

Surgical Workforce 2020 Census Report

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Royal Australasian College of Surgeons 2020 Surgical Workforce Census Summary Report

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ABBREVIATIONS

~	Not Applicable
%	Percentage of respondents
AoNZ	Aotearoa New Zealand
AMA	Australian Medical Association
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
AUS	Australia
CAR	Cardiothoracic surgery
CPD	Continuing Professional Development
F	Female
GEN	General surgery
IQR	Interquartile range
Μ	Male
Ν	Number of Fellows that responded to the Census question
NEU	Neurosurgery
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
ORT	Orthopaedic surgery
OTO	Otolaryngology Head and Neck surgery
PAE	Paediatric surgery
PLA	Plastic and Reconstructive surgery
QLD	Queensland
RACS	Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
SA	South Australia
SD	Standard deviation
SET	Surgical Education and Training Program
TAS	Tasmania
URO	Urology
VAS	Vascular surgery
VIC	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

INTRODUCTION

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS), formed in 1927, is a non-profit organisation that is responsible for training surgeons and maintaining surgical standards across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. RACS' purpose is to be the unifying force for surgery in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, with FRACS standing for excellence in surgical care.

The Surgical Workforce Census commenced in 2005 and is conducted every two years. The Census is an important tool to assist RACS in its workforce planning and advocacy. It also provides additional information regarding numerous factors that affect surgeons in their day-to-day work. This allows RACS to build a picture of the challenges facing the surgical workforce and to help identify those areas in which RACS needs to advocate and find solutions.

This is the seventh Surgical Workforce Census conducted by RACS. Reports on our previous Censuses can be found on our website (www.surgeons.org).

KEY FINDINGS

Work Patterns

- Full time Fellows worked an average of 47.1 hours per week in 2020 compared to 50 hours in 2018, 51 hours in 2016 and 53 hours in 2014. This is a small but consistent decrease in average hours worked per week reported over the past six years. COVID-19 pandemic restrictions may have impacted on work practices for some Fellows during 2020.
- Fellows who work full time reported a preference to work almost three hours less than their current average of 47.1 hours per week.
- Fellows who work part time reported similar averages when comparing weekly hours worked and preferred hours. Locums preferred to work on average 4.3 more hours than they currently work.
- Fellows in the private sector reported working longer hours in consulting work than their public sector counterparts. Time spent on procedural work was similar in private and public sectors, however, Fellows in the public sector spent more time on administration.
- Almost a quarter of Fellows were involved in other forms of paid employment such as clinical education/ assessment and medico legal work.

Rural and Regional Practice

- Approximately 22% of Australian Fellows reported working solely in rural or regional locations. For Aotearoa New Zealand Fellows, approximately 19% reported working outside major cities only.
- Of the Fellows who worked in rural or regional locations only, almost 48% were full time and reported working on average 43.7 hours per week. This is slightly less than the overall average hours per week recorded for all full time respondents (47.1 hours).
- Approximately 13% of Fellows engaged in outreach services monthly and 6% reported working in outreach services weekly, including both metropolitan and regionally based Fellows. Of the 13% engaged in monthly outreach, 82% of respondents (N=51) are from Australia and 18% (N=11) are from Aotearoa New Zealand.
- The majority of Fellows indicated no intention to change their future work hours in rural or regional settings over the next five year.

Pro Bono Work

- Over 70% of Fellows participated in pro bono or volunteer work in 2020.
- The most frequently reported pro bono activities were contributions to RACS, including the SET Program, followed by domestic clinical work.
- For RACS pro bono roles, almost one in four Fellows contributed as an educational instructor/ presenter and one in five Fellows gave their time as a surgical mortality audit assessor.
- Fellows reported working on average 9.4 hours per month on pro bono activities.

Wellbeing

- Administrative regulation and processes continue to rate as a high to extreme source of stress for Fellows, rating higher than COVID-19.
- Almost three quarters of Fellows monitored their health in the last two years, visiting a medical doctor for a health check-up or at regular intervals as dictated by existing medical conditions (72%).
- Nine percent of Fellows reported seeking professional assistance for stress or mental health issues in the last two years.
- One quarter of female respondents reported returning to work within six weeks of taking parental leave.

Future Work Intentions

- Fellows aged 40 69 intend on reducing their preferred weekly hours worked gradually over the next 10 years, with no major differences between female and male Fellows.
- Over 40% of Fellows aged over 50 years plan to retire from all forms of paid work within the next ten years.
- Most Fellows aged 65 years or older who intend to continue in paid employment will maintain work predominately because they are doing work that they enjoy.

METHOD

Surgeon Eligibility Criteria

All surgeons who are Fellows of RACS and whose usual workplace was in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand were eligible to participate in the 2020 Surgical Workforce Census via an online survey. RACS Fellows are surgeons who have passed the Fellowship Examination in one of the following specialties: Cardiothoracic surgery (CAR), General surgery (GEN), Neurosurgery (NEU), Orthopaedic surgery (ORT), Otolaryngology Head and Neck (OTO), Paediatric surgery (PAE), Plastic surgery (PLA), Urology (URO) or Vascular surgery (VAS). Surgeons that trained in the specialties of Ophthalmology or Obstetrics and gynaecology and RACS Fellows working outside Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand were not eligible to participate in the Census.

A Fellow may be defined as 'Active', 'Semi-retired' or 'Retired' (i.e., no longer registered to practise medicine). At the time of the Census commencement, there were 6870 Fellows in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand eligible to participate. Of those, 369 opted out of communication or did not have an email address registered with RACS. Hence the final survey was issued to 6501 Fellows.

Table 1.1: 2020 Surgical Workforce Census target population

	Total
All Active and Retired Fellows eligible	6870
No email/ no communication request	369
Total no. of Census invitations	6501

Census Questionnaire

The Census consists of a set of core questions that were considered relevant to the Fellows' day-to-day work, future work intentions and wellbeing. More specifically, Fellows were asked to reflect upon their workforce status, weekly hours of work at present and as intended in the future, frequency of emergency on-call work, private billing practices (where applicable), retirement intentions, leave taken, stressors, health monitoring, and pro bono roles, including contributions to RACS.

Data Analysis

When a question elicited a "not applicable" answer, the response was excluded from the total. Respondents that did not answer a question were excluded from analysis of that question. At the time of survey, a small proportion of valid responses (2.2%) were from Fellows reporting that they currently live outside of Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand; these were also excluded from further analysis.

Table 1.2: Summary of respondents excluded from analysis

Total no. of respondents	1783	
No. of respondents overseas (excluded)	39	2.2%
No. unusable, partially complete respondents (excluded)	181	10.2%
No. duplicate respondents (excluded)	0	0.0%
Final no. of valid respondents	1563	

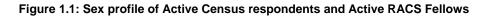
Data were analysed (where applicable) by segments including sex (male/ female), age (≤39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, ≥80), location (8 Australian states/ territories and/ or Aotearoa New Zealand), country (Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand), specialty (CAR, GEN, NEU, ORT, OTO, PAE, PLA, URO, VAS) and workforce status (full time, part time, locum). Unless otherwise stated, descriptive statistics presented in this report are based on results of the respondent population, imputation or weighting methods have not been applied.

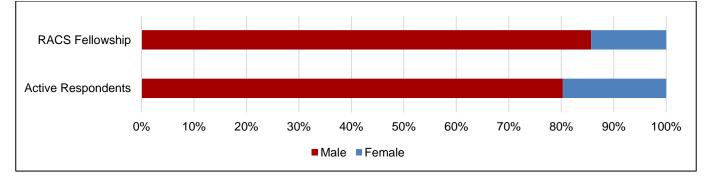
Chapter 1 – Descriptive Statistics

RACS achieved a 24.0% response rate (N=1563) for the 2020 Surgical Workforce Census, compared to 28.8% in 2018.¹ The country-specific response rate was 21.5% of Australian Fellows and 32.7% of Aotearoa New Zealand Fellows. For 1880 Fellows, the online survey response status was recorded as "unopened". As a result, the response rate could be between 24.0% (6501 invitations) and 33.2% (4701 invitations).

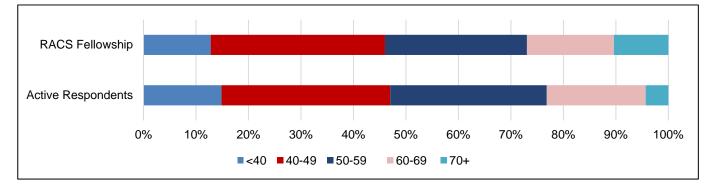
Out of 1563 respondents, 1351 were in Active practice, while 212 reported to be Retired.

To establish representativeness of the results, the Active respondents were compared with Active Fellows from the RACS 2020 Activities Report.² The respondents represent a consistent demographic profile to that of the RACS Active Fellowship population, with similar age group, sex and specialty profiles. In addition, all Australian states and territories and Aotearoa New Zealand were broadly represented in the final data set when compared to the Fellowship (Figure 1.1 to Figure 1.4).

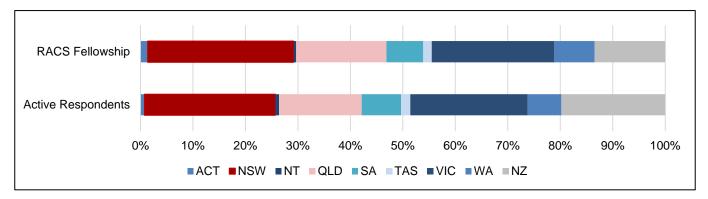












Note: Refer to Table A1.1 to A1.3 in Appendix A for the tabulated data

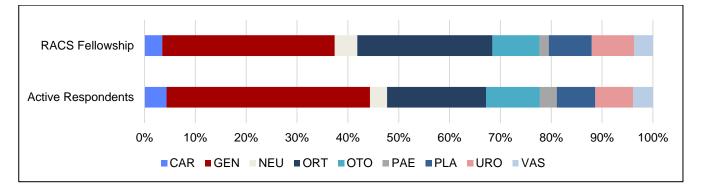


Figure 1.4: Specialty profile of Active Census respondents and Active RACS Fellows

Note: Refer to Table A1.4 Appendix A for the tabulated data

In terms of Fellowship status, 74% of respondents identified as an Active Fellow, 12.4% as a Semi-retired Fellow and 13.6% a Retired Fellow (Figure 1.5).

