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Private Medical Practitioners

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**PRIVATE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS
AUSTRALIA, 1994-95**

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AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

CATALOGUE NO. 8689.0

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CONTENTS

		Page
	Introduction	iv
	Main features	1
TABLES	1 General practitioners and specialists by age range and sex, 1994-95	3
	2 Principal specialties by sex, 1994-95	4
	3 General practitioners and specialists by State, 1994-95	4
	4 General practitioners and specialists by origin of primary medical qualification, 1994-95	5
	5 Principal specialties and origin of primary medical qualification, 1994-95	6
	6 General practitioners and specialists by hours worked per average week, 1994-95	7
	7 General practitioners and specialists by hours worked per average week by age range, 1994-95	8
	8 General practitioners and specialists by type of activity, 1994-95	9
	9 General practitioners by number of consultations/contacts, 1994-95	9
	10 Specialists by number of consultations/contacts, 1994-95	10
	11 Specialists by principal specialties and number of consultations/contacts, 1994-95	10
GRAPHS	General practitioners and specialists by age range and sex, 1994-95	3
	General practitioners and specialists obtaining their medical qualifications overseas, 1994-95	5
	Hours worked per average week by general practitioners, 1994-95	7
	Hours worked per average week by general practitioners and specialists by age range, 1994-95	8
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	Explanatory notes	11
	Glossary	15
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INQUIRIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics</i>, contact Tony Ward on Melbourne (03) 9615 7634. ▪ <i>for information about statistics and services</i>, please refer to the back of this publication. 	
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INTRODUCTION

As part of its ongoing program of collections for the services sector of the Australian economy the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) conducted a survey of private practice medical practitioners in respect of the 1994-95 financial year. The survey was a sample of medical practitioners selected from the Health Insurance Commission's Medicare Provider File. It is the first time that the ABS has conducted such a survey of private practice medical practitioners.

Information in this publication relates to general practitioners and specialists in private practice whose main activity was the provision of medical services to patients.

Medical practitioners who mainly worked in hospitals and other institutions such as universities, government departments, etc. on a salary basis and who primarily service non-private patients were excluded.

The survey of private practice practitioners was a precursor to a survey of private practice medical businesses (practices) in Australia in respect of 1994-95. Results from this second survey are scheduled for release in September 1996 in the publication *Private Medical Practice Industry, Australia, 1994-95* (8685.0). That publication will contain detailed information on employment, income and expenses of private practice medical businesses in Australia.

These publications contain only a portion of the information available from the surveys. More detailed information is available from the ABS on request. This includes in-depth statistical analysis in formats tailored to meet the needs of individual clients.

The ABS is committed to providing more information on the service industries sector of the economy. However, the breadth of activities encompassed in the sector poses the problem of selecting which industries to include. To this end the ABS welcomes comments and suggestions from users recommending industries, and data items for inclusion in future surveys. These comments should be addressed to: The Director, Service Industries Surveys, PO Box 10, Belconnen, ACT, 2616.

MAIN FEATURES

INTRODUCTION

Statistics in this publication were compiled from a sample survey of private practice medical practitioners, conducted in respect of 1994–95. The scope of this publication includes all pathologists and all other medical practitioners who were coded on the Health Insurance Commission's Medicare Provider File as providing at least 50 services in the six month period November 1994 to April 1995 and who were mainly working in private practice.

For completeness, a small survey of 'low activity' medical practitioners (i.e. those coded on the Health Insurance Commission's Medicare Provider File as providing between 0 and 50 services in the six month period, November 1994 to April 1995) was also conducted. Results from that survey are not included in the tables in this publication, but summary information is provided in paragraph 15 of the Explanatory Notes.

NUMBER OF PRIVATE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

In 1994–95 there were 25,869 private practice medical practitioners in Australia. This estimate is based on the survey scope outlined above. The survey of 'low activity' doctors referred to above indicates that there were a further 4,604 medical practitioners in this 'low activity' category who were predominantly in private practice. See paragraph 15 of the Explanatory Notes for more details.

Of the 25,869 medical practitioners mainly working in private practice, 16,379 were general practitioners and 9,490 were specialists. The largest number of specialists were in the specialties of surgery (2,323), internal medicine (2,130), and anaesthesia (1,143).

