as vocationally registered in the Medicare statistics;
  - 49 were identified as other medical practitioners and 31 were general practice trainees.

## Medicare data, 1990–91 to 1995–96

- There were 871 New Zealand-trained medical practitioners who provided at least one service eligible for payment of Medicare benefits in 1995–96. These comprised 417 primary care practitioners and 454 specialists.
- The 871 New Zealand trained medical practitioners who provided at least one Medicare service in 1995–96 represented 2.2% of the Australian Medicare workforce. The New Zealand trained component of the Medicare workforce has increased steadily from 1.7% in 1990–91.
- The net increase of 30 New Zealand trained doctors in the Medicare workforce in 1995–96 comprised 23 OMPs and 8 specialists with a decrease of one vocationally-registered general practitioner (VRGP).
- Of the net additions, 34 were aged under 35 years, and 23 were OMPs. In the 35–44 years age group, there was a net reduction of 7 doctors.

- In 1995–96, New Zealand medical graduates rendered 7.2 million Medicare services, for which \$193.2 million in benefits were paid.

## **Migration**

Passenger card migration data from 1992–93 to 1995–96 shows that:

- Each year, 10 to 20 more New Zealand–resident doctors permanently migrated to Australia than did Australian doctors permanently migrate to New Zealand.
- About 100 New Zealand–resident doctors per year migrate to Australia for short-term or long-term employment, with Medicare data showing that most of these are aged less than 45 years and return to New Zealand before they turn 45.
- Seventy-one Australian resident doctors migrated to New Zealand for temporary employment in 1992–93. In the following three years this dropped to 17 to 30 doctors annually.

## **Medical course completions, 1989 and 1995**

Data in this section were supplied by the Department of Employment, Education and Youth Affairs and relate to New Zealand citizens rather than persons born in New Zealand. Features were:

- There were 13 New Zealand citizens who completed medical courses at Australian universities in 1995, down from 42 in 1989, with bachelor degree completions falling from 36 to five. The tightening of arrangements for the payment of higher education fees by New Zealanders would have contributed to this. Of the 13 New Zealand citizens completing medicine courses at Australian universities in 1995, five were aged under 25 and five between 30 and 39 years.
- In 1989, nearly all (33) of the 40 New Zealand citizens completing medical courses in Australia were enrolled at the University of Queensland. In 1995, the 13 completing courses were spread fairly evenly among six Australian universities.

## **New Zealand–born doctors in the Australian medical workforce, 1991 Census**

- Of the 696 New Zealand–born medical practitioners in the Australian medical workforce in 1991, 60% arrived prior to 1981, 10% arrived between 1981 and 1986, and 30% between 1986 and 1991.
- Of the 696 practitioners, 33.9% resided in New South Wales, with a further 20.3% resident in Victoria and 17.2% in Queensland in 1991.

## **The New Zealand medical workforce**

- In 1996 there were 7,683 active medical practitioners in New Zealand.
- Of the 7,683 active medical practitioners, 195 (2.5%) had initially qualified in Australia.