The mean age of respondents (Active and Retired) was 57 years compared to 57 years in 2018¹ and 53 years in 2016.³ With the mean age of 48 years, female Fellows were 11.5 years younger on average than their male counterparts.

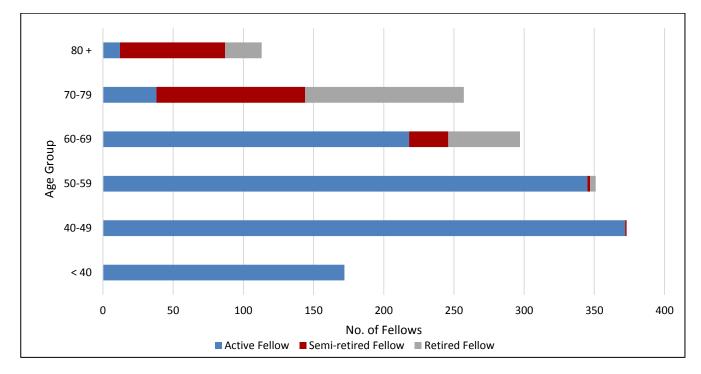


Figure 1.5: Age distribution and Fellowship status of Census respondents

Note: Refer to Table A1.5 and A1.6 in Appendix A for the tabulated data

Summary

- Fellows employed full time worked an average of 47.1 hours per week compared to 50 hours in 2018, 51 hours in 2016 and 53 hours in 2014. This is a small but consistent decrease in average hours per week worked reported over the past six years.
- Fellows who work full time reported a preference to work almost three hours less than their current average of 47.1 hours per week.
- Fellows who work part time reported similar averages when comparing weekly hours worked and preferred hours (20.9 and 22.6 respectively).
- Locums preferred to work on average 4.3 more hours than they are currently working.
- Fellows in the private sector reported working longer hours in consulting work than their public sector counterparts. Time spent on procedural work was similar in private and public sectors, however, Fellows in the public sector spent more time on administration.
- In the public sector, one in ten Fellows worked more than the recommended emergency oncall period of 1:4.
- Almost a quarter of Fellows were involved in other forms of paid employment such as clinical education/ assessment and medico legal work.

Employment Status

Just over 63% of Active Fellows reported that they were working full time (Figure 2.1). Only five respondents aged 59 years or less reported that they were unemployed at the time of the Census.

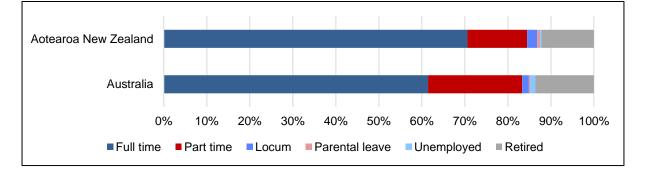
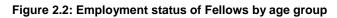
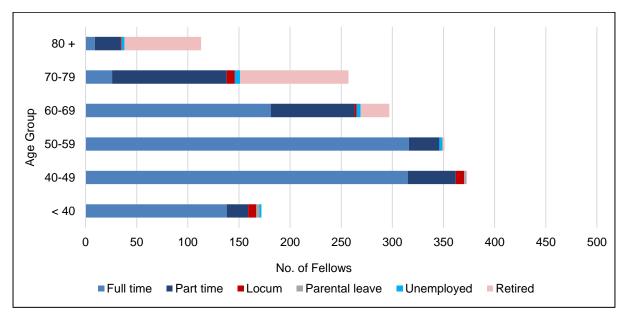


Figure 2.1: Employment status of Fellows by country

Note: Refer to Table A2.1 in Appendix A for the tabulated data

On average eighteen percent of Fellows reported that they were working in a part time capacity. The majority of Fellows who reported part time employment were aged 60 years or older, reflecting a career transition into retirement. Locum work was undertaken by a very small proportion of Fellows, 1.7% of respondents (Figure 2.2).





Note: Refer to Table A2.2 in Appendix A for the tabulated data

Work Hours

Fellows employed full time reported working an average of 47.1 hours per week, although they preferred to work almost three hours less a week (Figure 2.3). The reported average hours of full time work per week was 50 hours in 2018, 51 hours in 2016 and 53 hours per week in 2014. ⁴ This is a small but consistent decrease in average hours per week reported over the past six years.

Part time Fellows worked on average 20.9 hours per week compared to 19.6 hours per week in 2018 and locums reported working 20.6 hours per week, less hours than previously reported (25 hours per week in 2018). Part time Fellows reported a preference of similar hours to those currently worked in 2020 (approximately 22.6 hours) and locums reported a preference to work an average of 4.3 more per week.

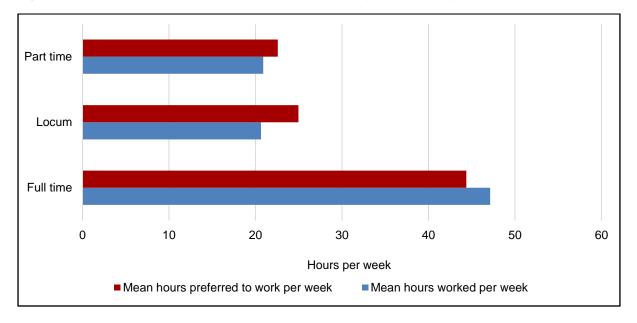


Figure 2.3: Mean hours worked per week and preferred weekly work hours by workforce status

Note: Refer to Table A2.3 in Appendix A for the tabulated data

Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

Until the age of 60 years, female Fellows worked on average 44.9 hours a week, while male Fellow reported working on average 44 hours a week. Compared to other age groups, female Fellows aged 50-59 worked the longest average hours per week (46.2 hours), while male Fellows in the same age bracket reported working on average 44.5 hours. Fellows aged 70-80+ years (male and female) had the lowest average hours worked per week (27.6 hours), an indicator of transitioning into retirement (Figure 2.4).

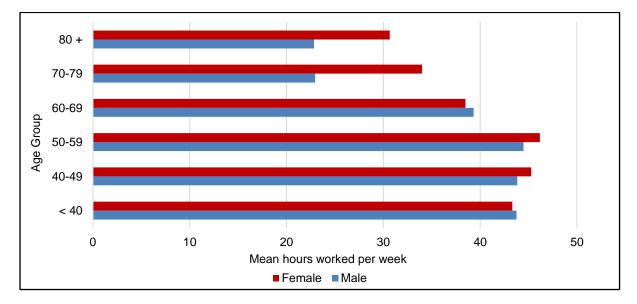


Figure 2.4: Mean hours worked per week by age group

Note: Refer to Table A2.4 in Appendix A for the tabulated data

Full time Urologists reported the longest average hours worked per week (46.6 hours). This is a change compared to previous Census results, with full time Neurosurgeons reporting the longest hours worked per week (55.1 hours in 2018 and 55 hours in 2016). In 2020 Otolaryngologists reported the shortest average hours worked per week (37.2 hours) (Figure 2.5). Paediatric surgeons and Cardiothoracic surgeons reported working similar hours to their preference. The biggest difference between hours worked and preferred hours was reported by Vascular surgeons, preferring to work on average 3.5 hours less per week than the 38.9 hours average reported.

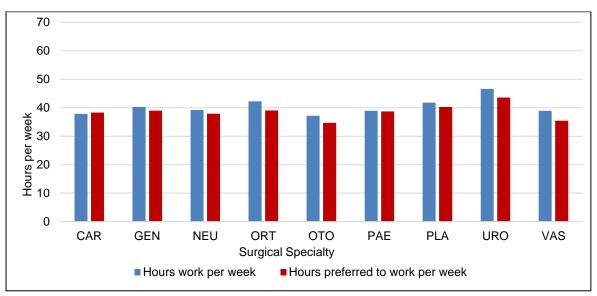
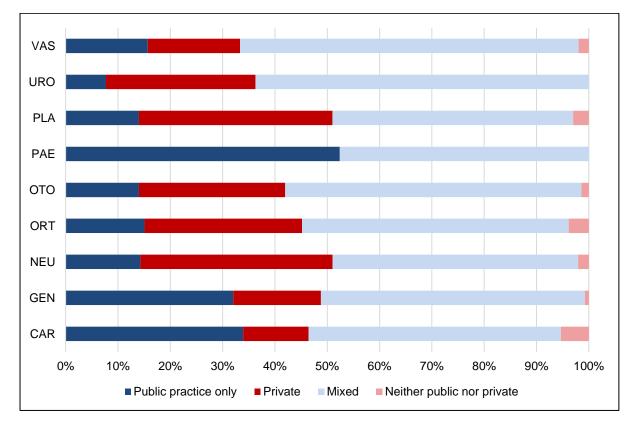


Figure 2.5: Mean hours worked per week and preferred weekly work hours of full time Fellows by specialty

Note: Refer to Table A2.5 in Appendix A for the tabulated data

Public and Private Sector Employment

Fifty-three percent of respondents reported working in public and private practice, compared to 60% in 2018. Paediatric surgery had the highest percentage of respondents who only worked in public practice (52.4%). Conversely, Plastic and Reconstructive surgery had the highest percentage of respondents who only worked in private practice (37.0%). The highest percentage of reported mixed practice was Vascular surgery (64.7%) (Figure 2.6).