AGE

In 1994–95, most medical practitioners were aged between 35 and 54, with 36% being between 35 and 44 and 29% being between 45 and 54 years of age.

General practitioners were generally younger than specialists with 17% of general practitioners being less than 35 compared to only 3% of specialists. A further 29% of specialists were over 54 compared to 21% of general practitioners.

There were 2,502 (10%) medical practitioners over the age of 65 (1,532 general practitioners and 969 specialists).

GENDER

Of the 25,869 medical practitioners mainly working in private practice, 20,058 (78%) were male. The proportion of males was higher in specialists with 88% compared to 71% of general practitioners.

In 1994–95, 71% of female general practitioners in private practice were less than 45 years of age, whereas only 49% of males were less than 45 years of age. Females accounted for 47% of general practitioners in private practice who were less than 35 years of age.

Of the principal specialty groupings in this publication, surgery had the highest proportion of males (96%) and dermatology had the highest proportion of females (29%).

STATE RELATIVITIES

The proportion of medical practitioners in each State was consistent with the population distribution. New South Wales had 35% of the general practitioners and 36% of the specialists. Overall, 61% of medical practitioners were located in New South Wales and Victoria.

A slightly higher proportion (63%) of specialists were located in New South Wales and Victoria compared to 60% of general practitioners.

QUALIFICATIONS

Of the 25,869 medical practitioners, 23% (5,825) had obtained their primary medical qualification from overseas. A higher proportion of general practitioners (25%) had obtained their primary medical qualification from overseas compared to specialists (18%).

General practitioners aged between 55 and 64 had the highest proportion (40%) of those obtaining their primary medical qualification from overseas.

Of the principal specialty groupings in this publication, surgery and internal medicine had the highest proportion (21%) of medical practitioners obtaining their primary medical qualification from overseas.

HOURS WORKED PER AVERAGE WEEK

In an average working week in 1994-95, general practitioners worked 51 hours compared to 57 hours for specialists. General practitioners spent 42 hours per week on private practice activities compared with 38 hours per week by specialists. Other activities included medical activities in hospitals and private practice administration and management activities.

There were 2,314 (49%) female general practitioners working less than 40 hours a week compared with 1,021 (9%) male general practitioners.

Medical practitioners aged between 45 and 54 years of age worked the longest hours during an average week, with general practitioners and specialists in this age range working 55 and 62 hours per week respectively.

CONSULTATIONS/CONTACTS

In an average working week in 1994-95, a general practitioner had 132 patient consultations and a specialist made 78 patient consultations/contacts.

In an average working week, 55% of general practitioners made between 100 and 200 consultations, while 2,707 (17%) general practitioners made over 200 consultations per week.

Of female general practitioners, 1,310 (28%) made less than 60 consultations per week compared with 1,028 (9%) of male general practitioners, consistent with the higher incidence of female general practitioners working less than 40 hours per week.

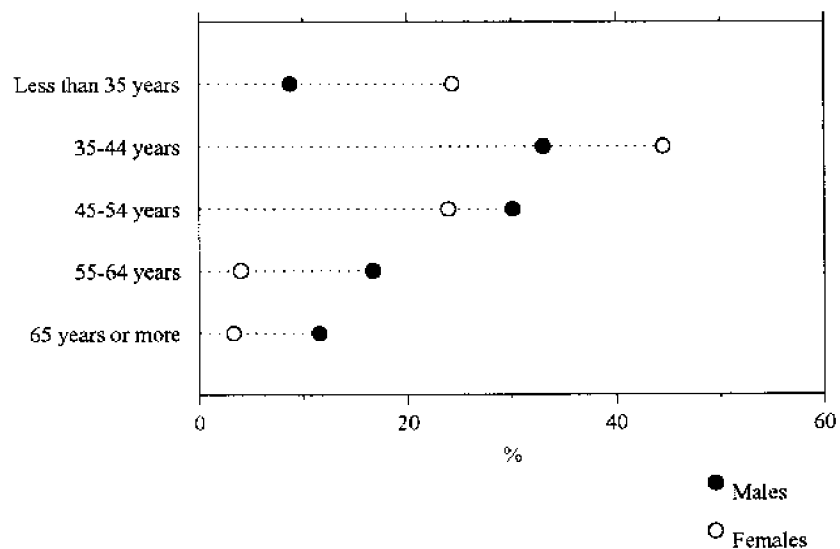
In an average working week, 5,062 (53%) specialists made less than 60 consultations per week. In the less than 60 consultation range per average week, there were 95% of anaesthetists and 8% of dermatologists.