## **Statistical appendix**

## Labour force survey

**Table 1: Australian medical workforce: occupation, sex and States and Territories, 1995**

Occupation	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
<b>Males</b>									
<i>Clinician:</i>	12,134	8,143	5,452	2,789	3,296	879	669	317	33,678
Primary care practitioner	5,220	3,313	2,415	1,207	1,398	433	268	126	14,379
Hospital non-specialist	1,301	638	532	157	262	68	66	44	3,067
Specialist	4,581	3,273	2,040	1,214	1,331	319	298	119	13,175
Specialist-in-training	1,031	920	466	211	305	59	37	28	3,056
<i>Non-clinician:</i>	663	677	258	85	131	39	66	22	1,941
Administrator	154	187	66	25	46	9	23	11	520
Teacher/educator	50	30	21	8	11	4	2	0	127
Researcher	71	57	17	12	21	3	9	7	197
Public health physician	95	95	47	19	16	6	6	3	288
Occupational health physician	78	61	22	15	9	10	9	0	205
Other	214	246	84	6	28	8	16	2	604
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,797</b>	<b>8,820</b>	<b>5,710</b>	<b>2,874</b>	<b>3,427</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>35,619</b>
<b>Females</b>									
<i>Clinician:</i>	4,397	2,999	2,026	1,049	1,183	336	311	133	12,433
Primary care practitioner	2,230	1,560	1,153	597	627	216	192	83	6,658
Hospital non-specialist	924	452	370	153	196	51	50	25	2,221
Specialist	755	597	294	181	217	41	44	14	2,143
Specialist-in-training	487	391	209	118	142	28	26	11	1,412
<i>Non-clinician:</i>	324	288	121	46	57	15	25	13	889
Administrator	76	85	33	17	11	1	8	3	235
Teacher/educator	22	19	9	2	0	0	0	0	52
Researcher	37	27	11	10	6	2	5	2	99
Public health physician	65	56	30	11	12	4	5	5	188
Occupational health physician	19	10	1	2	4	3	0	0	39
Other	105	92	37	4	23	5	8	3	277
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,721</b>	<b>3,287</b>	<b>2,147</b>	<b>1,094</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>13,322</b>
<b>Persons</b>									
<i>Clinician:</i>	16,531	11,142	7,478	3,838	4,479	1,215	980	450	46,111
Primary care practitioner	7,450	4,873	3,567	1,804	2,025	649	460	209	21,037
Hospital non-specialist	2,226	1,089	902	310	458	119	115	69	5,288
Specialist	5,336	3,870	2,334	1,395	1,548	360	342	133	15,318
Specialist-in-training	1,518	1,310	674	329	447	87	62	39	4,468
<i>Non-clinician:</i>	987	965	379	131	188	54	91	35	2,831
Administrator	230	272	100	42	56	10	31	14	756
Teacher/educator	72	49	30	10	11	4	2	0	178
Researcher	108	84	27	21	27	5	14	8	296
Public health physician	160	151	77	31	28	9	11	8	476
Occupational health physician	97	71	23	17	13	13	9	0	244
Other	319	338	122	10	51	13	24	5	881
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,517</b>	<b>12,107</b>	<b>7,857</b>	<b>3,968</b>	<b>4,666</b>	<b>1,269</b>	<b>1,071</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>48,941</b>
<b>(Per cent—persons)</b>									
<i>Clinician:</i>	35.8	24.2	16.2	8.3	9.7	2.6	2.1	1.0	100.0
Primary care practitioner	35.4	23.2	17.0	8.6	9.6	3.1	2.2	1.0	100.0
Hospital non-specialist	42.1	20.6	17.1	5.9	8.7	2.2	2.2	1.3	100.0
Specialist	34.8	25.3	15.2	9.1	10.1	2.4	2.2	0.9	100.0
Specialist-in-training	34.0	29.3	15.1	7.4	10.0	1.9	1.4	0.9	100.0
<i>Non-clinician:</i>	34.9	34.1	13.4	4.6	6.6	1.9	3.2	1.3	100.0
Administrator	30.5	36.0	13.2	5.6	7.5	1.3	4.2	1.8	100.0
Teacher/educator	40.5	27.6	16.8	5.4	6.4	2.2	1.0	0.0	100.0
Researcher	36.5	28.5	9.2	7.1	9.3	1.8	4.7	2.9	100.0
Public health physician	33.7	31.8	16.2	6.5	5.9	1.9	2.3	1.7	100.0
Occupational health physician	39.7	29.2	9.6	7.1	5.3	5.3	3.8	0.0	100.0
Other	36.2	38.3	13.8	1.1	5.8	1.5	2.7	0.6	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>35.8</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 2: New Zealand medical graduates in the Australian medical workforce: occupation, citizenship/residency status and sex, 1995**

Occupation	Not Australian citizens											
	Australian citizens			Permanent resident			Temporary resident			Total		
	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P
Primary care	92	27	120	96	56	152	7	3	10	196	86	282
Hospital non-specialist	16	4	21	54	38	92	10	11	21	80	53	133
Specialist	167	28	195	208	33	241	14	2	16	389	63	452
Specialist-in-training	20	5	25	62	17	80	9	3	13	92	26	118
Non-clinician	21	3	24	23	18	41	2	2	4	47	23	69
<b>Total</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>1,054</b>
(Per cent of occupation)												
Primary care	32.8	9.7	42.5	34.0	19.9	53.9	2.6	1.0	3.5	69.4	30.6	100.0
Hospital non-specialist	12.2	3.2	15.4	40.2	28.5	68.8	7.6	8.2	15.8	60.1	39.9	100.0
Specialist	37.0	6.2	43.2	46.0	7.3	53.3	3.0	0.5	3.6	86.0	14.0	100.0
Specialist-in-training	16.9	4.6	21.5	52.9	14.8	67.7	8.0	2.8	10.8	77.8	22.2	100.0
Non-clinician	30.1	4.8	34.9	33.7	25.3	58.9	3.4	2.8	6.1	67.2	32.8	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>57.4</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>76.1</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>
(Per cent of Australian medical workforce)												
Primary care	0.7	0.4	0.6	10.4	11.0	10.6	7.7	6.7	7.4	1.4	1.3	1.3
Hospital non-specialist	0.6	0.2	0.4	18.5	18.1	18.3	11.5	15.9	13.4	2.6	2.4	2.5
Specialist	1.4	1.4	1.4	27.5	21.9	26.5	21.8	20.8	21.6	3.0	3.0	3.0
Specialist-in-training	0.7	0.4	0.6	21.3	13.0	18.7	20.3	16.8	19.2	3.0	1.9	2.6
Non-clinician	1.1	0.4	0.9	22.7	24.5	23.4	14.8	19.1	16.4	2.4	2.6	2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>2.2</b>