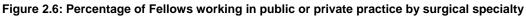
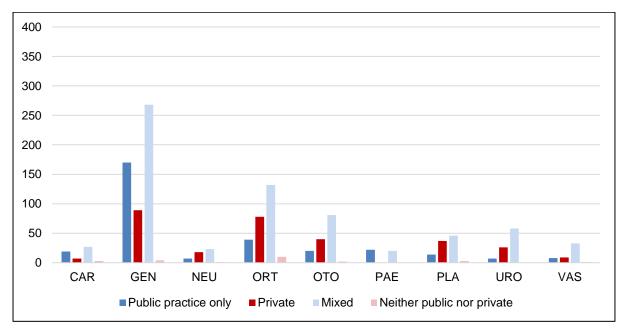


Figure 2.7: Number of Fellows working in public or private practice by surgical specialty



Note: Refer to Table A2.6 and A2.7 in Appendix A for the tabulated data

Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

Fellows were asked to report on their average number of hours worked per week for consulting, procedural and administrative work (Table 2.1 & 2.2).

Fellows in the private sector reported working more hours per week consulting than their public sector counterparts, with a median of 14 hours per week, compared to seven hours a week consulting in the public sector. With the exception of Paediatric surgery, the median weekly hours spent on consulting work were higher in the private sector for all specialties. For some specialties like Neurosurgery, Orthopaedic surgery and Otolaryngology and Urology, the median hours spent on consulting in the private sector was double or more for the time spent on consulting in the public sector.

Fellows in the public sector reported spending more time on administrative work, reporting a median of five hours on average per week, compared to two hours per week in private practice.

	Consulting (IQR)	Procedural work (IQR)	Administration (IQR)
CAR	9 (5 – 12.75)	10 (8 - 18)	6 (2 – 10.5)
GEN	8 (4 - 12)	10 (6 - 16)	5 (2 - 10)
NEU	6 (3 - 10)	10 (4 - 15)	4 (2 - 12)
ORT	6 (4 - 10)	10 (5 - 12)	4 (2 - 10)
ото	6 (4 - 10)	10 (7 - 14)	4 (2 - 10)
PAE	10 (4.75 – 12.75)	10 (8.5 - 20)	7 (2 - 10)
PLA	8 (5 - 12)	12 (8 - 15)	5 (2 - 9.75)
URO	5 (4 – 9.5)	10 (6 – 14.75)	4 (2 - 6)
VAS	7 (4 - 10)	10 (6 - 15)	5 (2 - 8)
TOTAL	7 (4 - 10)	10 (6 - 15)	5 (2 - 10)

 Table 2.1: Median hours per week with interquartile range (IQR) Fellows spent on consulting, procedural work and administrative work in the public sector by surgical specialty

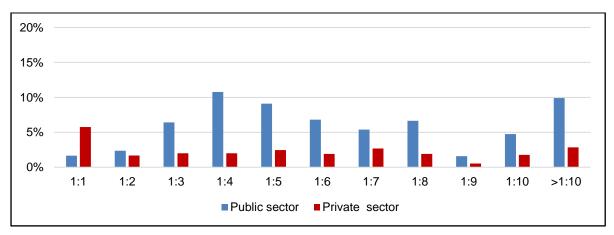
Table 2.2: Median hours per week with interquartile range (IQR) Fellows spent on consulting, procedural work and administration in the private sector by surgical specialty

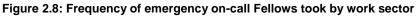
	Consulting (IQR)	Procedural work (IQR)	Administration (IQR)
CAR	15.5 (6 - 20)	8 (5 – 12.5)	3 (1 - 5)
GEN	15 (8 - 20)	10 (6 - 16)	2 (1.75 - 5)
NEU	15 (7.5- 20)	12 (6 – 19.5)	3 (1.5 - 7)
ORT	12 (8 - 20)	10 (6 - 17)	2 (1 – 4.5)
ото	12 (8 – 19.25)	10 (5 - 15)	2 (1 – 5)
PAE	10 (8 - 16)	10 (5.5 - 15.5)	4 (2 – 6.5)
PLA	13 (7.75 - 20)	10 (5 - 12)	3 (2 - 5)
URO	14 (6.5 - 20)	12 (6.5 - 20)	2 (1 - 5)
VAS	10 (5 - 20)	10 (5 - 15)	2 (1.5 - 6)
TOTAL	14 (8 - 20)	10 (6 - 16)	2 (1 - 5)

Compared to 2018 and 2016 Census results, the median hours spent on consulting and procedural work remains stable for both public and private sectors. The median time spent on administration in the public sector has increased (five hours per week on average in 2020, compared to two hours per week in 2018 and 2016). The private sector median hours spent on administration also remains stable (2 hours per week on average in 2020, compared to one hour per week in 2018 and 2016).

Fewer Fellows in the private sector reported undertaking emergency on-call work compared to the public sector. Almost 68% of Fellows in the private sector reported they do not undertake emergency on call work, compared to 34.5% of Fellows working in the public sector. Of those doing on-call work in the public sector, one in ten Fellows undertook emergency on-call more frequently than the recommended 1:4 rotation ⁵ (Figure 2.8), compared to one in six Fellows reported in 2018 and 2016.

Approximately 6% of respondents who undertook emergency on-call work in the private sector did so at 1:1 frequency. However, this is likely to reflect the permanent 'on-call' state Fellows maintain for their patients in private hospitals.



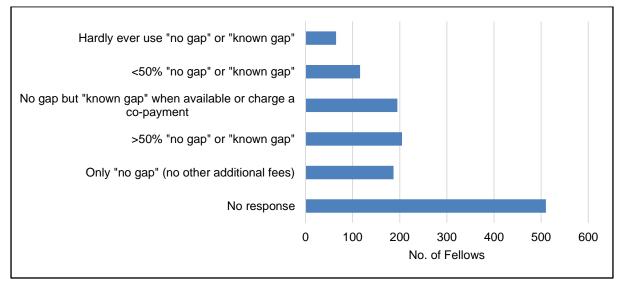


Note: Refer to Table A2.8 in Appendix A for the tabulated data

Private Billing Practices

The Surgical Workforce Census collects data on private billing practices. Australian Fellows who work in the private sector were asked to describe how their procedural billing is obtained, considering their total private procedural income. Responses were spread across the range of options, with 16.0% of Fellows selecting >50% "no gap" or "known gap", 15.3% selecting "no gap" but "known gap" when available or charge a co-payment and 14.6% selecting only "now gap" (no other additional fees). Just over 9% reported <50% "no gap" or "known gap" and a further 5% advised they hardly ever use "no gap" or "known gap" (Figure 2.9).



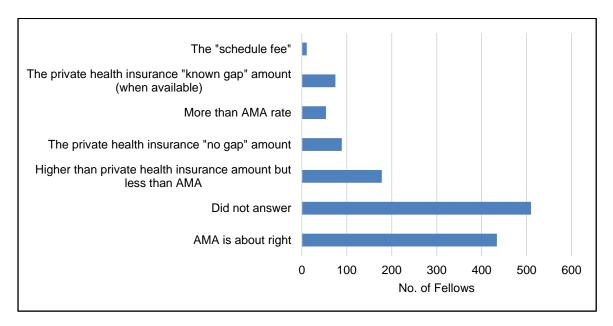


Note: Refer to Table A2.9 in Appendix A for the tabulated data

Fellows were also asked what they consider to be a fair professional fee, ignoring their current billing practice.

Almost 30% of respondents reported that the Australian Medical Associating (AMA) fee is about right as a fair professional fee (N=434). The second most frequently selected option was higher than the private health insurance amount, but less that the AMA (11%). This reflects private billing results recorded in 2018 (Figure 2.10).

Figure 2.10: Consideration of fair professional fee, ignoring current private billing practices



Note: Refer to Table A2.10 in Appendix A for the tabulated data

Of the 434 Fellows who reported that they consider the AMA to be about right in terms of a fair professional fee, the most frequently selected options for obtaining private billing income were >50% no gap" or "known gap" (N=121) and "no gap" but "known gap" when available or charge a co-payment (N=104). For a crosstabulation of the results for how private billing is obtained and what Fellows considered to be a fair professional fee, refer to Table 2.10a in Appendix A.

The results for consideration of fair professional fee were reviewed by each surgical specialty.

Almost 43% of General surgeons reported the AMA is about right, compared to 16% of Paediatric surgeons. The lack of support for the "schedule fee" as a fair professional fee was consistent across the surgical specialties and mirrors 2016 Census results (Figure 2.11).

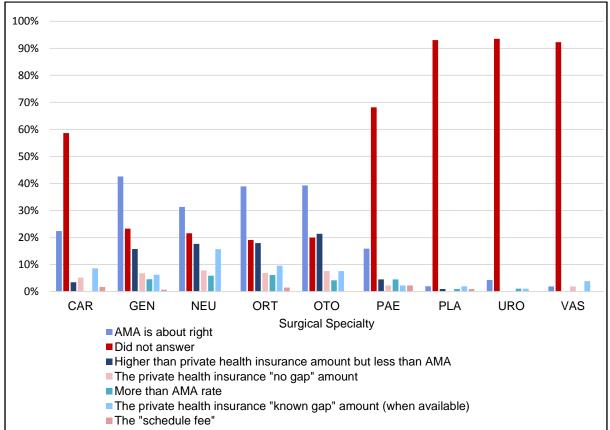


Figure 2.11: Consideration of fair professional fee, ignoring current private billing practices by specialty

Note: Refer to Table A2.11 in Appendix A for the tabulated data

Other Paid Employment

Almost a quarter of Active Fellows reported that they are involved in other forms of paid employment, an increase from approximately 20% reported in 2018 (Figure 2.12). Fellows aged 40 - 49 years old reported the highest rate of involvement in other forms paid employment. This contrasts with 2018 Census results, where Fellows aged 60 - 69 reported undertaking the most other paid employment.

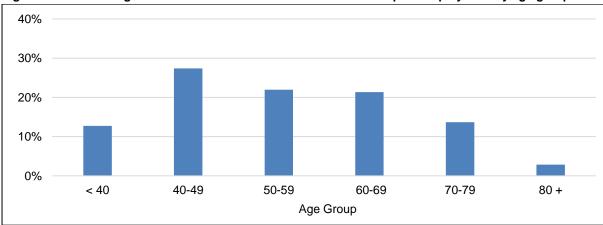


Figure 2.12: Percentage of Active Fellows involved in other forms of paid employment by age group

Note: Refer to Table A2.12 in Appendix A for the tabulated data

The most common forms of other employment Fellows are engaged in are clinical education/ assessment, medico legal work and other paid work (Figure 2.13). In 2018 Fellows reported research/ academia as the most common type of other paid employment followed by clinical education/ assessment.