1

GENERAL PRACTITIONERS AND SPECIALISTS BY AGE RANGE AND SEX, 1994-95

Type	Age (years)					Total	%
	Less than 35	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 or more		
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	%
General practitioners							
Males	1 521	4 249	2 771	1 734	1 403	11 677	71.3
Females	1 342	2 014	1 112	*103	*130	4 701	28.7
Total general practitioners	2 863	6 263	3 883	1 837	1 532	16 379	100.0
Percentage contribution to total	17.5	38.2	23.7	11.2	9.4	100.0	
Specialists							
Males	222	2 361	3 263	1 625	909	8 381	88.3
Females	*70	577	274	128	*60	1 109	11.7
Total specialists	292	2 938	3 537	1 753	969	9 490	100.0
Percentage contribution to total	3.1	31.0	37.3	18.5	10.2	100.0	
Total private practice medical practitioners							
Males	1 743	6 610	6 034	3 359	2 311	20 058	77.5
Females	1 412	2 591	1 386	231	190	5 811	22.5
Total practitioners	3 155	9 202	7 420	3 590	2 502	25 869	100.0
Percentage contribution to total	12.2	35.6	28.7	13.9	9.7	100.0	

GENERAL PRACTITIONERS AND SPECIALISTS BY AGE RANGE AND SEX, 1994-95



2

PRINCIPAL SPECIALTIES BY SEX, 1994-95

Principal specialty	Males		Females		Total	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Anaesthesia	948	11.3	195	17.6	1 143	12.0
Dermatology	169	2.0	70	6.3	239	2.5
Diagnostic imaging	744	8.9	109	9.8	853	9.0
Internal medicine	1 939	23.1	191	17.2	2 130	22.4
Obstetrics and gynaecology	780	9.3	*57	5.1	837	8.8
Ophthalmology	535	6.4	*67	6.0	602	6.3
Pathology	206	2.5	**17	1.5	223	2.3
Psychiatry	766	9.1	294	26.5	1 060	11.2
Surgery	2 226	26.6	*97	8.7	2 323	24.5
Other	66	0.8	*13	1.2	79	0.8
Total	8 381	100.0	1 109	100.0	9 490	100.0