**Table 3: New Zealand medical graduates in the Australian medical workforce: occupation and State, 1995**

Occupation	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Clinicians:									
Primary care	92	38	76	37	17	7	9	7	282
Hospital non-specialist	88	10	11	13	6	1	2	0	133
Specialist	138	102	83	50	50	8	11	9	452
Specialist-in-training	51	24	13	13	8	2	6	0	118
Non-clinicians	26	22	12	2	4	1	2	2	69
<b>Total</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1,054</b>
(Per cent)									
Clinicians:									
Primary care	23.3	19.4	39.0	31.9	20.0	36.8	30.0	38.9	26.8
Hospital non-specialist	22.3	5.1	5.6	11.2	7.1	5.3	6.7	0.0	12.6
Specialist	34.9	52.0	42.6	43.1	58.8	42.1	36.7	50.0	42.9
Specialist-in-training	12.9	12.2	6.7	11.2	9.4	10.5	20.0	0.0	11.2
Non-clinicians	6.6	11.2	6.2	1.7	4.7	5.3	6.7	11.1	6.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
(Per cent of Australian medical labour force)									
Clinicians:									
Primary care	1.2	0.8	2.1	2.1	0.8	1.1	2.0	3.4	1.3
Hospital non-specialist	4.0	0.9	1.2	4.2	1.3	0.8	1.7	0.0	2.5
Specialist	2.6	2.6	3.6	3.6	3.2	2.2	3.2	6.8	3.0
Specialist-in-training	3.4	1.8	1.9	4.0	1.8	2.3	9.6	0.0	2.6
Non-clinicians	2.6	2.3	3.2	1.5	2.1	1.8	2.2	5.6	2.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>2.2</b>

**Table 4: New Zealand medical graduates in the Australian medical workforce: occupation, total hours worked per week and sex, 1995**

Occupation	35 or more hours			Less than 35 hours			Total		
	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P
Clinician:									
Primary care	174	44	218	22	42	64	196	86	282
Hospital-non-specialist	78	53	131	2	0	2	80	53	133
Specialist	353	45	397	36	18	55	389	63	452
Specialist-in-training	87	24	111	5	2	7	92	26	118
<b>Total</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>858</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>757</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>985</b>
Non-clinician:									
Administrator	9	5	13	0	0	0	9	5	13
Researcher	6	5	10	0	2	2	6	7	12
Public health physician	3	9	10	0	0	0	3	9	10
Other	25	2	30	4	0	5	29	2	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>920</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>1,054</b>
(Per cent)									
Clinician:									
Primary care	61.5	15.8	77.2	8.0	14.7	22.8	69.5	30.5	100.0
Hospital-non-specialist	58.9	39.8	98.8	1.2	0.0	1.2	60.2	39.8	100.0
Specialist	78.0	9.9	87.8	8.1	4.0	12.2	86.1	13.9	100.0
Specialist-in-training	73.7	20.7	94.4	4.3	1.3	5.6	78.0	22.0	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>70.2</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>87.1</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>76.9</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Non-clinician:									
Administrator	67.1	35.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	67.1	35.0	100.0
Researcher	51.1	40.0	85.7	0.0	20.0	14.3	51.1	60.0	100.0
Public health physician	29.8	93.3	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	29.8	93.3	100.0
Other	72.4	6.7	85.7	12.8	0.0	14.3	85.1	6.7	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>61.7</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>90.5</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>68.1</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>69.6</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>87.3</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>76.3</b>	<b>23.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 5: New Zealand medical graduates in the Australian medical workforce: work setting of main job by geographic location of main job 1995**

Work setting (job location)	Metro-politan centres	Large rural centres	Small rural centres	Other rural area	Remote	Total	Per cent work setting
<i>Private rooms</i>	378	53	49	35	15	513	48.7
Publicly operated:							
Acute care hospital	327	37	21	4	8	411	39.0
Other non-residential health care facility	13	2	3	4	4	21	2.0
Tertiary education institution	29	2	0	0	0	35	3.3
Other government	8	2	0	0	0	11	1.0
Defence forces	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.1
Other public	7	0	0	0	0	8	0.7
<b>Total public</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>46.2</b>
Privately operated:							
Acute care hospital	24	2	0	0	0	29	2.7
Other non-residential health care facility	8	0	0	0	0	9	0.9
Tertiary education institution	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.1
Aboriginal health service	0	0	0	0	4	2	0.1
Other private	11	2	0	0	0	14	1.3
<b>Total private</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>5.1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1,054</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Per cent geographic location	76.7	9.5	6.9	4.0	2.9	100.0	

**Table 6: Employed clinicians with an initial qualification in New Zealand: geographic location of main job by age and sex, 1995**

