Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

General Surgery

WA Medical Workforce 2015 to 2025

In 2015, **119** general surgery consultants were identified as working in Western Australia (WA).

General surgery supply is currently below demand. Medium risk shortfalls were identified in 2015, but there are critical risk shortfalls in most rural locations of WA.

General surgery is a high volume specialty. Trainee throughput is insufficient to keep pace with the growth in demand and the expected number of retirements through to 2025.

It is anticipated that there should be employment opportunities in the future with high risk and critical risk shortfalls projected for 2021 and 2025, respectively.

Shortfall risk assessment

General surgery had a medium shortfall risk in 2015, becoming high by 2021 and critical by 2025.

Critical	supply <70% demand
High	supply ≥70% and <80% demand
Medium	supply ≥80% and <90% demand
Low	supply ≥90% demand

The workforce in 2015

103 **16**

Consultant median age:

50 years

51 years

44 years

Consultant age ≥ 65 years:

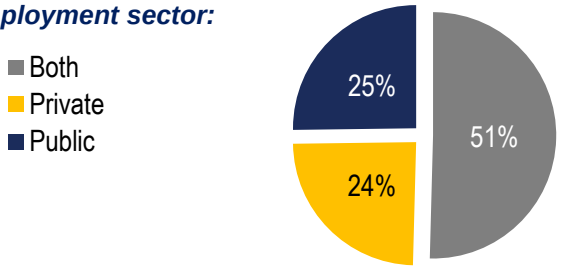
12.6%

14.6%

0%

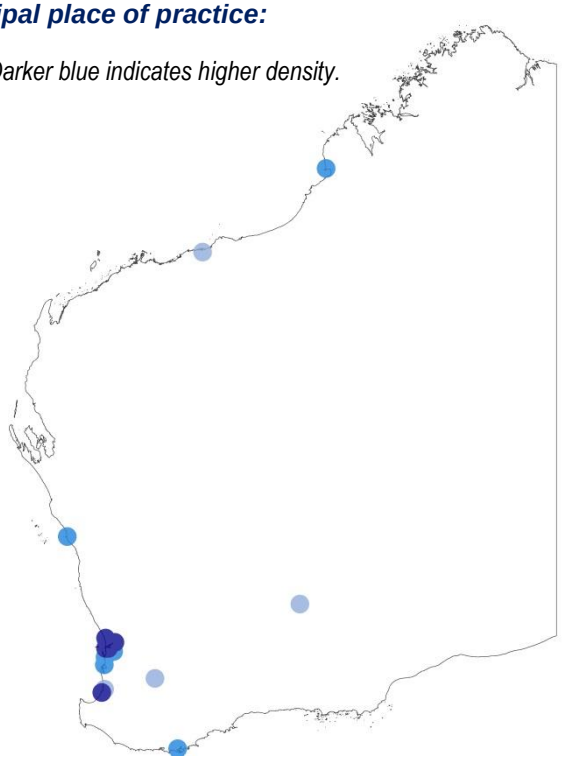
Distribution in 2015

Employment sector:



Principal place of practice:

Note: Darker blue indicates higher density.



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Vocational trainees in Western Australia 2015

Vocational training requirements: Four to five years full-time. Can apply from PGY2 to commence in PGY3.

Medical college: Royal Australasian College of Surgeons - http://www.surgeons.org/

Source: Australian Government Department of Health, Medical Training Review Panel, Eighteenth Report

Total number of trainees	Male	Female
31	26	5

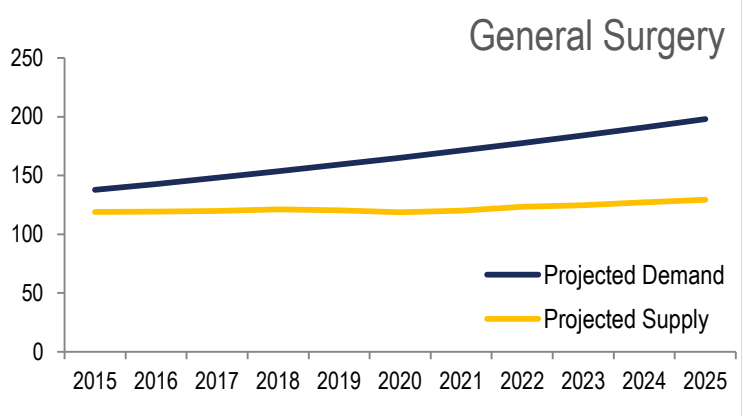
Data source: Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

Projected consultant supply and demand 2015 to 2025

Projections indicate demand will exceed supply.

In 2025 the general surgery workforce is projected to be 121 consultants.

Supply will be insufficient to meet expected demand of 184 consultants in 2025.



Workforce planning 2015 to 2025

Growth in demand: An estimated 4.67 consultants were needed in 2015 to service the growth in demand. This is expected to increase to approximately 6.58 consultants per annum by 2025.

Retirements: 34% of the 2015 workforce is expected to retire by 2025.

Vocational trainees: Currently producing 4.34 new consultants per annum which is insufficient to cover retirements or service the growth in demand.

** The information provided is a snapshot in time and does not take into account innovation, reform and/or changing models of care. Shortfalls presented are a guide only based on weighted activity based modelling conducted as part of the specialist workforce capacity program (SWCP). Other approaches could yield different results.*

This document should be read in conjunction with "User information: Specialist Workforce Capacity Program summary sheets".

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.

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