3

GENERAL PRACTITIONERS AND SPECIALISTS BY STATE, 1994-95

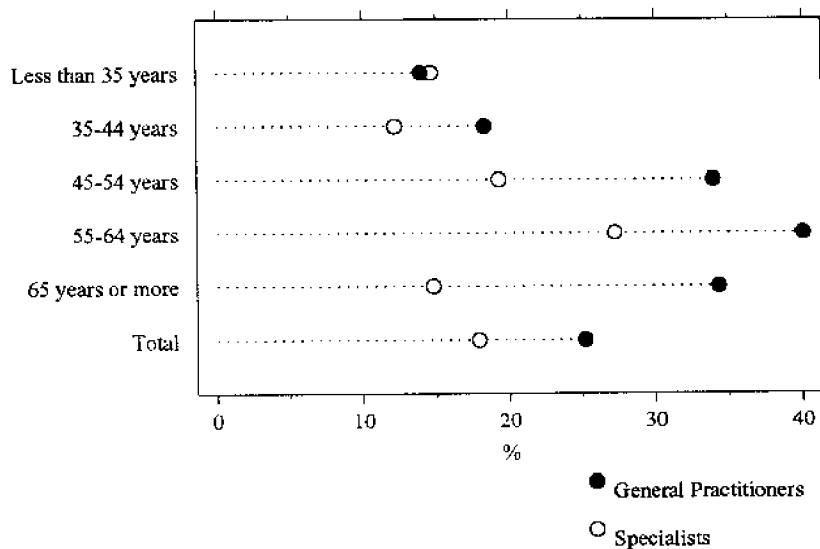
State/Territory	Males		Females		Total	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
GENERAL PRACTITIONERS						
New South Wales	4 162	35.6	1 577	33.5	5 738	35.0
Victoria	2 966	25.4	1 041	22.1	4 007	24.5
Queensland	1 886	16.2	868	18.5	2 753	16.8
South Australia	1 018	8.7	448	9.5	1 466	9.0
Western Australia	1 130	9.7	425	9.0	1 555	9.5
Tasmania	276	2.4	188	4.0	465	2.8
Northern Territory	79	0.7	30	0.6	109	0.7
Australian Capital Territory	160	1.4	126	2.7	286	1.7
Australia	11 677	100.0	4 701	100.0	16 379	100.0
SPECIALISTS						
New South Wales	3 082	36.8	349	31.5	3 431	36.2
Victoria	2 204	26.3	333	30.0	2 537	26.7
Queensland	1 272	15.2	240	21.6	1 512	15.9
South Australia	732	8.7	*61	5.5	793	8.4
Western Australia	732	8.7	97	8.7	829	8.7
Tasmania	183	2.2	*16	1.4	199	2.1
Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory	176	2.1	*13	1.2	190	2.0
Australia	8 381	100.0	1 109	100.0	9 490	100.0

4

GENERAL PRACTITIONERS AND SPECIALISTS BY ORIGIN OF PRIMARY MEDICAL QUALIFICATION, 1994-95

Origin	Age (years)					Total
	Less than 35	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 or more	
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
GENERAL PRACTITIONERS						
Australia	2 463	5 117	2 567	1 102	1 008	12 257
Percentage contribution	86.0	81.7	66.1	60.0	65.8	74.8
Overseas	401	1 146	1 316	734	525	4 122
Percentage contribution	14.0	18.3	33.9	40.0	34.3	25.2
Total	2 863	6 263	3 883	1 837	1 532	16 379
SPECIALISTS						
Australia	249	2 580	2 855	1 277	826	7 787
Percentage contribution	85.3	87.8	80.7	72.8	85.2	82.1
Overseas	*43	359	683	476	143	1 703
Percentage contribution	14.7	12.2	19.3	27.2	14.8	17.9
Total	292	2 938	3 537	1 753	969	9 490

GENERAL PRACTITIONERS AND SPECIALISTS OBTAINING THEIR MEDICAL QUALIFICATIONS OVERSEAS, 1994-95



5

PRINCIPAL SPECIALTIES AND ORIGIN OF PRIMARY MEDICAL QUALIFICATION, 1994-95

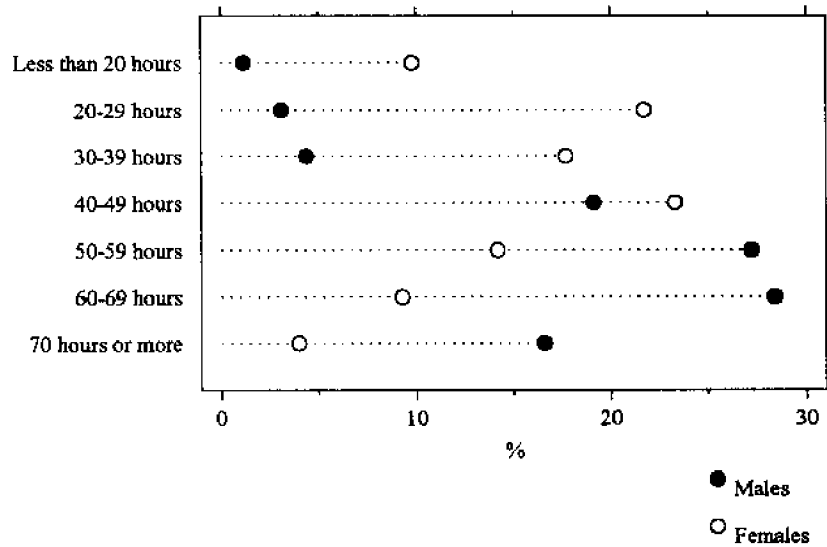
<i>Specialty</i>	<i>Australia</i>		<i>Overseas</i>		<i>Total</i>
	no.	%	no.	%	no.
Anaesthesia	945	12.1	199	11.7	1 143
Dermatology	234	3.0	*5	0.3	239
Diagnostic imaging	645	8.3	208	12.2	853
Internal medicine	1 774	22.8	356	20.9	2 130
Obstetrics and gynaecology	704	9.0	133	7.8	837
Ophthalmology	518	6.7	*84	4.9	602
Pathology	146	1.9	77	4.5	223
Psychiatry	809	10.4	251	14.7	1 060
Surgery	1 961	25.2	362	21.3	2 323
Other	52	0.7	*28	1.6	79
Total	7 787	100.0	1 703	100.0	9 490

