

# 9 Medical education and training

The Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs has provided data on students who enrolled in courses for years up to 1998 and who completed courses for years up to 1997. AIHW analysis of these data has found:

- 1,685 Australian citizen/permanent resident students completed medicine courses in 1997–1,196 (71.0%) completed undergraduate courses and 489 (29.0%) completed post-graduate courses. Of these, 792 (47.0%) were female – an increase from 38.7% in 1988.
- A further 237 overseas students completed medicine courses at Australian universities in 1997 – 12.3% of all completions.
- 1,221 Australian citizen and permanent resident students commenced undergraduate medicine courses in 1998. During 1994–1996, there was a hiatus in students commencing initial medicine courses while Flinders University, the University of Queensland and the University of Sydney introduced a four-year postgraduate degree medical course in place of the previous six-year undergraduate course. Each university had a two-year transition period, during which only a small number of students with the necessary qualifications were admitted. The first intake to the new course at Flinders University was in 1996 and intakes to the new courses at the University of Queensland and the University of Sydney began in 1997. The University of Sydney is expected to reach its planned annual intake of 186 new students in the 1999 academic year.
- 50.3% of the students commencing undergraduate medicine courses in 1998 were female. This was the first time that the proportion of females commencing medicine courses exceeded 50%.
- Over the period 1989–1996, around 93% of commencing undergraduate medical students were aged less than 25 years. With the introduction of postgraduate entry to initial medical courses at three universities this proportion fell to around 82% in 1998. The average age of commencing students has increased by five to eight years at the three universities that introduced graduate entry to initial medical courses. This could decrease the expected lifetime contribution in hours worked of these students to the medical labour supply.
- 86.2% of students commencing an initial medical degree in 1998 originated from a capital city or other metropolitan area and 13.3% from rural and remote areas. This compares with 74.3% of the 15–24 year old population living in metropolitan areas and 25.7% in rural and remote areas. The proportion of students from rural and remote areas ranged from 9.5% to 11.6% over the period 1989 to 1997.
- 31.2% of these commencing students were born in overseas countries. Most of these (54.6%) were born in Asia – mainly Malaysia, China, Vietnam and Hong Kong – and a further 16.5% were born in the United Kingdom or Ireland.
- 10 (0.8%) of the students commencing initial medical qualifications in 1998 were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
- There were 49 (0.7%) Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students studying for an initial medical qualification in 1998. Of these, 22 were at the University of Newcastle.

- 8,777 Australian citizen and permanent resident students were enrolled in medicine courses in 1998 – 6,472 (73.7%) in bachelor courses and 2,305 (26.3%) in postgraduate courses.

**Table 37: Medical student course completions: citizenship<sup>(a)</sup> and level of course, Australia, 1988–97**

Level of course	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
<b>Australian citizens or permanent residents</b>										
Bachelor										
Graduate entry	0	0	0	0	2	5	0	6	4	12
Bachelor honours	26	25	17	204	60	48	57	44	41	42
Bachelor pass	1,279	1,162	997	940	1,022	1,181	1,178	1,191	1,282	1,142
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,305</i>	<i>1,187</i>	<i>1,014</i>	<i>1,144</i>	<i>1,084</i>	<i>1,234</i>	<i>1,235</i>	<i>1,241</i>	<i>1,327</i>	<i>1,196</i>
Number of females	519	487	442	467	454	513	576	558	624	538
% female	39.8	41.0	43.6	40.8	41.9	41.6	46.6	45.0	47.0	45.0
Postgraduate										
Higher doctorate	27	33	34	36	35	28	28	39	37	27
PhD	84	108	130	165	142	138	168	190	228	258
Masters	27	38	46	76	37	35	54	58	80	76
Masters qualifying	1	5	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Diploma/certificate	33	33	32	47	36	73	133	118	71	128
<i>Total</i>	<i>172</i>	<i>217</i>	<i>242</i>	<i>324</i>	<i>252</i>	<i>274</i>	<i>383</i>	<i>405</i>	<i>416</i>	<i>489</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,477</b>	<b>1,404</b>	<b>1,256</b>	<b>1,468</b>	<b>1,336</b>	<b>1,508</b>	<b>1,618</b>	<b>1,646</b>	<b>1,743</b>	<b>1,685</b>
Number of females	587	569	542	610	573	624	739	771	832	792
% female	39.7	40.5	43.2	41.6	42.9	41.4	45.7	46.8	47.7	47.0
<b>Overseas students</b>										
Bachelor	17	59	44	73	52	67	85	134	150	180
Postgraduate	15	32	17	34	38	50	41	47	37	57
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>237</b>
Number of females	13	32	22	36	37	40	48	88	79	91
% female	40.6	35.2	36.1	33.6	41.1	34.2	38.1	48.6	42.2	38.4