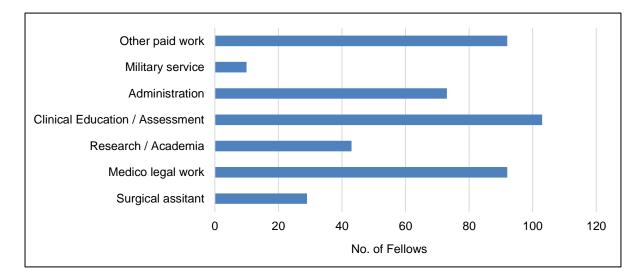


Figure 2.13: Other forms of paid employment for Fellows

Note: Refer to Table A2.13 in Appendix A for the tabulated data

Summary

- Approximately 22% of Australian Fellows reported working solely in rural or regional locations. For Aotearoa New Zealand Fellows, approximately 19% reported working only outside major cities.
- Of the Fellows who worked in rural or regional locations only, almost 48% were full time and reported working on average 43.7 hours per week. This is slightly less than the overall average hours per week recorded for all full time respondents (47.1 hours).
- The majority of Fellows indicated no intention to change their future work hours in rural or regional settings.
- Approximately 13% of Fellows engaged in outreach services monthly and 6% reported working in outreach services weekly, including both metropolitan regionally based Fellows.

Characteristics of the Rural Workforce

Approximately 45% of Australian and 38% of Aotearoa New Zealand respondents reported that they worked in a rural or regional location; this includes those practicing in both capital cities/ metropolitan and rural or regional locations. For Australia, metropolitan or major cities were classified as areas with populations greater than 100,000 (e.g. Sydney, Melbourne, Newcastle, Geelong, Hobart, Gold Coast, Townsville). For Aotearoa New Zealand major cities included Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Hamilton and Dunedin.

For Australia, the proportion of Fellows reporting that they worked in rural or regional locations only was 22.1% (compared to approximately 16% in 2018 and 2016). For Aotearoa New Zealand, the proportion of Fellows reporting they worked only outside major cities was 19.4% (compared to 24% in 2018 and 22% in 2016).

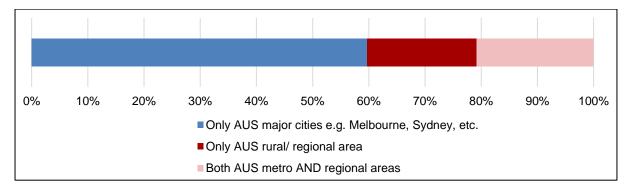
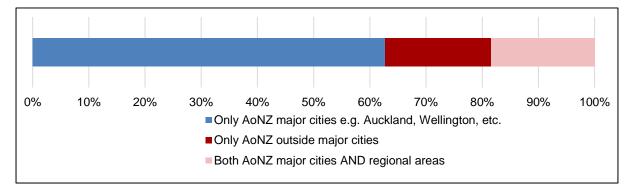


Figure 3.1a: Location of work for Active Fellows, Australia





Note: Refer to Table A3.1 in Appendix A for the tabulated data

For both countries, approximately 46% of Urologists, 44% of Plastic and Reconstructive surgeons and 41% General surgeons reported that they worked in a rural or regional area (including those practicing in both metropolitan and rural or regional areas).

For the subset of Fellows who reported only working in rural or regional locations, a much lower proportion was evident. Of all specialties, General surgery had the highest proportion (21.1%) of Fellows reporting they worked solely in rural or regional locations. There were no, or very few, rural or regional surgeons in Neurosurgery, Cardiothoracic surgery and Vascular surgery compared to the proportions of Fellows in General surgery, Orthopaedic surgery and Otolaryngology Head and Neck surgery and Urology (Figure 3.2).

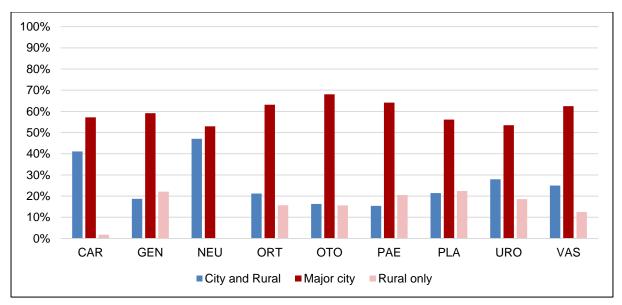
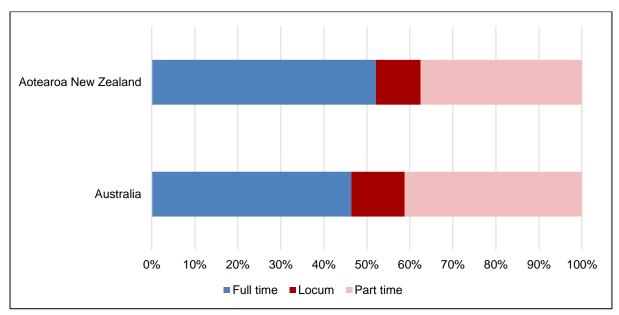


Figure 3.3: Percentage of Fellows practicing in a rural or regional area by surgical specialty

Note: Refer to Table A3.2 in Appendix A for the tabulated data

For Fellows who reported working in rural or regional locations only, (N=427 Australia, N=96 Aotearoa New Zealand), almost 48% were working on a full time basis (Figure 3.3).





Note: Refer to Table A3.3 in Appendix A for the tabulated data

Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

For the subset of Fellows who reported working in rural and regional locations only, their full time average hours worked per week was 43.7 hours (compared to 48.6 hours recorded in 2018). This is less than overall average hours per week for all full time Census respondents (47.1 hours on average per week) in 2020.

Locums who worked in regional or rural settings reported working on average approximately 14 hours (compared to 18.4 hours per week in 2018). This is less than the overall average hours per week for all locums in 2020, 20.6 hours.

Part time Fellows who worked in rural or regional settings reported working on average 19.5 hours per week (compared 19.2 hours per week in 2018) (Figure 3.4). This is similar to the overall average hours worked per week for all part time respondents in 2020 (20.9 hours per week).

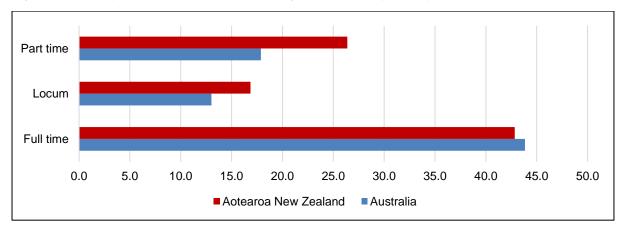


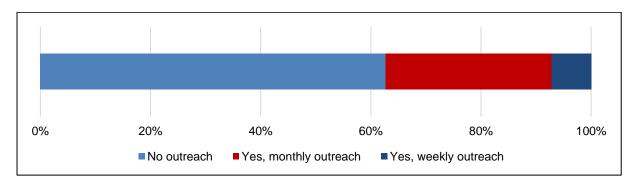
Figure 3.4: Weekly hours worked for rural and regional Fellows by employment status

Note: Refer to Table A3.4 in Appendix A for the tabulated data

Respondents who reported working in both metropolitan and rural or regional locations and those who reported working in rural and regional locations only were asked about their outreach activities.

Outreach surgery is defined as performing surgery in a town where the surgeon is not a resident and may not be available in person for ongoing post-operative care or follow up. Approximately 13% of Fellows in these groups reported engaging in outreach services on a monthly basis (working on average 11.4 hours a month) and 6% reported working in outreach services weekly basis (on average 10.1 hours a week) (Figure 3.5). Of the 13% engaged in monthly outreach, 82% of respondents (N=51) are from Australia and 18% (N=11) are from Aotearoa New Zealand.





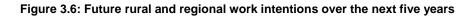
Note: Refer to Table A3.5 in Appendix A for the tabulated data

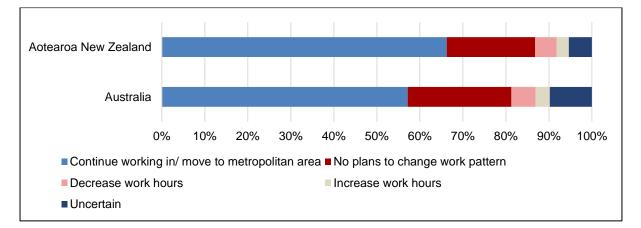
Future Rural and Regional Work Intentions

All Active Fellows were asked about their future work intentions in rural and regional settings over the next five years, including those who do not currently work in rural or regional areas.

The majority of Fellows reported no intentions to change their rural or regional workload over the next five years.

Almost 60% reported they plan to remain practising in a metropolitan setting and 23.5% reported they will continue working in rural or regional areas without change. Approximately 3% reported they intend on increasing their hours and 5.5% reporting they plan to decrease their working hours in rural and regional settings (Figure 3.6).





Note: Refer to Table A3.6 in Appendix A for the tabulated data

Summary

- Over 70% of Fellows participated in pro bono or volunteer work in 2020.
- The most frequently reported pro bono activities were contributions to RACS, including the SET Program, followed by domestic clinical work.
- Fellows reported working on average 9.4 hours per month on pro bono activities.
- For RACS pro bono work, almost one in four Fellows contributed as an educational instructor/ presenter and one in five Fellows gave their time as a surgical mortality audit assessor.

In 2020, 71.4% of Fellows reported undertaking pro bono work or volunteer work. By specialty, the largest proportions were Paediatric surgeons (Figure 4.1).