Geographic location	<35	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total	Per cent
<b>Males</b>							
Capital city	160	184	99	94	30	568	57.7
Other metropolitan centre	14	27	16	13	10	80	8.1
Large rural centre	10	13	14	10	6	53	5.4
Small rural centre	5	6	8	10	5	34	3.4
Other	2	5	8	5	3	22	2.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>190</i>	<i>235</i>	<i>146</i>	<i>131</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>757</i>	<i>76.9</i>
<b>Females</b>							
Capital city	94	67	18	5	3	187	19.0
Other metropolitan centre	6	3	2	2	2	14	1.4
Large rural centre	6	8	0	2	0	15	1.5
Small rural centre	6	0	0	0	0	6	0.6
Other	2	0	3	2	0	6	0.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>114</i>	<i>78</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>228</i>	<i>23.1</i>
<b>Persons</b>							
Capital city	256	251	117	98	33	756	76.7
Other metropolitan centre	21	30	17	14	11	93	9.5
Large rural centre	16	21	14	11	6	68	6.9
Small rural centre	11	6	8	9	5	40	4.0
Other	3	5	11	6	3	28	2.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 7: Employed VRGPs with an initial qualification in New Zealand: age, geographic location of main job and sex, 1995**

Age (years)	Metro-politan centres	Large rural centres	Other	Total	Per cent
<b>Males</b>					
Under 45	*	*	*	73	36.6
45-54	*	*	*	33	16.5
55 & over	*	*	*	41	20.8
<i>Total</i>	<i>121</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>147</i>	<i>73.9</i>
<b>Females</b>					
Under 45	*	*	*	45	22.5
45-54	*	*	*	4	2.0
55 & over	*	*	*	3	1.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>26.1</i>
<b>Persons</b>					
Under 45	96	10	12	118	59.1
45-54	27	3	7	37	18.6
55 & over	36	3	6	44	22.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Per cent	80.3	7.5	12.2	100.0	

\* means numbers suppressed for confidentiality reasons.

**Table 8: Employed OMPs with an initial qualification in New Zealand:  
age by sex and geographic location of main job, 1995**

Age (years)	Metropolitan centres	Rural and remote	Total	Per cent
<b>Males</b>				
<35	11	5	17	34.6
35-44	8	0	8	16.9
45+	2	5	7	13.7
<i>Total</i>	21	10	32	65.1
<b>Females</b>				
<35	8	3	11	22.7
35-44	5	0	5	10.3
45+	2	0	2	4.1
<i>Total</i>	15	3	18	37.1
<b>Persons</b>				
<35	19	8	27	55.4
35-44	13	0	13	26.1
45+	4	5	9	18.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Per cent	73.5	26.5	<b>100.0</b>	

**Table 9: Hospital-non-specialists with an initial qualification in New Zealand:  
geographic location of main job by age and sex, 1995**

Geographic location(a)	Under 35	35 & over	Total
<b>Males</b>			
Capital city	62	5	67
Other	8	3	13
<i>Total</i>	70	10	80
<b>Females</b>			
Capital city	41	3	44
Other	9	—	9
<i>Total</i>	50	3	53
<b>Persons</b>			
Capital city	103	8	111
Other	17	3	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>133</b>

**Table 10: Employed specialists with an initial qualification in New Zealand: specialty and age, 1995**

Specialty	Age (years)		Total	% of Aust. specialist work force
	<45	45+		
Paediatric medicine	16	19	35	5.3
General pathology	.	9	9	9.3
Anatomical pathology	3	15	18	5.1
Microbiology	7	6	13	17.9
General surgery	4	9	14	1.4
Orthopaedic surgery	7	8	15	2.3
Anaesthesia	36	24	60	3.3
Diagnostic radiology	30	35	65	6.5
Intensive care	4	7	11	4.8
Obstetric & gynaecology	3	11	14	1.4
Ophthalmology	13	5	18	2.7
Psychiatry	39	52	91	4.9
Other	40	49	89	1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>2.9</b>

**Table 11: Specialists-in-training with an initial qualification in New Zealand: number and percentage of workforce, 1995**

Specialty	Total	% of specialist-in-training workforce
Cardiology	3	3.3
Clinical immunology	5	42.9
Gastroenterology	2	2.7
General medicine	8	2.4
Nuclear medicine	2	5.8
Paediatric medicine	16	3.9
Renal medicine	5	11.5
General surgery	5	1.8
Neurosurgery	2	3.9
Orthopaedic surgery	3	1.8
Anaesthesia	14	2.5
Diagnostic radiology	6	3.3
Emergency medicine	19	5.6
Intensive care	3	5.5
Obstetric & gynaecology	5	1.8
Psychiatry	19	3.3
Radiation oncology	2	3.3
Rehabilitation medicine	2	3.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>2.6</b>

*Note:* Survey non-response levels for specialists-in-training are higher than for the workforce as a whole. Estimates for individual specialties should be treated with caution.