6

GENERAL PRACTITIONERS AND SPECIALISTS BY HOURS WORKED PER AVERAGE WEEK, 1994-95

Hours worked per week	General practitioners				Specialists			
	Males	Females	Total	Percentage contribution	Males	Females	Total	Percentage contribution
	no.	no.	no.	%	no.	no.	no.	%
Less than 20	*141	460	602	3.7	229	*34	262	2.8
20-29	365	1 020	1 385	8.5	232	124	356	3.8
30-39	515	834	1 349	8.2	405	173	579	6.1
40-49	2 229	1 094	3 322	20.3	950	184	1 134	11.9
50-59	3 175	667	3 842	23.5	1 791	287	2 077	21.9
60-69	3 318	438	3 756	22.9	2 573	152	2 725	28.7
70 or more	1 934	189	2 123	13.0	2 203	155	2 357	24.8
Total	11 677	4 701	16 379	100.0	8 381	1 109	9 490	100.0

HOURS WORKED PER AVERAGE WEEK BY GENERAL PRACTITIONERS, 1994-95

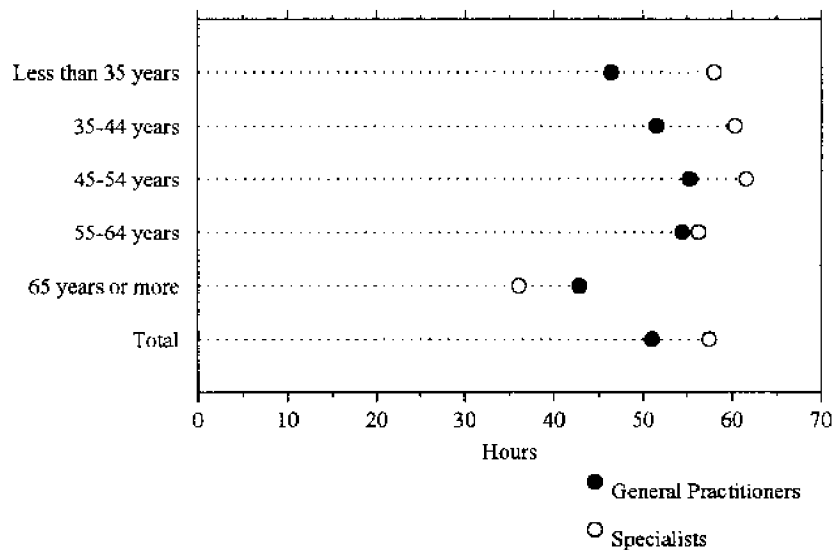


7

GENERAL PRACTITIONERS AND SPECIALISTS BY HOURS WORKED PER AVERAGE WEEK BY AGE RANGE, 1994-95

Age of practitioner	Males		Females		Total	
	no.	Average hours worked	no.	Average hours worked	no.	Average hours worked
GENERAL PRACTITIONERS						
Less than 35 years	1 521	53.9	1 342	37.9	2 863	46.4
35 to 44 years	4 249	58.0	2 014	38.0	6 263	51.5
45 to 54 years	2 771	60.2	1 112	43.0	3 883	55.2
55 to 64 years	1 734	54.9	*103	45.5	1 837	54.4
65 years or more	1 403	43.6	*130	34.8	1 532	42.8
Total	11 677	55.8	4 701	39.2	16 379	51.0
SPECIALISTS						
Less than 35 years	222	61.2	*70	47.7	292	58.0
35 to 44 years	2 361	63.1	577	49.0	2 938	60.3
45 to 54 years	3 263	62.5	274	50.2	3 537	61.5
55 to 64 years	1 625	56.7	128	50.2	1 753	56.2
65 years or more	909	36.1	*60	34.7	969	36.0
Total	8 381	58.6	1 109	48.6	9 490	57.4