(a) Before 1993, not all universities had citizenship information for all students completing courses, so these data include students for whom citizenship/residency status was unknown. Consequently, data before 1993 may slightly overstate the number of course completions by Australian citizen/resident students.

Source: AIHW, from Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs data.

**Table 38: Australian citizens and permanent residents commencing undergraduate<sup>(a)</sup> medicine courses: university and sex, Australia, 1990–98**

University	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Flinders University	77	70	63	64	<sup>(b)</sup> 8	<sup>(b)</sup> 0	60	58	56
Monash University	153	164	141	139	137	130	139	123	135
University of Adelaide	107	112	105	98	101	103	93	90	91
University of Melbourne	199	185	182	185	193	199	198	204	180
University of New South Wales	142	144	156	140	146	162	175	145	144
University of Newcastle	75	72	69	66	66	69	63	67	64
University of Queensland	241	232	225	218	225	<sup>(b)</sup> 6	<sup>(b)</sup> 2	231	228
University of Sydney	253	238	220	219	167	<sup>(b)</sup> 14	<sup>(b)</sup> 21	139	143
University of Tasmania	49	50	49	50	50	54	54	53	59
University of Western Australia	121	125	120	125	124	123	123	123	121
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,417</b>	<b>1,392</b>	<b>1,330</b>	<b>1,304</b>	<b>1,217</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>1,233</b>	<b>1,221</b>
(per cent who are female)									
Flinders University	44.2	52.9	57.1	51.6	25.0	0.0	55.0	41.4	50.0
Monash University	40.5	51.8	47.5	49.6	52.6	61.5	56.1	62.6	51.9
University of Adelaide	48.6	42.9	49.5	39.8	39.6	53.4	43.0	53.3	63.7
University of Melbourne	42.7	43.2	45.1	43.2	47.7	40.2	38.9	41.2	46.1
University of New South Wales	43.0	40.3	36.5	41.4	41.8	39.5	47.4	49.0	50.0
University of Newcastle	73.3	66.7	65.2	57.6	57.6	56.5	60.3	58.2	53.1
University of Queensland	49.0	50.4	41.3	55.5	50.7	50.0	0.0	34.2	45.2
University of Sydney	36.0	43.7	35.0	43.8	47.3	35.7	38.1	43.9	56.6
University of Tasmania	59.2	60.0	59.2	54.0	60.0	44.4	53.7	49.1	55.9
University of Western Australia	42.1	54.4	47.5	46.4	49.2	46.3	52.0	45.5	43.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>45.0</b>	<b>48.5</b>	<b>44.7</b>	<b>47.5</b>	<b>48.4</b>	<b>47.3</b>	<b>48.5</b>	<b>45.8</b>	<b>50.3</b>

(a) Includes bachelor pass, bachelor honours and graduate entry bachelor courses.

(b) Flinders University, University of Queensland and University of Sydney have introduced a four-year postgraduate degree medical course in place of the previous six-year undergraduate course. Each university had a two-year transition period during which only a small number of students with the necessary qualifications were admitted. The first intake to the new course at Flinders University was in 1996 and the first intakes to the new courses at the University of Queensland and the University of Sydney were in 1997.

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