## Medicare data, 1990–91 to 1995–96

**Table 12: Medicare providers: New Zealand trained doctors by peer group, 1990–91 to 1995–96**

Peer group	1990–91	1991–92	1992–93	1993–94	1994–95	1995–96
Primary care practitioners:						
VRGP	67	109	161	178	202	202
Other	213	195	172	201	203	215
<i>Total primary care</i>	<b>280</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>417</b>
Specialists:						
Obstetrics & gynaecology	12	12	15	14	17	18
Surgeons:						
Specialist	62	66	70	65	70	73
Non-specialist	9	10	6	10	16	20
<i>Total</i>	<b>71</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>93</b>
Anaesthetist	43	46	48	55	51	58
Psychiatrist	63	63	65	67	70	68
Diagnostic imagist	56	66	72	74	80	84
Pathologist	32	35	37	34	39	36
Physician	53	56	64	72	81	87
Other medical	7	7	7	13	13	10
<i>Total specialists</i>	<b>337</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>454</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>871</b>
<b>(Per cent of Australian medical workforce)</b>						
Primary care practitioners:						
VRGP	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.1
Other	1.5	1.6	2.1	2.8	3.0	3.2
<i>Total primary care</i>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.7</b>
Specialists:						
Obstetrics & gynaecology	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.5	1.8	1.9
Surgeons:						
Specialist	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.0
Non-specialist	1.3	1.3	0.7	1.1	1.6	1.8
<i>Total</i>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Anaesthetist	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.9	2.6	2.9
Psychiatrist	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.2
Diagnostic imagist	5.2	5.7	5.9	5.9	6.3	5.8
Pathologist	4.8	5.2	5.7	5.5	6.4	6.1
Physician	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.2	2.2
Other medical	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.8	1.7	1.2
<i>Total specialists</i>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.8</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.2</b>

**Table 13: New Zealand medical providers in Australia: peer group by providers, services and benefits paid, 1990-91 to 1995-96**

Peer group/Item	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
<b>General practitioner—vocationally registered</b>						
No. of providers	67	110	162	178	203	209
Total services	401 218	668 738	934 278	1 005 589	1 073 637	1 125 100
Average hospital services	59	60	36	25	20	25
Average non-hospital services	5 930	6 020	5 731	5 624	5 269	5 358
Total benefits (\$m)	8.3	14.1	20.6	22.5	24.4	25.9
<b>General practitioner—other medical practitioner</b>						
No. of providers	224	202	180	206	216	229
Total services	546 264	458 124	156 178	182 473	189 341	224 122
Average hospital services	21	22	3	4	4	11
Average non-hospital services	2 418	2 246	864	882	873	968
Total benefits (\$m)	10.4	9.9	3.7	4.5	4.6	5.2
<b>Obstetrics and gynaecology</b>						
No. of providers	12	12	15	14	17	18
Total services	26 261	26 914	26 779	23 785	23 935	25 187
Average hospital services	406	364	276	300	210	189
Average non-hospital services	1 783	1 879	1 509	1 399	1 198	1 210
Total benefits (\$m)	1.8	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.4	1.9
<b>Surgeon—specialist</b>						
No. of providers	63	69	70	71	72	75
Total services	130 553	136 905	137 656	144 285	146 899	160 083
Average hospital services	320	280	259	248	246	251
Average non-hospital services	1 752	1 704	1 708	1 784	1 794	1 883
Total benefits (\$m)	7.6	8.3	8.6	8.8	9.4	10.5
<b>Anaesthetists</b>						
No. of providers	44	46	49	56	51	58
Total services	46 902	53 715	61 439	67 858	74 471	82 995
Average hospital services	1 030	1 120	1 181	1 126	1 323	1 233
Average non-hospital services	36	48	73	85	137	198
Total benefits (\$m)	2.1	2.5	2.9	3.4	3.8	4.4
<b>Psychiatrists</b>						
No. of providers	64	63	65	68	70	70
Total services	74 990	80 784	86 748	100 245	104 935	109 085
Average hospital services	129	129	146	159	154	171
Average non-hospital services	1 043	1 153	1 188	1 315	1 345	1 387
Total benefits (\$m)	6.0	6.7	7.4	8.6	9.0	9.5
<b>Diagnostic imagists</b>						
No. of providers	56	66	72	76	81	91
Total services	503 012	476 733	504 401	579 151	575 112	592 890
Average hospital services	1 037	850	697	649	632	563
Average non-hospital services	7 945	6 374	6 309	6 971	6 468	5 952
Total benefits (\$m)	32.8	32.6	36.1	43.0	45.0	48.7
<b>Pathologists</b>						
No. of providers	34	36	37	36	40	38
Total services	1 501 025	1 954 635	3 154 241	3 970 151	4 524 476	4 679 334
Average hospital services	4 676	5 171	6 153	5 817	5 822	5 429
Average non-hospital services	39 472	49 124	79 097	104 465	107 290	117 712
Total benefits (\$m)	36.7	39.4	49.8	63.9	73.6	75.5
<b>Physicians</b>						
No. of providers	53	58	65	72	81	90
Total services	90 065	90 580	99 020	107 279	120 225	131 614
Average hospital services	521	459	415	301	325	331
Average non-hospital services	1 179	1 103	1 109	1 189	1 159	1 132
Total benefits (\$m)	4.2	4.6	5.2	6.3	7.4	8.1

(Continued)

**Table 13 (continued): New Zealand medical providers in Australia: peer group by providers, services and benefits paid, 1990-91 to 1995-96**