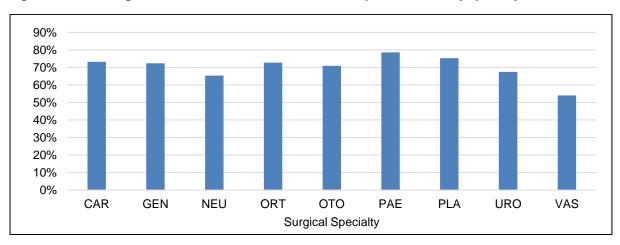
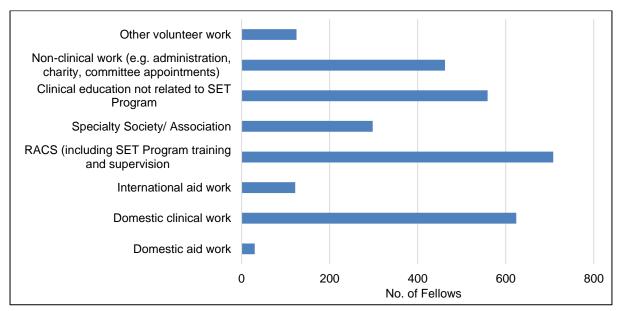


Figure 4.1: Percentage of Fellows who undertake volunteer or pro bono work by specialty

Note: Refer to Table A4.1 in Appendix A for the tabulated data

Three quarters of Fellows undertaking pro bono activities reported contributing to RACS, including the Surgical Education and Training (SET) Program (N=708). Sixty seven percent of Fellows undertook domestic clinical work (N=624) and 60% reported engaging in clinical education not related to the SET Program (N=559).





Note: Refer to Table A4.2 in Appendix A for the tabulated data

Fellows were asked about the number of hours they spent on various pro bono activities. Respondents reported spending on average 9.4 hours a month on unpaid professional services.

Fellows contributed the largest amount of pro bono time to RACS, recording on average 18.8 hours per month. Fellows gave on average 10 hours a month to domestic clinical pro bono work and contributed 9.2 hours on average a month towards non-clinical work (e.g. charity work and committee appointments) (Figure 4.3).

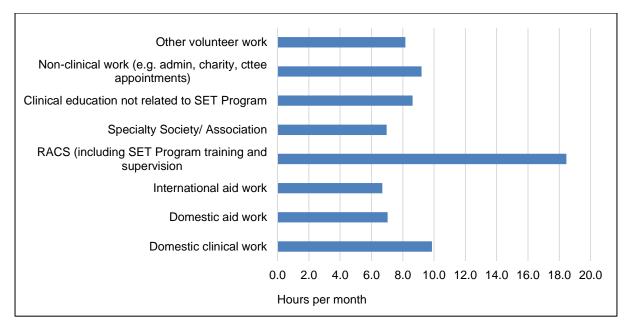
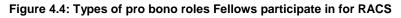


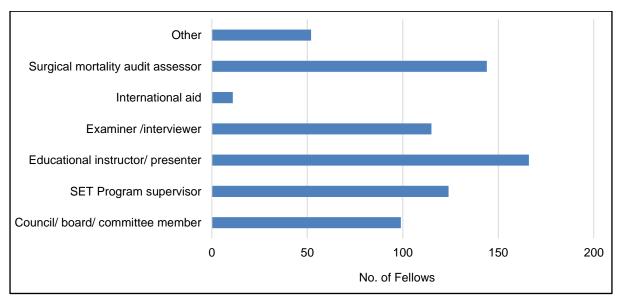
Figure 4.3: Mean hours of pro bono or volunteer activities Fellows participate in

Note: Refer to Table A4.3 in Appendix A for the tabulated data

RACS Pro Bono Roles

Of the Fellows that reported they undertake pro bono work for RACS, the most frequently reported roles were educational instructor/ presenter (N=166) and surgical mortality audit assessor (N=144), similar to 2018 results (Figure 4.4).





Note: Refer to Table A4.4 in Appendix A for the tabulated data

Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

There is strong support from Fellows across all specialties to engage in RACS pro bono activities. Paediatric surgery, General surgery and Cardiothoracic surgery had the highest proportion of representatives involved in RACS pro bono roles (refer to Appendix A4.5).

Previous Census reports collected data on average hours Fellows spent per week on SET Program training, supervision and related work including administrative duties and contributions to educational programs, both in the public and private sectors. In 2020 this information was collected in the SET Supervisor – Time for Supervision survey.

Summary

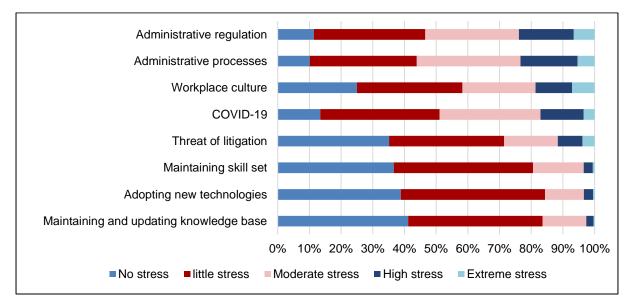
- Administrative regulation and processes continue to rate as a high to extreme source of stress for Fellows, rating higher than COVID-19.
- Almost three quarters of Fellows monitored their health in the last two years, visiting a medical doctor for a health check-up or at regular intervals as dictated by existing medical conditions (72%).
- Nine percent of Fellows reported seeking professional assistance for stress or mental health issues in the last two years.
- One quarter of female respondents reported returning to work within six weeks of taking parental leave.

Stress

Fellows were asked to rate their stress levels experienced for a range of sources and issues, with the addition of COVID-19 for 2020.

High or extreme stress was reported most frequently for administrative regulation (23.9%) and administrative processes (23.4%), consistent with previous Census results in 2018 and 2016. This was followed by workplace culture (18.7%) and COVID-19 (17.1%). For sources of little or moderate stress, Fellows COVID-19 rated the highest (69.5%), followed by administrative processes (66.5%) and administrative regulation (64.7%) (Figure 5.1).







Health Monitoring and Support

Fellows were asked whether they have sought professional assistance to deal with stress or other mental health issues in the last two years. Over 50% (N=810) reported that they have not experienced any mental health issues and almost 35% (N=550) reported that they had not sought professional assistance. Just over 9% of Fellows reported that they had sought professional assistance (N=144). This is consistent with 2018 results and an increase compared to 7.6% recorded in 2016 (Figure 5.2).

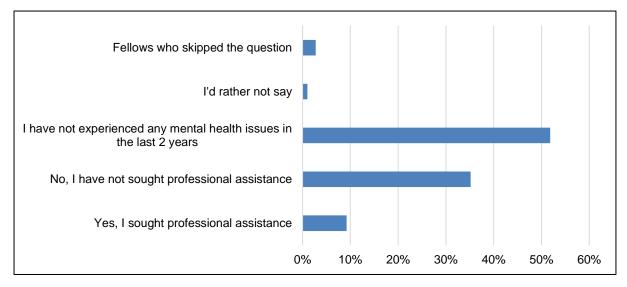


Figure 3.4: Proportion of Fellows who have sought professional assistance to deal with stress or a mental health issue in the last two years

Note: Refer to Table A5.2 in Appendix A for the tabulated data

Most Fellows have had a physical health check-up in the last two years (Figure 5.3), with a total of 72% of Fellows either visiting a medical doctor for a check-up or reporting that they see a GP/ medical doctor at regular intervals.

Twenty percent of Fellows reported that it has been more than two years since their last general health check-up, compared to 23.8% in 2018 and 28.6% in 2016. There continues to be a small decrease in the number of Fellows doing their own health check-ups (7.6% compared to 8.5% in 2018 and 10%, 2016).

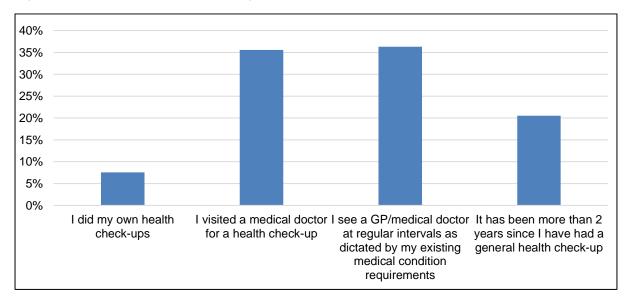


Figure 5.6: How Fellows monitored their general health in the last two years

Note: Refer to Table A5.3 in Appendix A for the tabulated data

Leave

Nearly all respondents took either study leave or annual leave in the past 12 months. The common period of leave was up to one week for CPD/ study leave and three to four weeks for annual leave. This is similar to the Census results for 2018 and 2016 (Figure 5.4).

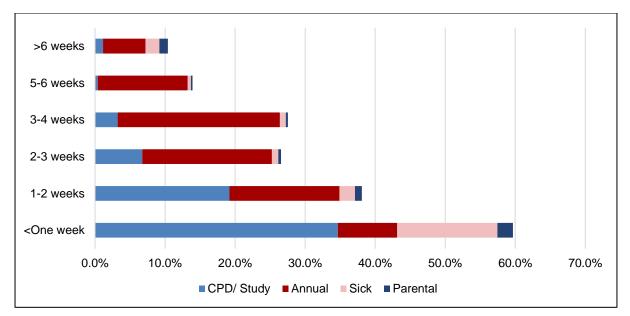
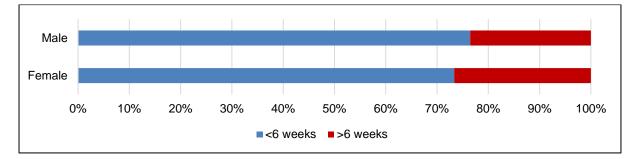


Figure 7.8: Distribution of annual and study leave Fellows took over the past 12 months

Note: Refer to Table A5.4 in Appendix A for the tabulated data

Almost 69% percent of female Fellows (N=11) who reported taking parental leave during 2020 took six weeks or less week of leave. Almost 72% of male Fellows (N=39) took less than six weeks (most taking one to two weeks). Approximately 25% of female Fellows (N=4) reported returning to work after more than six weeks of taking parental leave (Figure 5.5).

