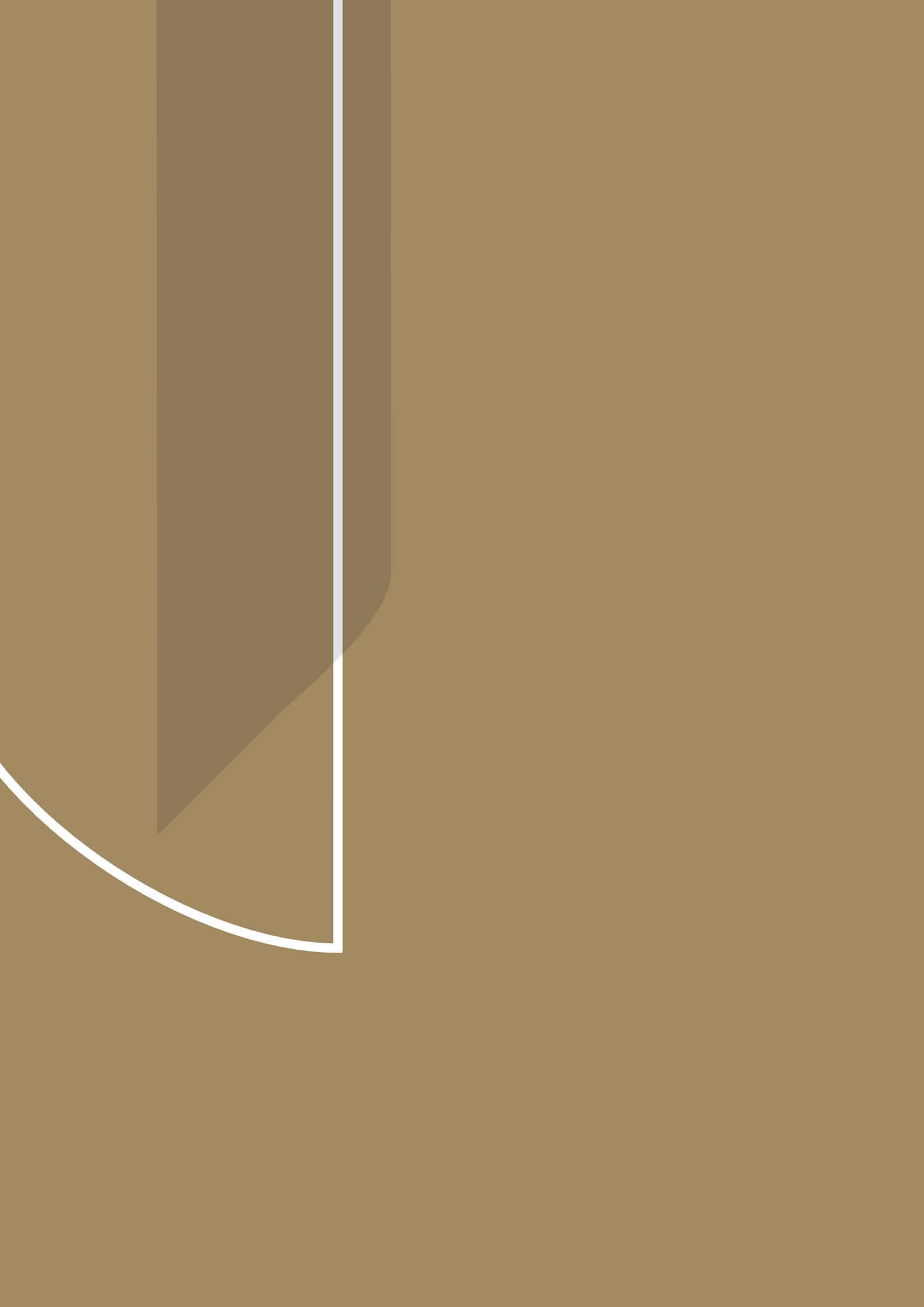


Activities Report

2023





Foreword

It has been a decade since we first collected data on the surgical workforces of Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand in the current format. With longitudinal statistics dating back to 2013, the annual RACS Activities Report has become a rich source of information about the changing face of the surgical profession.

RACS activity reports provide a snapshot of the makeup and distribution of the surgical workforce today. Through the data they provide into surgical education and training, they are also an insight into the workforce of tomorrow.