<b>Peer group/Item</b>	<b>1990-91</b>	<b>1991-92</b>	<b>1992-93</b>	<b>1993-94</b>	<b>1994-95</b>	<b>1995-96</b>
<b>Other medical</b>						
No. of providers	36	53	44	57	69	79
Total services	26.380	29.965	33.619	51.427	54.583	52.973
Average hospital services	40	39	34	52	49	36
Average non-hospital services	693	527	730	850	742	634
Total benefits (\$m)	0.9	1.2	1.5	2.1	2.2	2.2
<b>Total</b>						
No. of providers	644	704	754	827	888	941
Total services	3.348.957	3.979.881	5.197.042	6.241.644	6.899.778	7.202.992
Average hospital services	517	518	533	464	470	428
Average non-hospital services	4.683	5.136	6.360	7.083	7.300	7.226
Total benefits (\$m)	110.9	121.5	135.9	166.0	182.6	193.2

## New Zealand additions to the Medicare workforce in 1995–96

**Table 14: New Zealand-qualified doctors practising under Medicare in 1995–96 but not 1994–95: age by type of medical practitioner**

Age (years)	VRGPs	OMPs	Specialists	Total
Less than 35	7	59	15	81
35–44	–	9	16	25
45–54	*	*	*	5
55–64	*	*	*	7
65 & over	*	*	*	5
Unknown	*	*	*	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>126</b>

\* means numbers suppressed for confidentiality reasons.

## New Zealand withdrawals from the Medicare workforce in 1995–96

**Table 15: New Zealand-qualified doctors practising under Medicare in 1994–95 but not 1995–96: age by type of medical practitioner**

Age (years)	VRGPs	OMPs	Specialists	Total
Less than 35	2	36	9	47
35–44	4	14	14	32
45–54	*	*	*	5
55–64	*	*	*	4
65 & over	*	*	*	4
Unknown	*	*	*	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>96</b>

\* means numbers suppressed for confidentiality reasons.

## Net New Zealand additions to the Medicare workforce in 1995–96

**Table 16: Net additions of New Zealand-qualified doctors to the Medicare workforce in 1995–96: age by type of medical practitioner**

Age (years)	VRGPs	OMPs	Specialists	Total
Less than 35	5	23	6	34
35–44	–4	–5	2	–7
45–54	–	–2	2	–
55–64	–	2	–	2
65 & over	–	3	–2	1
Unknown	–2	2	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>–1</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>30</b>

## Migration

**Table 17: Medical practitioners: migration category by country of previous or future residence, 1992-93 to 1994-95**

Migration status	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Permanent migration of New Zealand residents to Australia	39	49	74	71
Permanent migration of Australian residents to New Zealand	29	34	52	49
Australian residents returning after long-term stay in NZ	14	17	13	18
Visitor departing to NZ after long-term stay in Australia	18	32	20	22
Migration for the purpose of employment:				
Migration of New Zealand residents to Australia:				
Long-term stay	50	48	63	41
Short-term stay	52	57	49	56
Migration of Australian residents to New Zealand:				
Long-term stay	9	13	12	17
Short-term stay	62	4	5	13



## New Zealand-born doctors in the Australian medical labour force, 1991 Census

Table 20: Overseas-born persons with a highest qualification in medicine, and medical practitioners, 1991

Country of birth	Qualified in medicine	Medical practitioner
New Zealand	815	696
Other overseas	16,212	13,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,027</b>	<b>14,296</b>
% New Zealand	4.8%	4.9%

Source: ABS 1991 Census

Table 21: Medical practitioners born overseas: country of birth by year of arrival, 1991

Country of birth	Year of arrival in Australia				Total
	Prior to 1981	1981–1985	1986–1991	Not stated	
	(Number)				
New Zealand	416	72	205	3	696
Other	10,322	1,037	2,128	113	13,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,738</b>	<b>1,109</b>	<b>2,333</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>14,296</b>
	(Per cent)				
New Zealand	59.8	10.3	29.5	0.4	100.0
Other	75.9	7.6	15.6	0.8	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>75.1</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: ABS 1991 Census

Table 22: New Zealand born medical practitioners: year of arrival and State and Territory of usual residence, 1991

Year of arrival	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Overseas	Total
Prior to 1981	147	90	67	38	41	13	11	0	9	416
1981–1985	24	15	16	11	6	0	0	0		72
1986–1991	65	36	37	23	20	0	4	3	17	205
Not stated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>696</b>
	(Per cent)									
Prior to 1981	35.3	21.6	16.1	9.1	9.9	3.1	2.6	0.0	2.2	100.0
1981–1985	33.3	20.8	22.2	15.3	8.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
1986–1991	31.7	17.6	18.0	11.2	9.8	0.0	2.0	1.5	8.3	100.0
Not stated	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>33.9</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: ABS 1991 Census

## Australian medical graduates practising in New Zealand

**Table 23: Active medical practitioners in New Zealand: type of medical practitioner by country of initial qualification, 1995 and 1996**