HOURS WORKED PER AVERAGE WEEK BY GENERAL PRACTITIONERS AND SPECIALISTS BY AGE RANGE, 1994-95



8

GENERAL PRACTITIONERS AND SPECIALISTS BY TYPE OF ACTIVITY, 1994-95

Type of activity	Average hours worked per week	
	General practitioners	Specialists
Private practice patient activities	42.3	37.9
Private practice administration and management	2.4	3.6
As a visiting medical officer	1.4	8.6
Medical officer activities in hospitals	0.9	2.7
Other activities	4.0	4.6
Total	51.0	57.4

9

GENERAL PRACTITIONERS BY NUMBER OF CONSULTATIONS/CONTACTS, 1994-95

Number of private patient consultations/contacts per week	Males		Females		Total	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Less than 20	289	2.5	194	4.1	482	2.9
20-59	739	6.3	1 116	23.7	1 855	11.3
60-79	549	4.7	574	12.2	1 123	6.9
80-99	689	5.9	602	12.8	1 291	7.9
100-149	3 523	30.2	1 328	28.2	4 850	29.6
150-199	3 448	29.5	622	13.2	4 070	24.8
200-299	2 156	18.5	228	4.9	2 384	14.6
300 or more	285	2.4	*38	0.8	323	2.0
Total	11 677	100.0	4 701	100.0	16 379	100.0

10

SPECIALISTS BY NUMBER OF CONSULTATIONS/CONTACTS, 1994-95

Number of private patient consultations/contacts per week	Total	
	no.	%
Less than 20	946	10.0
20-59	4 116	43.4
60-79	1 161	12.2
80-99	947	10.0
100-149	1 213	12.8
150-199	495	5.2
200-299	358	3.8
300 or more	254	2.7
Total	9 490	100.0

11

SPECIALISTS BY PRINCIPAL SPECIALTIES AND NUMBER OF CONSULTATIONS/CONTACTS, 1994-95

Principal specialty	Consultations/contacts			Total
	Less than 60	60-99	100 or more	
	no.	no.	no.	
Anaesthesia	1 091		*52 ¹	1 143
Dermatology	*20	40	178	239
Diagnostic imaging	151	155	547	853
Internal medicine	1 241	554	335	2 130
Obstetrics and gynaecology	263	246	328	837
Ophthalmology	160	131	312	602
Pathology	*37	*14	171	223
Psychiatry	829	190	*41	1 060
Surgery	1 220	713	390	2 323
Other	49		*30 ¹	79
Total	5 062	2 108	2 320	9 490

¹ Denotes 60 or more consultations

EXPLANATORY NOTES

- INTRODUCTION** **1** This publication contains data derived from a survey of medical practitioners for the reference period 1994-95.
- SURVEY SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY** **2** The survey was conducted by mail. The sample of medical practitioners in the survey was selected from the Health Insurance Commission's Medicare Provider File. The information provided by the Commission was in accordance with the secrecy provision under Section 130 of the Health Insurance Act. For the purposes of this publication the scope of the survey included all pathologists and all other medical practitioners who were coded on the Provider File as providing at least 50 services in the six month period November 1994 to April 1995 and who were mainly working in private practice. It was considered that medical practitioners with less than 50 services in the six month period would generally not be mainly working in private practice.
- 3** For completeness and as a check of the adequacy of the above criterion, a small survey of 'low activity' medical practitioners (i.e. those coded on the Health Insurance Commission's Medicare Provider File as providing between 0 and 50 services in the six month period, November 1994 to April 1995) was also conducted. Results from that survey are not included in the tables in the publication but summary information is provided in paragraph 15 of the Explanatory Notes.
- 4** Medical practitioners who mainly worked in hospitals and other institutions such as universities, government departments, etc. on a salary basis and who primarily service non-private patients were excluded.
- STATISTICAL UNIT** **5** The unit for which statistics were reported in the survey was the individual medical practitioner.
- REFERENCE PERIOD** **6** Data contained in the tables of this publication relate to private practice medical practitioners who worked in Australia at any time during the year ended 30 June 1995.
- RELIABILITY OF DATA** **7** The estimates presented in this publication are subject to both sampling and non-sampling error.
- SAMPLING ERRORS** **8** Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample of medical practitioners in the surveyed population, the estimates are subject to sampling variability, that is, they may differ from figures that would have been obtained if all medical practitioners had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have been varied by chance because only a sample of medical practitioners was included.