Given the time it takes to become a fully-qualified surgeon - 12-15 years on average - the surgical workforce has an older age profile, with 60 per cent falling within the 40-59-year-old demographic. In 2023 however, there was strong growth in Fellows in the younger cohorts. While the number of RACS Fellows increased in 2023 by 1.4 per cent compared to the year before, to 7027, the under-35 group grew by 15.5 per cent. By contrast the older age groups (65+) decreased over the same period, with the 70+ cohort shrinking by 5.2 per cent.

A workforce that looks more like the communities it serves means better patient outcomes. This most recent report, with figures up to December 2023, shows the progress made in the last decade to increase the diversity within the surgical profession.

Women make up over 27 per cent of Fellows aged 44 years and under; a 60 per cent increase on the 17 per cent figure reported in 2013. There is also an

emerging cohort of Indigenous surgeons with 29 Trainees identifying as Māori, and five as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, in 2023.

Equitable access to healthcare is also critical and the 2023 RACS Activity Report shows rural, regional and remote communities continue to be underserved, resulting in poorer health outcomes. This is of particular interest to me, as a Wagga Wagga-based orthopaedic surgeon and chair of the Rural Health Equity Steering Committee.

RACS is working hard to address the maldistribution of surgeons across urban versus rural settings through our advocacy with governments and health agencies. We have also developed a Rural Health Equity strategy, which aims to increase the rural surgical workforce through the 'select for rural', 'train for rural' and 'retain for rural' strategies, and build sustainable surgical services by 'collaborating for rural'.

Workforce shortages are an issue healthcare systems are grappling with internationally, so it is pleasing to see the surgical workforces of both Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand are keeping pace with population growth. In fact, in Australia, the number of surgeons per 10,000 population has increased from 2 to 2.2 over the last decade. What is cause for concern is the proportion of surgeons compared to the fast-growing "65 year+" demographic, particularly in Aotearoa New Zealand, which has decreased in the past 10 years, from 1.2 per 1000 population in 2013 to 1 in 2023.

We use the activities reports to help monitor our progress against key objectives and to guide our strategy. We hope government health departments and related agencies across Australasia will likewise find the insights contained in this report helpful in understanding the surgical workforce. Please have a read and if you have any further questions or comments, reach out to the team at fsc@surgeons.org.

Assoc Prof Kerin Fielding
President
 Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

CONTENTS

i Foreword

v Acronyms

1 Introduction

1 Key developments for 2023

2 Section one: Skills Training

2 Explanatory Notes

4 TABLE ST.1 – Skills training course attendance by month and course type

5 TABLE ST.2 – Skills training course attendance by location and course

6 TABLE ST.3 – ASSET faculty by location and specialty

6 TABLE ST.4 – CCrISP faculty by location and medical discipline

7 TABLE ST.5 – EMST faculty by location and medical discipline

7 TABLE ST.6 – CCrISP and EMST attendance by location and pass rate

8 TABLE ST.7 – CLEAR faculty by location, specialty and medical discipline

8 TABLE ST.8 – TIPS faculty by location and medical discipline

9 Section two: Specialist International Medical Graduates

9 Explanatory Notes

9 Australia

10 Aotearoa New Zealand

11 Australia

11 TABLE SIMG.1 – Number of Specialist International Medical Graduate applications received by specialty

11 TABLE SIMG.2 – Specialist International Medical Graduate Countries of Training

12 TABLE SIMG.3 – Number of Specialist International Medical Graduates not comparable after initial paper-based review

12 TABLE SIMG.4 – Number of applications withdrawn by Specialist International Medical Graduates

12 TABLE SIMG.5 – Specialist assessment pathway: Specialist International Medical Graduate outcome of initial assessment

13 TABLE SIMG.6 – Specialist assessment pathway: Specialist International Medical Graduate specialists under oversight / supervision

13 TABLE SIMG.7 – Area of need pathway: Specialist International Medical Graduate outcome of initial assessment

14 TABLE SIMG.8 – Area of need pathway: Specialist International Medical Graduate specialists under oversight/ supervision

14 TABLE SIMG.9 – Specialist International Medical Graduate outcome of area of need assessment

15 TABLE SIMG.10 – Specialist International Medical Graduate outcome of final assessment

15 TABLE SIMG.11 – Specialist International Medical Graduate time for specialist recognition initial assessment

15 TABLE SIMG.12 – Specialist International Medical Graduate time for area of need assessment

15 TABLE SIMG.13 – Specialist International Medical Graduate time for specialist recognition final assessment

16 TABLE SIMG.14 – Specialist International Medical Graduate - number and outcome of appeal

16 TABLE SIMG.15 – Short-termed specified training: Specialist International Medical Graduate applications by specialty

16 TABLE SIMG.16 – Short-termed specified training: Specialist International Medical Graduate specialist applications by location