Year	Country where initial qualification gained			Total
	NZ	Aust.	Other	
	(Number)			
<b>1995</b>				
General practitioners	1,892	66	892	2,850
Specialists	1,502	49	723	2,274
Active registrars	631	27	297	955
Active house officers	615	20	145	780
Medical officers of special scale	90	12	123	225
Other primary care practitioners	173	5	97	275
Not stated	121	3	47	171
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,024</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>2,324</b>	<b>7,530</b>
<b>1996</b>				
General practitioners	1,957	70	958	2,985
Specialists	1,524	49	762	2,335
Active registrars	642	24	328	994
Active house officers	598	24	134	756
Medical officers of special scale	133	11	150	294
Other primary care practitioners	105	3	52	160
Not stated	145	14	0	159
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,104</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>2,384</b>	<b>7,683</b>
	(Per cent)			
<b>1995</b>				
General practitioners	66.4	2.3	31.3	100.0
Specialists	66.1	2.2	31.8	100.0
Active registrars	66.1	2.8	31.1	100.0
Active house officers	78.8	2.6	18.6	100.0
Medical officers of special scale	40.0	5.3	54.7	100.0
Other primary care practitioners	62.9	1.8	35.3	100.0
Not stated	70.8	1.8	27.5	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>66.7</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>30.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>1996</b>				
General practitioners	65.6	2.3	32.1	100.0
Specialists	65.3	2.1	32.6	100.0
Active registrars	64.6	2.4	33.0	100.0
Active house officers	79.1	3.2	17.7	100.0
Medical officers of special scale	45.2	3.7	51.0	100.0
Other primary care practitioners	65.6	1.9	32.5	100.0
Not stated	91.2	8.8	0.0	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>66.4</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>31.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: New Zealand Medical Council

# Glossary

## Australian definitions

### Clinician

A medical practitioner who is involved in the diagnosis and/or treatment of patients, including recommending preventative action. In this report a medical practitioner who engages in clinical practice in any job is classified as a clinician, and comprises primary care practitioners, hospital non-specialists, specialists and specialists-in-training.

### Geographic location

The *Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Areas Classification, November 1994* of the Department of Health and Family Services has been used to classify the geographic location of the main job of responding medical practitioners in the following seven categories. The data used in determining these categories are based on the 1991 population census.

#### Metropolitan areas:

1. *Capital city* consists of the State and Territory capital cities of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, Hobart, Darwin and Canberra.
2. *Other metropolitan centre* consists of one or more statistical subdivisions which have an urban centre of population of 100,000 or more in size: These centres are: Newcastle, Wollongong, Queanbeyan (part of Canberra-Queanbeyan), Geelong, Gold Coast-Tweed Heads, Townsville-Thuringowa.

#### Rural zone:

3. *Large rural centre* is a statistical local area where most of the population reside in an urban centre of population of 25,000 to 99,999. These centres are: Albury-Wodonga, Dubbo, Lismore, Orange, Port Macquarie, Tamworth, Wagga Wagga, Ballarat, Bendigo, Shepparton-Mooroopna, Bundaberg, Cairns, Mackay, Maroochydore-Mooloolaba, Rockhampton, Toowoomba, Whyalla and Launceston.
4. *Small rural centres* are statistical local areas in rural zones containing urban centres of population between 10,000 and 24,999. These centres are: Armidale, Ballina, Bathurst, Broken Hill, Casino, Coffs Harbour, Echuca-Moama, Forster-Tuncurry, Goulburn, Grafton, Griffith, Lithgow, Moree Plains, Muswellbrook, Nowra-Bombaderry, Singleton, Taree (NSW); Bairnsdale, Colac, Echuca-Moama, Horsham, Mildura, Moe-Yallourn, Morwell, Ocean Grove-Barwon Heads, Portland, Sale, Traralgon, Wangaratta, Warrnambool (Vic); Caloundra, Gladstone, Gympie, Hervey Bay, Maryborough, Tewantin-Noosa, Warwick (Qld); Mount Gambier, Murray Bridge, Port Augusta, Port Lincoln, Port Pirie (SA); Albany, Bunbury, Geraldton, Mandurah (WA); Burnie-Somerset, Devonport (Tas).
5. *Other rural areas* are the remaining statistical areas within the rural zone. Examples are Cowra Shire, Temora Shire, Guyra Shire (NSW); Ararat Shire, Cobram Shire (Vic); Cardwell Shire, Whitsunday Shire (Qld); Barossa, Pinnaroo (SA); Moora Shire, York Shire (WA); George Town, Ross (Tas); Coomalie, Litchfield (NT).

Remote zone: these are generally less densely populated than rural statistical local areas and hundreds of kilometres from a major urban centre.

6. *Remote centres* are statistical local areas in the remote zone containing urban centres of population of 5,000 or more: These centres are:

Blackwater, Bowen, Emerald, Mareeba, Moranbah, Mount Isa, Roma (Qld); Broome, Carnarvon, East Pilbara, Esperance, Kalgoorlie/Boulder, Port Hedland, Karratha (WA); Alice Springs, Katherine (NT).