Figure 9.10: Duration of parental leave Fellows took over the past 12 months



Note: Refer to Table A5.5 in Appendix A for the tabulated data

Summary

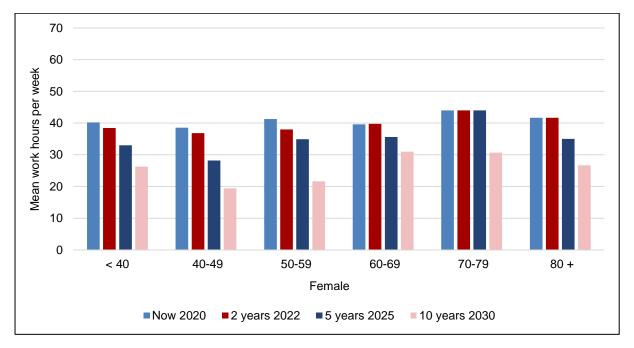
- Fellows aged 40 69 intend on reducing their preferred weekly work hours gradually over the next 10 years, with no major differences between female and male Fellows.
- Over 40% of Fellows aged over 50 years plan to retire from all forms of paid work within the next ten years.
- Most Fellows aged 65 years or older who intend to continue in paid employment will maintain work predominately because they are doing work that they enjoy.

Future Work Hours

Fellows were asked to nominate their preferred hours worked per week now and in the future, at two years, five years, and ten years (Figure 6.1 a & b).

40 years or less

The 2020 preferred work hours of male Fellows aged less than 40 years is less than their female counterparts, with males preferring to work on average 36.1 hours per week and females 40.2 hours on average per week. Both male and female Fellows in this age range plan to reduce their hours worked per week over the next 10 years, with males planning to work on average 23.7 hours and females 26.3 hours per week by 2030.





Note: Refer to Table A6.1 in Appendix A for the tabulated data

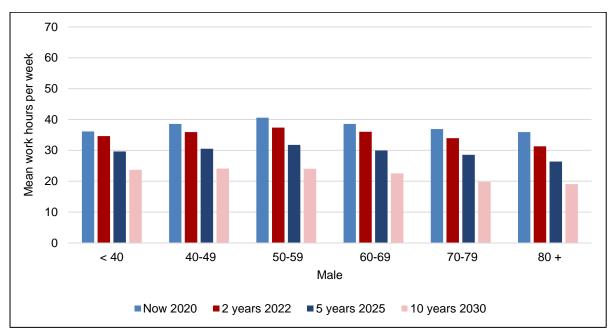


Figure 3.4b: Male Fellows current and future work intentions over the next 10 years

Note: Refer to Table A6.1 in Appendix A for the tabulated data

40 - 49 years

The current preferred work hours of Fellows aged 40-49 years is the same for male and female Fellows (approximately 38.5 hours). Both male and female Fellows in this age group intend to reduce their working hours gradually over the next ten years. Female Fellows reported that they have a preference to work 19.4 hours on average a week and male Fellows on average 24.1 hours per week for 2030.

50 - 59 years

Male and female Fellows aged 50 – 59 years reported a preference to work similar hours per week in 2020 (40.6 hours and 41.3 hours respectively). Both male and female Fellows reported an intention to reduce hours in work hours gradually over the next ten years. Specifically, male Fellows recorded a preference to work 38.1 hours in 2025 (reducing further to 24 hours a week in 2030), compared to 34.9 hours for female Fellows in 2025 (reducing further to 21.6 hours a week on average in 2030).

60 - 69 years

Male and female Fellows reported a preference to work similar hours per week in 2020 (38.6 hours and 39.6 hours respectively) for the 60 - 69 years age range. As reported for all other age groups, both male and female Fellows plan to reduce their weekly working hours over time.

70 – 79 years

Female Fellows reported they intend to work on average more hours per week than male Fellows for the next five years. Male Fellows in this age group plan to continue the trend of gradually reducing their average hours worked over the next ten-year period, similar to Fellows aged 40 - 69.

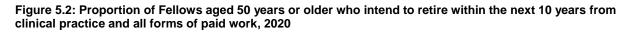
Retirement

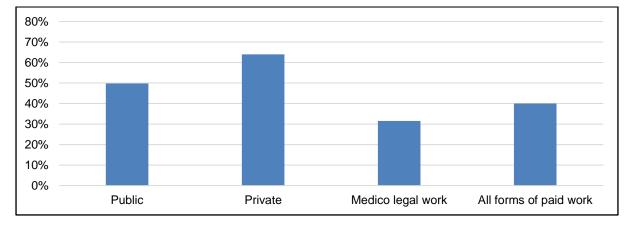
Fellows were asked to indicate when they intend to retire from a surgical work within the next ten years, specifically for public work, private work, medico legal work and all forms of paid employment.

Almost 40% of Fellows aged less than 50 years reported that they intend to retire from all forms of paid work within the next ten years. Regarding clinical practice in the public sector, 42.3% of Fellows

in the age group plan to retire within the next 10 years (refer to Appendix A6.2), a significant increase from 9% reported in 2018 Census.

For those respondents aged 50 and over, approximately 50% of Fellows reported that they intend to retire from public practice within the next ten years, with 64% intend to retire from private practice within the next ten years. In total, over 40% of Fellows aged over 50 years plan to retire from all forms of paid work within the next ten years (Figure 6.2).

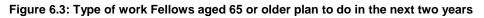


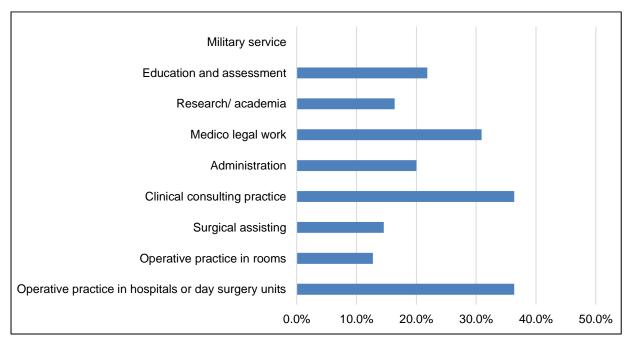


Note: Refer to Table A6.2 in Appendix A for the tabulated data

Future Work Plans for Fellows Aged 65 or Older

Just over 53% of Fellows (N=159) aged 65 years or older reported an intention to be engaged in paid employment for the next two years (Appendix 6.3a.). The most common types of employment these Fellows plan to be engaged in are operative practice in hospitals or day surgery units, clinical consulting practice and medico legal work (Figure 6.3).





Note: Refer to Table A6.3b in Appendix A for the tabulated data

Of the Fellows aged 65 years and older who plan to continue in paid employment for the next two years, the main reason given for continuing in paid employment was because they are doing work that they enjoy (41.7%) and approximately 20% reported their main reason was because they believed that they could still contribute value to the workforce (Figure 6.4). This is consistent with the previous Surgical Workforce Census results.

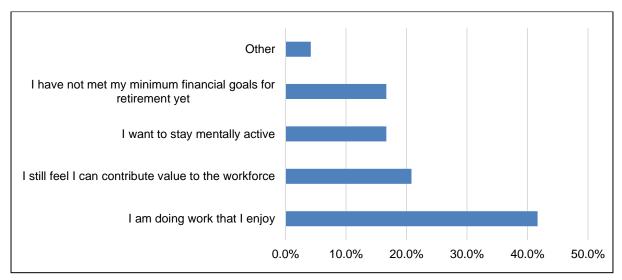


Figure 7.4: Main reason why Fellows aged 65 years or older continue to be engaged in paid employment for the next 2 years

Note: Refer to Table A6.4 in Appendix A for the tabulated data.

RACS would like to acknowledge and thank the Fellows who gave their time to participate in the 2020 Surgical Workforce Census.

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- 1. Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. <u>Surgical Workforce 2018 Census Report</u>. Melbourne: Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, 2019.
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- 4. Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. <u>Surgical Workforce 2014 Census Report</u>. Melbourne: Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, 2015.
- Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. <u>Standards for Safe Working Hours and Conditions for</u> <u>Fellows, Surgical Trainees and International Medical Graduates</u>. Melbourne: Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, 2019

APPENDIX A

Chapter 1 Supplementary data

Appendix A1.1 Sex profile of Active Census respondents and Active RACS Fellows, 2020

	2020 Census Active Respondents	2020 Activities Report
Female	228	903
Male	929	5432
Total	1157	6335

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand, Retired Fellows.

Appendix A1.2: Age profile of Active Census respondents and Active RACS Fellows, 2020

	2020 Census Active Respondents	2020 Activities Report
<40	172	810
40-49	372	2105
50-59	345	1714
60-69	218	1048
70+	50	658
Total	1157	6335

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand, Retired Fellows.

	2020 Census Active Respondents	2020 Activities Report
ACT	10	86
NSW	325	1765
NT	9	28
QLD	205	1091
SA	98	444
TAS	23	103
VIC	291	1480
WA	84	487
NZ	258	851
Total	1303	6335

Appendix A1.3: Location profile of Active Census respondents and Active RACS Fellows, 2020

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand, Retired Fellows.

	2020 Census Respondents N	2020 Activities Report N
CAR	50	220
GEN	463	2150
NEU	39	281
ORT	225	1684
ОТО	123	587
PAE	38	114
PLA	88	537
URO	86	526
VAS	45	236
Total	1157	6335

Appendix A1.4: Specialty profile of Active Census respondents and Active RACS Fellows, 2020

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand, Retired Fellows.

Appendix A1.5: Fellowship status of Census respondents, 2020

	Ν	%
Active Fellow	1157	74.0
Semi-retired Fellow	194	12.4
Retired Fellow	w 212 1	13.6
Total	1563	100.0

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand.