16 TABLE SIMG.17 – Number of Specialist International Medical Graduate specialists practicing in Australia

17 New Zealand

- 17 TABLE SIMG.18 – Applications for Specialist International Medical Graduates
- 17 TABLE SIMG.19 – Interview outcomes for Specialist International Medical Graduate applicants
- 18 TABLE SIMG.20 – International Medical Graduate specialists participating in vocational assessment
- 18 TABLE SIMG.21 – RACS review of recommendations for Specialist International Medical Graduate specialist applicants at the request of the Medical Council of New Zealand

19 Section Three: Surgical Education and Training

19 Explanatory Notes

19 Data Highlights

- 20 TABLE SET.1 – SET applications by specialty, gender and applicant type^a
- 21 TABLE SET.2 – SET applications by specialty and location of residence^a
- 22 TABLE SET.3 – Individual SET applicants by number of applications and applicant type^a
- 22 TABLE SET.4 – SET applications outcome by specialty and applicant type^a
- 23 TABLE SET.5 – Successful SET application by specialty and location of residence
- 24 TABLE SET.6 – Active SET Trainees by status and training location^a
- 24 TABLE SET.7 – Inactive SET Trainees by status and training location^a
- 25 TABLE SET.8 – Active SET Trainees by status and specialty^a
- 25 TABLE SET.9 – Inactive SET Trainees by status and specialty^a
- 26 TABLE SET.10 – SET Trainees that exited the SET program, by specialty^a
- 26 TABLE SET.11 – SET Trainees that exited the SET program, by year of training^a
- 26 TABLE SET.12 – SET Trainees that exited the SET program, by region^a
- 27 TABLE SET.13 – Active SET Trainees by age and location of training post^a
- 28 TABLE SET.14 – Active SET Trainees by age and specialty^a
- 29 TABLE SET.15 – Active SET Trainees by years in training and training post location^a
- 30 TABLE SET.16 – Active Cardiothoracic SET Trainees by years in training and training post location
- 31 TABLE SET.17 – Active General Surgery SET Trainees by years in training and training post location
- 32 TABLE SET.18 – Active Neurosurgery SET Trainees by years in training and training post location
- 33 TABLE SET.19 – Active Orthopaedic SET Trainees by years in training and training post location^a
- 34 TABLE SET.20 – Active Otolaryngology Head and Neck SET Trainees by years in training and training post location
- 35 TABLE SET.21 – Active Paediatric SET Trainees by years in training and training post location
- 36 TABLE SET.22 – Active Plastic and Reconstructive SET Trainees by years in training and training post location
- 37 TABLE SET.23 – Active Urology SET Trainees by years in training and training post location
- 38 TABLE SET.24 – Active Vascular Surgery SET Trainees by years in training and training post location
- 38 TABLE SET.25 – Active SET Indigenous Trainees by specialty

39 Section Four: Examinations

39 Explanatory Notes

40 Data Highlights

- 41 TABLE EXAM.1 – Non-SET cumulative attempts to pass Generic Surgical Science Examination by location
- 42 FIGURE EXAM.1 – Overall annual pass rate of individual attempts (total sittings) at Generic Surgical Science Examination (2012-2023).

-
- 42 TABLE EXAM.2 – Pass rate of individual attempts (total sittings) at Specialty Specific Surgical Science Examination by specialty and location
- 43 FIGURE EXAM.2 – Overall annual pass rate of individual attempts (total sittings) at Specialty Specific Surgical Science Examination (2012-2023)
- 44 FIGURE EXAM. 3 – Overall annual pass rate of individual attempts (total sittings) at Clinical Examination (2012-2023)
- 44 TABLE EXAM.4 – SET and SIMG individual attempts and annual pass rate of Fellowship Examinations by specialty
- 45 TABLE EXAM.5 – Eventual Fellowship Examination pass rate by specialty
- 46 TABLE EXAM.6 – Fellowship Examinations pass rate (per sitting) of SET Trainees by location and specialty
- 47 TABLE EXAM.7 – Fellowship Examinations pass rate (per sitting) of Specialist International Medical Graduates by location and specialty
- 47 TABLE EXAM.8 – Fellowship Examinations pass rate (per sitting) of SET and SIMG by gender and specialty
- 48 TABLE EXAM.9 – SET Trainees and SIMGs cumulative attempts to pass Fellowship Examination by specialty for candidates presenting in 2023
- 48 FIGURE EXAM.4 – Overall Fellowship Examination pass rate of SET Trainees and SIMGs (2012-2023)