7. *Other remote areas* are the remaining areas within the remote zone. Examples are: Balranald, Bourke, Cobar, Lord Howe Island (NSW); French Island, Orbost, Walpeup (Vic); Aurukun, Longreach, Quilpie (Qld); Coober Pedy, Murat Bay, Roxby Downs (SA); Coolgardie, Exmouth, Laverton, Shark Bay (WA); King Island, Strahan (Tas); Daly, Jabiru, Nhulunbuy (NT).

This report does not show separate data for *Remote centres* or other *remote areas* because of the small numbers involved.

### **Hospital non-specialist**

A medical practitioner without a recognised specialty qualification who is mainly employed in a salaried position in a hospital. Hospital non-specialists include Resident Medical Officers (RMOs) and interns and other salaried career practitioners. In this report, they exclude specialists-in-training.

### **Hospital services**

A medical service performed in a hospital that is billed to Medicare.

### **Hours worked**

Average hours worked per week during the previous four weeks at the time of the survey (re-registration period of October to December 1995). Hours worked in direct contact with patients, providing care, instructions, counselling, etc, and providing other related services such as writing referrals, prescriptions, phone calls etc. are included. Time spent on travel between work locations (except on call outs) and on unpaid professional or voluntary activities are excluded. The calculation of average hours includes only those practitioners with hours worked greater than zero.

### **Initial qualification**

The initial qualification accepted for entry to the medical profession.

### **Long term stay**

A stay of twelve months or more in Australia or overseas.

### **Medical labour force**

The medical labour force consists of medical practitioners employed in medicine plus medical practitioners not employed in medicine who were looking for work in medicine.

### **Medical labour force survey**

The medical boards in each State and Territory send out labour force survey forms to all registered medical practitioners at registration renewal time in October each year. Data from this survey, along with initial registration data, are then provided to the AIHW for collation into a national medical labour force data set. The data used in this report is based on survey questionnaires returned during the period October to December 1995.

In estimating actual numbers of medical practitioners from the survey, several factors have to be taken into account. Firstly, adjustments are made for non-response. Secondly, medical practitioners may practise in more than one State or Territory. To reduce as much as possible the duplication in statistics that arises from this, estimation of State and Territory employment numbers for 1995 were based on those registered medical practitioners who stated that they were employed solely or mainly in the State or Territory of registration.

Survey data were collected in Western Australia in 1996 but not in 1995. As a result, most tables in this report include 1995 estimates for Western Australia based on 1996 survey data.

### **Medical practitioner employed in medicine**

A registered medical practitioner in an occupation that uses the skills and knowledge of the person's medical qualification.

### **New Zealand medical graduates**

Medical practitioners who obtained their initial medical qualification from a New Zealand medical school.

### **Non-hospital services**

A medical service billed to Medicare which was not performed in a hospital.

### **Other medical practitioner (OMP)**

A medical practitioner who is not recognised by the Health Insurance Commission as a general practitioner or specialist or as a supervised trainee in a general or specialists practice.

**Overseas higher education students**

Students at an Australian university who are not Australian citizens or permanent residents of Australia.

**Peer group**

The medical specialty group to which a medical practitioner is classified by the Department of Health and Family Services for publication of Medicare statistics.

**Primary care practitioner**

A clinician engaged in the area of general practice or in the primary care of patients undertaking unreferral attendances. Includes vocationally registered general practitioners (VRGPs), fellows of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP), RACGP trainees and other medical practitioners mainly billing for unreferral attendances (OMPs).

**Short-term stay**

A stay of less than 12 months in Australia or overseas.

**Specialist**

A clinician with a qualification awarded by, or which equates to that awarded by, the relevant specialist professional college in Australia. In general, specialist recognition is based on the completion of a program of appropriate supervised training covering a minimum of six years after medical graduation and an examination leading to the award of a higher qualification.

**Specialist-in-training**

A clinician who has been accepted by a specialist professional college into a training position supervised by a member of the college.

**Vocationally registered general practitioner (VRGP)**

A vocationally registered general practitioner is a primary care practitioner registered as a Medicare provider, the criteria for which are certification from either the RACGP, the Vocation Registration Eligibility Committee (VREC), or the Vocational Registration Appeal Committee (VRAC), and that the practitioner's medical practice is predominantly general practice, and that the practitioner has appropriate training and experience in general practice.

## **New Zealand Ministry of Health workforce definitions**

'Active' refers to persons on a register for a specific professional group and holding a current Annual Practising Certificate/Licence entitling them to work.

### **Active medical practitioners**

A person holding an annual practising certificate and working more than three hours per week (on average) in New Zealand in medical or related work. Medical graduates working on temporary or probationary registration are excluded.

### **New Zealand medical graduates**

Medical graduates who obtained their initial qualification in New Zealand (including those who later obtained a postgraduate qualification overseas).

### **Other primary care practitioner**

Other primary care practitioners are medical practitioners who practise in a specific field (at a primary care level) or they provide 'GP-type' services to a particular group, such as student-health doctors at a university.

### **Specialists**

Specialists are medical practitioners who have appropriate qualifications, training and experience, and are being employed in that capacity. Many are members of a college or professional association of specialists.