Age Group	Active Fellow	Semi-retired Fellow	Retired Fellow	N	%
<40	172	0	0	172	11.0
40-49	372	1	0	373	23.9
50-59	345	2	4	351	22.5
60-69	218	28	51	297	19.0
70-79	38	106	113	257	16.4
80+	12	75	26	113	7.2
Total	1157	212	194	1563	100.0

Appendix A1.6: Age distribution and Fellowship status of Census respondents, 2020

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand.

Chapter 2 Supplementary data

Country	Full time	Part time	Locum	Parental leave	Unemploved	Retired	Ν
Country	i un une	r art time	LOCUIT	leave	Unemployed	Relifed	11
Australia	773	257	20	3	16	171	1258
Aotearoa New Zealand	209	41	7	2	1	36	296
Total	982	316	27	5	17	207	1554

Appendix A2.1: Employment status of Fellows by country, 2020

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand.

Appendix A2.2: Employment status of Fellows by age group, 2020

				Parental			
Age group	Full time	Part time	Locum	leave	Unemployed	Retired	N
<40	138	21	8	3	2	0	172
40-49	315	47	8	2	0	1	373
50-59	316	30	0	0	3	2	351
60-69	118	82	2	0	4	28	297
70-79	26	112	8	0	5	106	257
80+	9	25	1	0	3	75	113
Total	985	317	27	5	17	212	1563

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand.

Appendix A2.3: Mean hours worked per week and preferred weekly work hours by workforce status, 2020

_	Ho	urs worked p	oer week	Preferred weekly work hours				
Status	Ν	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD		
Full time	980	47.1	9.9	965	44.4	9.6		
Locum	27	20.6	14.4	25	25.0	14.9		
Part time	295	20.9	11.0	306	22.6	13.1		
Total	1302	40.6	10.2	1318	38.2	10.4		

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand; Retired Fellows; unemployed or parental leave.

Appendix 2.4: Mean hours worked per week by age group, 2020

Ago Dongo		Mean		Sta	andard Devi	Deviation				
Age Range	М	F	Total	М	F	Total	Ν			
<40	43.8	43.3	43.6	12.1	12.0	12.1	167			
40-49	43.8	45.3	44.2	12.5	11.9	12.4	367			
50-59	44.5	46.2	44.8	12.5	12.6	12.5	345			
60-69	39.3	38.5	39.3	15.4	12.4	15.2	257			
70-79	23.0	34.0	23.2	16.7	25.5	16.9	135			
80+	22.8	30.7	23.6	18.7	17.5	18.5	31			
Total	39.9	44.1	40.6	15.7	12.6	15.3	1302			

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand; Retired Fellows; unemployed or parental leave.

	Current hour	rs worked per	week	Preferred hours to work per week				
	Mean	SD	Ν	Mean	SD	Ν		
CAR	37.9	16.8	53	38.3	15.8	57		
GEN	40.3	15.4	431	39.0	14.5	532		
NEU	39.2	16.3	49	37.9	14.7	50		
ORT	42.2	15.9	252	39.0	15.6	252		
ΟΤΟ	37.2	14.2	141	34.7	13.5	144		
PAE	38.9	18.2	41	38.7	14.6	41		
PLA	41.8	14.0	94	40.3	13.8	99		
URO	46.6	11.6	91	43.6	11.4	92		
VAS	38.9	13.7	50	35.5	13.5	51		
Total	40.6	15.3	1302	38.7	14.4	1224		

Appendix A2.5: Mean hours worked per week and preferred weekly work hours of full time Fellows by surgical specialty, 2020

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand; Retired Fellows; Fellows not currently working full time.

Appendix A2.6: Fellows working in public or private practice by surgical specialty, 2020

			-	<u>%</u>	
	Ν	Public practice only	Private practice only	Mixed practice	Neither public nor private
CAR	56	33.9	12.5	48.2	5.4
GEN	531	32.0	16.8	50.5	0.8
NEU	49	14.3	36.7	46.9	2.0
ORT	259	15.1	30.1	51.0	3.9
ОТО	143	14.0	28.0	56.6	1.4
PAE	42	52.4	0.0	47.6	0.0
PLA	100	14.0	37.0	46.0	3.0
URO	91	7.7	28.6	63.7	0.0
VAS	51	15.7	17.6	64.7	2.0
Total	1322	22.1	23.0	52.8	2.0

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand; Retired Fellows.

	Public practice only	Private practice only	Mixed practice	Neither public nor private	N
CAR	19	7	27	3	56
GEN	170	89	268	4	531
NEU	7	18	23	1	49
ORT	39	78	132	10	259
ото	20	40	81	2	143
PAE	22	0	20	0	42
PLA	14	37	46	3	100
URO	7	26	58	0	91
VAS	8	9	33	1	51
Total	306	304	688	24	1322

Appendix A2.7: Number of Fellows working in public or private practice by surgical specialty, 2020

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand; Retired Fellows.

Pu	Iblic sector		Priva	te sector
	N	%	Ν	%
1:1	21	1.7	75	5.8
1:2	30	2.4	22	1.7
1:3	81	6.4	26	2.0
1:4	136	10.8	26	2.0
1:5	115	9.1	32	2.5
1:6	86	6.8	25	1.9
1:7	68	5.4	35	2.7
1:8	84	6.7	25	1.9
1:9	20	1.6	7	0.5
1:10	60	4.8	23	1.8
≥1:10	125	9.9	37	2.8
No emergency on-call	436	34.5	883	67.8
Total	1262		1302	

Appendix A2.8: Frequency of emergency on-call Fellows took by work sector, 2020

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand; Retired Fellows; unemployed or on parental leave.

	Ν	%
No response	510	39.9
Only "no gap" (no other additional fees)	187	14.6
>50% "no gap" or "known gap"	205	16.0
"No gap" but "known gap" when available or charge a co-payment	195	15.3
<50% "no gap" or "known gap"	116	9.1
Hardly ever use "no gap" or "known gap"	65	5.6
Total	1278	100.0

Appendix A2.9: Method used to obtain private billing income, considering total private procedural income, 2020

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand; Aotearoa New Zealand Fellows; Retired Fellows; unemployed or on parental leave.

Appendix A2.10: Consideration of a fair professional fee, ignoring current private billing practices, 2020

	Ν	%
AMA is about right	434	27.8
No response	510	32.6
Higher than private health insurance amount but less than AMA	178	11.4
The private health insurance "no gap" amount	89	5.7
More than AMA rate	54	3.5
The private health insurance "known gap" amount (when available)	75	4.8
The "schedule fee"	11	0.7
Total	1351	100.0

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand; Aotearoa New Zealand Fellows; Retired Fellows; unemployed or on parental leave.

Appendix A2.10a: Crosstabulation of Fellows' method of private billing and what they considered to be a fair professional fee, 2020

			What Fellows consid	ler to be a fair	professional fee (N)			
Method used to obtain private billing income	AMA is about right	Higher than private health insurance amount but less than AMA	More than AMA rate	The "schedule fee"	The private health insurance "known gap" amount (when available)	The private health insurance "No gap" amount	Did not answer	Total
"No gap" but "known gap" when available or charge a co-payment <50% "No gap" or "known gap"	104	45	4	0	32	10	0	195
>50% "No gap" or "known gap"	121 36	59	7	1	15	2	0	205
Hardly ever use "No gap" or "known gap"	30	8	20	0	I	0	0	65
Only "No gap" (no other additional fees)	80	18	16	0	2	0	0	116
	56	40	2	6	20	63	0	187
Did not answer	0	0	0	0	0	0	510	510
Total	397	170	49	7	70	75	510	1278

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand; Retired Fellows

Appendix A2.11: Consideration of a fair professional fee, ignoring current private billing practices, by surgical specialty, 2020

	CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	ОТО	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	Total
AMA is about right	13	232	16	102	57	7	2	4	1	434
Did not answer	34	127	11	50	29	30	94	87	48	510
Higher than private health insurance amount but less than AMA	2	86	9	47	31	2	1	0	0	178
The private health insurance "no gap" amount	3	37	4	18	11	1	0	0	1	75
More than AMA rate	0	25	3	16	6	2	1	1	0	54
The private health insurance "known gap" amount (when avail)	5	34	8	25	11	1	2	1	2	89
The "schedule fee"	1	4	0	4	0	1	1	0	0	11
Total	58	545	51	262	145	44	101	93	52	1340

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand; Retired Fellows.

	Yes	%	Ν
<40	40	12.7	166
40-49	86	27.4	368
50-59	69	22.0	345
60-69	67	21.3	261
70-79	43	13.7	145
80+	9	29	34
Total	314	23.8	1319

Appendix A2.12: Percentage of Fellows who are involved in other forms of paid employment by age group, 2020

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand; Retired Fellows.

Appendix A2.13: Other forms of paid employment for Fellows, 2020
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	Ν
Surgical assisting	28
Medico legal work	92
Research/ academia	117
Clinical Education/ assessment	101
Administration	70
Military service	10
Other paid work	83

Multiple responses given. Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand; Retired Fellows.

Chapter 3 Supplementary data

Appendix A3.1: Location of work for Active Fellows in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, 2020

	Ν	%
Only AUS major cities e.g. Melbourne, Sydney, etc.	628	67.2
Only AUS rural/regional area	206	22.1
Both AUS metro AND regional areas	219	23.4
Only AoNZ major cities e.g. Auckland, Wellington, etc.	160	64.8
Only AoNZ outside major cities	48	19.4
Both AoNZ major cities AND regional areas	47	19.0
Total	1308	

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand; Retired Fellows.

		Ν				%	
	City and Rural/ Regional	Major city	Rural/ Regional only	Total	City and Rural/ Regional	Major city	Rural/ Regional only
CAR	23	32	1	56	41.1	57.1	1.8
GEN	100	316	118	534	18.7	59.2	22.1
NEU	24	27	0	51	47.1	52.9	0.0
ORT	54	161	40	255	21.2	63.1	15.7
ОТО	23	96	22	141	16.3	68.1	15.6
PAE	6	25	8	39	15.4	64.1	20.5
PLA	21	55	22	98	21.4	56.1	22.4
URO	24	46	16	86	27.9	53.5	18.6
VAS	12	30	6	48	25.0	62.5	12.5
Total	287	788	233	1308	21.9	60.2	17.8

Appendix A3.2: Fellows practising in a rural or regional area by surgical specialty, 2020

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand; Retired Fellows.