49 Section five: Workforce distribution

49 Explanatory Notes

49 Data Highlights

- 50 TABLE WFD.1 – Active and retired RACS Fellows by location and specialty
- 51 TABLE WFD.2 – Active RACS Fellows by location and specialty
- 53 TABLE WFD.4 – Active Australian RACS Fellows by specialty and age
- 54 TABLE WFD.5 – Active New Zealand RACS Fellows by specialty and age
- 55 TABLE WFD.6 – Active Australian RACS Fellows by ASGS-RA code and specialty
- 55 TABLE WFD.7 – Active Australian RACS Fellows by ASGS-RA code and location
- 55 TABLE WFD.8 – Active Australian RACS Fellows by ASGS-RA and age group
- 56 TABLE WFD.9 – Active RACS SET Trainees obtaining RACS Fellowship in 2023 by location of residence and specialty
- 57 TABLE WFD.10 – Active Specialist International Medical Graduates obtaining RACS Fellowship in 2023 by location of residence and specialty
- 58 TABLE WFD.11 – Total number of SET Trainees and Specialist International Medical Graduates obtaining RACS Fellowship by specialty (2008 – 2023)
- 59 FIGURE WFD.1 – Total annual number of SET Trainees and Specialist International Medical Graduates obtaining RACS Fellowship (2008–2023).
- 59 TABLE WFD.12 – Ratio of active Australian and New Zealand RACS Fellows per population by location
- 59 TABLE WFD.13 – Ratio of active Australian and New Zealand RACS Fellows per population aged 65 years or older by location.

60 Section six: Professional development and standards

60 Explanatory Notes

60 Data Highlights

- 62 TABLE CPD.1 – Participation in RACS CPD program 2020 - 2022 by specialty
- 62 TABLE CPD.2 – Participation in RACS CPD program 2020 - 2022 by region
- 63 TABLE CPD.3 – Fellow participation in RACS and other CPD programs in 2022
- 63 TABLE CPD.4 – Participation in RACS CPD program in 2021 by program category and specialty
- 63 TABLE CPD.5 – Registrations in RACS MOPS program in 2022
- 63 TABLE CPD.6 – Professional Development participation by location and status
- 64 TABLE CPD.7 – Professional Development participation by specialty and status

65 Appendix A: Definitions for regional and rural data

65 ASGS-RA Codes

Acronyms

~	Not available
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
AOA	Australian Orthopaedic Association
ASGS-RA	Australian Statistical Geographic Standard – Remoteness Area
ASSET	Australian and New Zealand Surgical Skills Education and Training
AUS	Australia
CAR	Cardiothoracic Surgery
CCrISP	Care of the Critically Ill Surgical Patient
CE	Clinical Examination
CLE	Clinical Epidemiology
CLEAR	Critical Literature Evaluation and Research
CPD	Continuing Professional Development
EMST	Early Management of Severe Trauma
GEN	General Surgery
GP	General Practitioner
GSSE	Generic Surgical Science Examinations
MCNZ	Medical Council of New Zealand
MOPS	Maintenance of Professional Standards
NEU	Neurosurgery
No.	Number
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
NZ	New Zealand
OB & GYN	Obstetrics and Gynaecology
OPH	Ophthalmology

ORT	Orthopaedic Surgery
O/S	Overseas
OPBS	Orthopaedic Principles and Basic Science Examination
OSCE	Objective Structured Clinical Examinations
OTO	Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery
OWR	Operating with Respect
PAE	Paediatric Surgery
PGY	Post Graduate Year/Medical Graduate
PLA	Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
PRSSP	Plastic Surgical Science and Principles Exam
QLD	Queensland
RACS	Royal Australasian College Of Surgeons
RRMA	Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Areas
SA	South Australia
SET	Surgical Education Training
SIMG	Specialist International Medical Graduate
SSE	Surgical Science Examination
SEAM	Surgical Education and Assessment Modules
TAS	Tasmania
TIPS	Training in Professional Skills
URO	Urology Surgery
VAS	Vascular Surgery
VIC	Victoria
WA	Western Australia
WFD	Workforce Distribution

Introduction

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Activities Report outlines the demographic data for the year 2023. As with previous reports, the purpose is to provide a comprehensive review of RACS activities throughout the year.