9 There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all medical practitioners had been included in the survey, and approximately nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

10 Sampling variability can be measured by the relative standard error (RSE) which is obtained by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the estimate to which it refers. The RSE is a useful measure in that it provides an immediate indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred due to sampling, and thus avoids the need to refer also to the size of the estimate.

11 The following table contains estimates of RSEs for a selection of statistics presented in this publication.

RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS AND SPECIALISTS BY AGE RANGE AND SEX, 1994-95

Item	Age (years)					Total
	Less than 35	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 or more	
	%	%	%	%	%	%
General practitioners						
Males	8	4	6	7	9	2
Females	8	7	9	29	28	4
Total general practitioners	5	3	5	7	8	1
Specialists						
Males	18	5	4	6	8	1
Females	36	11	15	23	36	7
Total specialists	16	4	4	6	8	1
Total private practice medical practitioners						
Males	7	3	3	5	6	1
Females	8	6	8	18	22	3
Total practitioners	5	3	3	5	6	...

12 As an example of the above, an estimate of the total number of private practice general practitioners less than 35 years of age is 2,863 and the RSE is 5% giving a standard error of 143. Therefore, there would be two chances in three that, if all units had been included in the survey, a figure within the range of 2,720 to 3,006 general practitioners would have been obtained, and nineteen chances in twenty that the figure would have been within the range of 2,577 to 3,149 general practitioners (a confidence interval of 95%).

13 Where the RSE of an estimate included in this publication exceeds 25%, it has been annotated with an asterisk (*) as a warning to users.

NON-SAMPLING ERROR

14 Errors other than standard errors may occur because of deficiencies in the population of units from which the sample was selected, non-response and imperfections in reporting by respondents. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling errors and may occur in any collection, whether it be census or a sample. Every effort has been made to reduce non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design and testing of questionnaires, efficient operating procedures and systems used to compile the statistics.

COVERAGE

15 As a check on the adequacy of using 50 services or more (refer paragraph 2) as a criterion for identifying medical practitioners who were mainly working in private practice, a selection of low activity medical practitioners (i.e. those with less than 50 services in the six month period November 1994 to April 1995) was surveyed. These results are not included in this publication, however, the following table contains estimates for these low activity medical practitioners, who were predominantly in private practice.

LOW ACTIVITY MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS, PREDOMINENTLY PRIVATE PRACTICE, 1994-95

<i>Item</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number of general practitioners	no.	3 091
Number of specialists	no.	1 513
<i>Total medical practitioners</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>4 604</i>
Number of consultations per average working week	no.	35
Average number of hours worked per week in private practice activities	h	23.8

16 The above table indicates a significant number of 'low activity' medical practitioners who were mainly working in private practice. However, the level of private practice medical activity of these medical practitioners is small, as the 4,604 'low activity' medical practitioners account for 5% of the private medical practice consultations made in an average working week.

17 In addition to the above, it is estimated that there is a further 2,910 medical practitioners who are not predominantly working in private practice but do undertake some private practice activity. These medical practitioners account for 1.5% of private practice consultations made in an average working week.