Appendix A3.3: Workforce status of Fellows who work in a rural or regional area, 2020

		Full time	Locum	Part time	Ν
Rural or regional only	Australia	198	53	176	427
	Aotearoa New Zealand	50	10	36	96
	Total	248	63	212	523

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand; Retired Fellows.

Appendix A3.4: Mean hours worked per week for Fellows who work in a rural or regional area, 2020

		Full time	Locum	Part time	Ν
Rural or regional	Australia	43.8	13.0	17.9	201
only	New Zealand	42.8	16.9	20.3	46
	Total	43.7	13.8	19.2	247

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand; Retired Fellows.

Appendix A3.5: Frequency of paid outreach surgery for Active Fellows who work in in rural only or rural and metropolitan centres, 2020

	Ν	%	Mean hours
No outreach services	374	81.0	
Yes, monthly outreach	62	13.4	11.4 per month
Yes, weekly outreach	26	5.6	10.1 per week
Total	462	100.0	

Exclusions: Fellows working only in metropolitan locations, Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand; Retired Fellows.

	Australia	Aotearoa New Zealand	Ν	%
Continue working in/ move to metropolitan area	555	161	716	59.4
No plans to change current rural/ regional work pattern	234	50	284	23.4
Decrease work hours	55	12	67	5.5
Increase work hours	32	7	39	3.2
Uncertain	95	13	108	89
Total	971	243	1214	100.0

Appendix A3.6: Fellows' rural or regional area future work intentions over the next five years, 2018

Exclusions: Fellows working only in metropolitan locations, Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand; Retired Fellows; missing work location responses

Chapter 4 Supplementary data

Appendix A4.1: Percentage of Fellows who undertake volunteer or pro bono work by surgical specialty, 2020

	Pro bono work	%	N
CAR	41	73.2	56
GEN	379	72.3	524
NEU	32	65.3	49
ORT	187	72.8	257
ОТО	100	70.9	141
PAE	33	78.6	42
PLA	73	75.3	97
URO	62	67.4	92
VAS	27	54.0	50
Total	934	71.4	1308

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand; Retired Fellows.

Appendix A4.2: Types of pro bono or volunteer activities Fellows participate in, 2020

N=934, Avg hours per month = 9.4	Ν	%
Domestic clinical work	624	66.8
Domestic aid work	30	3.2
International aid work	122	13.1
RACS (incl. SET Program training and supervision)	708	75.8
Specialty Society/ Association	298	31.9
Clinical education not related to SET Program	559	59.9
Non-clinical work (e.g. administration, charity, committee appointments)	462	49.5
Other volunteer work	125	13.4

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand, Retired Fellows. Note: those participating in multiple areas may be counted more than once.

N=934, Avg hours per month = 9.4	Mean hours per month
Domestic clinical work	9.9
Domestic aid work	7.0
International aid work	6.7
RACS (incl. SET Program training and supervision)	18.5
Specialty Society/ Association	7.0
Clinical education not related to SET Program	8.6
Non-clinical work (e.g. administration, charity, committee appointments)	9.2
Other volunteer work	8.2

Appendix A4.3: Mean hours worked per month on pro bono or volunteer activities, 2020

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand, Retired Fellows. Note: those participating in multiple areas may be counted more than once.

Appendix A4.4: Types of RACS pro bono roles Fellows participate in, 2020

N=708	Ν	%
Council/ board/ committee member	99	14.0
SET Program supervisor	124	17.5
Educational instructor/ presenter	166	23.4
Examiner/ interviewer	115	16.2
International aid	11	1.6
Surgical mortality audit assessor	114	20.3
Other	52	7.3

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand. Note: those participating in multiple RACS activities may be counted more than once

Appendix A4.5: Percentage of Fello	ws involved in RACS pro bono	activities by surgical specialty, 2020
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	RACS pro bono activities	N	%
CAR	32	58	55.2
GEN	301	545	55.2
NEU	27	51	52.9
ORT	143	262	54.6
ОТО	73	145	50.3
PAE	28	44	63.6
PLA	47	101	46.5
URO	43	93	46.2
VAS	14	52	26.9
Total	708	1351	52.4

Chapter 5 Supplementary data

	N	No stress	Little stress	Moderate stress	High stress	Extreme stress
Administrative regulation	1097	125	386	324	190	72
Administrative processes	1107	112	374	362	200	59
Threat of litigation	1101	387	400	186	86	42
Workplace culture	1115	279	371	257	129	79
Adopting new technologies	1100	427	501	135	32	5
Maintaining and updating knowledge base	1110	457	471	153	25	4
Maintain skill set	1112	407	489	178	32	6
COVID-19	1108	149	417	353	151	38

Appendix A1.1: Workplace sources of Fellows' self-rated stress levels, 2020

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand; Retired Fellows and Fellows who selected not applicable to me responses.

Appendix A2.2: Proportion of Fellows who have sought professional assistance to deal with stress or a mental health issue in the last 2 years, 2020

	Ν	%
Yes, I sought professional assistance	144	9.2
No, I had not sought professional assistance	550	35.2
I have not experienced any mental health issues in the last 2 years	810	51.8
I'd rather not say	16	1.0
Fellows who skipped the question	43	2.8
Total	1563	100

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand; Retired Fellows; missing responses.

Appendix A3.3: How Fellows monitored their general health in the last 2 years, 2020

	Ν	%
I did my own health check-ups	115	7.6
I visited a medical doctor for a health check-up	541	35.6
I see a GP/medical doctor at regular intervals as dictated by my existing medical condition requirements	552	36.3
It has been more than 2 years since I've had a general health check-up	312	20.5
Total	1520	100.0

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand; Retired Fellows; missing responses.

		<u>N</u>				<u>%</u>		
Leave	CPD/ Study	Annual	Sick	Parental	CPD/ Study	Annual	Sick	Parental
1 week	453	111	187	29	34.7	8.5	14.3	2.2
2 weeks	251	205	29	13	19.2	15.7	2.2	1.0
3 weeks	88	242	12	5	6.7	18.5	0.9	0.4
4 weeks	42	303	11	4	3.2	23.2	0.8	0.3
6 weeks	5	168	6	3	0.4	12.9	0.5	0.2
>6 weeks	15	79	26	16	1.1	6.0	2.0	1.2
Yes	854	1108	271	70	65.3	84.4	20.7	5.4
No leave	453	199	1036	1237	34.7	15.2	79.3	94.6
Total	1307	1307	1307	1307	100	100	100	100

Appendix A4.4: Distribution of leave Fellows took over the past 12 months, 2020

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand; Retired Fellows; missing responses.

Appendix A5.5: Duration of parental leave Fellows took over the past 12 months, 2020

			٢	Ν		6
		Ν	<u><6</u> weeks	>6 weeks	<u><6</u> weeks	>6 weeks
-	Female	15	11	4	68.8	25.0
	Male	51	39	12	72.2	22.2
-	Total	66	50	16		

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand; Retired Fellows; missing responses.

Chapter 6 Supplementary data

Appendix A6.1: Fellows current and future work intentions over the next 10 years, 2020

Mean work hours per week						
Ν	= 1299	Now 2020	2 years 2022	5 years 2025	10 years 2030	N
	<40	40.2	38.4	33.0	26.3	52
0	40-49	38.5	36.8	28.2	19.4	90
Female	50-59	41.3	38.0	34.9	21.6	54
Fer	60-69	39.6	39.7	35.6	30.9	19
	70-79	44.0	44.0	44.0	30.7	3
	80+	41.7	41.7	35.0	26.7	3
	<40	36.1	34.6	29.6	23.7	112
	40-49	38.6	35.9	30.5	24.1	268
Male	50-59	40.6	37.4	31.8	24.0	287
Σ	60-69	38.6	36.0	29.9	22.6	238
	70-79	36.9	34.0	28.6	19.8	140
	80+	35.9	31.3	26.4	19.1	33

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand; Retired Fellows; missing responses.

Appendix A6.2: Percentage of Fellows aged less than 50 years and 50 years and over who intend to retire
within the next 10 years from clinical practice and all forms of paid work, 2020

Age <50 years	Public	Private	Medico legal work	All forms of paid work
In < 10 years	172	50	14	207
Total	407	528	520	526
%	42.3	9.5	2.7	39.4
Age >=50 years	Public	Private	Medico legal work	All forms of paid work
Age >=50 years In < 10 years	Public 305	Private 435	Medico legal work 214	All forms of paid work 312
			5	- I

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand; Retired Fellows; missing responses.

Appendix A6.3: Proportion of Fellows aged 65 years or older who intend to be engaged in paid employment for the next two years, 2020

N=299	Ν	%
No	140	46.8
Yes	159	53.2

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand; Retired Fellows; missing responses.

Appendix A6.4: Type of work Fellows aged 65 or older plan to do in the next two years, 2020

N=55	Ν	%
Operative practice in hospitals or day surgery units	20	36.4
Operative practice in rooms	7	12.7
Surgical assisting	8	14.5
Clinical consulting practice	20	36.4
Administration	11	20.0
Medico legal work	17	30.9
Research/ academia	9	16.4
Education and assessment	12	21.8
Military service	0	0.0
Other	18	32.7

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand; Retired Fellows; missing responses.

Appendix A6.5: Main reasons why Fellows aged 65 years or older continue to be engaged in paid employment for the next 2 years, 2020

N=24	Ν	%
I am doing work that I enjoy	10	41.7
I still feel I can contribute value to the workforce	5	20.8
I want to stay mentally active	4	16.7
I have not met my minimum financial goals for retirement yet	4	16.7
Other	1	4.2

Exclusions: Fellows not currently living in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand; Retired Fellows; missing responses.