AVAILABILITY OF UNPUBLISHED STATISTICS

18 As well as statistics included in this publication, the ABS has a range of more detailed data on medical practitioners. For example, more detailed data on recognised general practitioners and State dissections may be made available on request.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS IN THIS SERIES	19 Detailed information on employment, income and expenses of private practice medical businesses (practices) in Australia in 1994–95 will be released in the publication, <i>Private Medical Practice Industry, Australia, 1994–95</i> (8685.0).
ROUNDING	Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between the sum of the components and the total.
SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES	<p data-bbox="542 470 917 504">— nil or rounded to zero</p> <p data-bbox="542 537 1388 616">* subject to sampling variability too high for practical purposes (i.e. relative standard error greater than 25%)</p> <p data-bbox="542 649 1388 728">** subject to sampling variability too high for practical purposes (i.e. relative standard error greater than 50%)</p> <p data-bbox="542 750 1005 777">ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics</p>

GLOSSARY

- Anaesthesia** The specialty or branch of medicine which concerns the administering of anaesthetics. Anaesthesia also includes the field of intensive care (anaesthetics).
- Note that general practitioners who predominantly administer anaesthetics have been treated as general practitioners for the purposes of this survey.
- Consultations/contacts** Refers to individual private patient consultations/contacts/episodes made by medical practitioners. Medical practitioners were asked to supply the estimated number of private patient consultations/contacts in an average week.
- Dermatology** The specialty or branch of medicine dealing with the skin, its structure, functions, diseases and treatment.
- Diagnostic imaging** The specialty or branch of medicine concerned with radioactive substances, X-rays and other ionizing radiations and with their utilization in the diagnosis and treatment of disease. Included are the fields of diagnostic radiology and nuclear imaging radiology.
- General practitioner** A general practitioner is a qualified doctor who provides primary, continuing and comprehensive whole-person care to individuals, families and the community. Both recognised and non-recognised general practitioners are included in the survey.
- Internal medicine** The specialty or branch of medicine which deals with the diagnosis and medical therapy of diseases of the internal organ systems and the non-surgical management of diseases.
- Specialists in this field are also known as specialist or consulting physicians. It includes general medicine, cardiology, clinical haematology, clinical immunology (including allergy), clinical pharmacology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, geriatrics, infectious diseases, medical oncology, neurology, paediatric medicine, renal medicine, rheumatology and thoracic medicine.
- Medical practitioner** A medically qualified person engaged in practising medicine.
- Non-private practice** Refers to medical practitioners who are paid a salary for their services from organisations such as hospitals, government departments, universities, research institutes and insurance companies.
- Obstetrics and gynaecology** The specialty or branch of medicine concerning the care of women and their offspring during pregnancy and parturition, with continued care of the women during the puerperium. It includes gynaecological oncology, reproductive endocrinology and infertility, urogynaecology and maternal-foetal medicine.

Ophthalmology	The specialty or branch of medicine which involves the structure, functions and diseases of the eye and of the visual system.
Other (specialty)	Other covers radiation oncology and any other specialties not separately identified.
Pathology	The specialty or branch of medicine which involves the laboratory detection of disease as distinguished from the use of clinical signs and symptoms. Pathology includes general pathology, anatomical pathology, clinical chemistry, cytopathology, forensic pathology, haematology, immunology and microbiology.
Primary medical qualification	Refers to the initial medical qualification obtained by the medical practitioner.
Private practice	Refers to medical practitioners working alone or in a group arrangement whose remuneration is determined by the fees received for providing medical services to patients. Both general practitioners and specialists can be remunerated in this way.
Psychiatry	The specialty or branch of medicine that deals with the origins, diagnosis, prevention and treatment of mental and emotional disorders and, by extension, of many problems of personal adjustment. It also includes the special field of consulting physician – psychiatry.
Specialist	A doctor who is qualified to practise in a particular speciality or branch of medicine and provides care/services to individuals, families and the community.
Surgery (incl. otolaryngology)	The specialty or branch of medicine dealing with trauma and disease requiring operative procedure, including manipulation. Otolaryngology includes otology, rhinology, laryngology and surgery of the head and neck. Surgery includes the fields of general, cardio-thoracic, neuro, orthopaedic, paediatric and plastic surgery and urology.
Visiting medical officer (VMO)	VMOs are general practitioners or specialists in private practice who attend public hospitals in order to treat public patients.



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