This report details activity in the following six sections:

- **Section One:** Skills Training
- **Section Two:** Specialist International Medical Graduates
- **Section Three:** Surgical Education and Training
- **Section Four:** Examinations
- **Section Five:** Workforce Distribution
- **Section Six:** Professional Development and Standards

Each section reviews the purpose of and key findings in the data. This is followed by the data in table and graphical format where possible. Each of the six sections in this report and the data selected has been provided to facilitate a review of activities. All data presented is for the year 2023, unless otherwise stated. All data has been extracted from a copy of the RACS membership database taken on 31 December 2023.

Key developments for 2023

The number of female surgeons in active practice increased by over 7 per cent in the last year, with women making up over 16 per cent of the active surgical workforce. Just over 29 per cent of those obtaining RACS Fellowship in 2023 were female.

Individual female SET applicants made up over 34 per cent of all individual applicants. There were 298 applicants who were offered a trainee position in 2023. Almost 39 per cent of successful applicants were female in 2023.

Section one: Skills Training

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The Skills Training Department delivers short courses for the following programs:

- ASSET: Australian and New Zealand Surgical Skills Education and Training
- CCrISP: Care of the Critically Ill Surgical Patient
- CLEAR: Critical Literature Evaluation and Research
- EMST: Early Management of Severe Trauma
- TIPS: Training in Professional Skills

Skills Training courses are a mandatory requirement of Surgical Education and Training (SET) with CCrISP and EMST mandated for all nine specialties and the ASSET, CLEAR and TIPS mandated across a selection of specialties. Doctors from a variety of medical disciplines are involved as both teaching faculty and participants. Skills Training courses incorporate a mix of formative and summative assessment, with participants closely mentored and their performances appraised. The CCrISP and EMST courses incorporate summative assessment (pass or fail) and include a performance feedback framework for SET and Specialist International Medical Graduates (SIMG) surgical supervisors when required.

ASSET

ASSET is a requirement for all SET trainees (excluding Neurosurgery and Paediatric Surgery). The course provides an educational package of generic surgical skills with an emphasis on small group teaching, intensive hands-on practice of basic skills, individual tuition, personal feedback to participants and the performance of practical procedures. Although this course is not formally assessed, attendees are required to attend and interact in all components to receive a certificate of successful completion. Participants are required to complete ten eLearning modules prior to attending the face-to-face course and are provided with a suture jig and disposable instruments to practice knot tying and suturing prior to the course.

CCrISP®

CCrISP® is a requirement for all SET Trainees. The course focuses on developing systematic skills for managing critically ill patients and promotes the co-ordination of multidisciplinary care where appropriate. The CCrISP® course encourages doctors to adopt a system of assessment to avoid errors and omissions and uses relevant clinical scenarios to reinforce the course objectives. Participants must complete five eLearning modules prior to attending the face-to-face course. Participants are assessed by their performance on practical skill stations throughout the course, as well as their performance in a 45-minute immersive simulated clinical scenario.

CLEAR

CLEAR is a requirement for General Surgery, Neurosurgery, Orthopaedic Surgery New Zealand and Urology SET trainees. CLEAR is designed to teach doctors the language and concepts which underpin surgical research. By examining different study types, levels of evidence and gaining tools to critically appraise publications of surgical trials, they can make real connections between research and surgical practice. Participants will then possess the knowledge and skills to pursue research in their own areas of interest. There is no formal assessment for the CLEAR course; participants are required to complete nine online learning modules prior to attending the face-to-face course and attend all course components to achieve certification.

EMST

EMST is a requirement for all SET trainees. The course focuses on the management of trauma injury victims in the first one to two hours post-accident, with emphasis on life-saving skills and a systematic clinical approach. This course is assessed by contribution and performance in the various interactive discussions, skill stations, a 40-question multiple choice questionnaire paper, and a 45-minute immersive simulated clinical scenario. EMST is internationally recognised as equivalent to Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) per a Memorandum of Understanding held between RACS and the American College of Surgeons.

TIPS

TIPS is a requirement for General Surgery, Orthopaedic Surgery, Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery New Zealand and Paediatric Surgery SET Trainees. TIPS focuses on patient-centred communication and team-oriented professional skills in surgery. Through simulation, participants address issues and events which occur in the clinical and operating theatre environment and require skills in communication, teamwork, crisis resource management and leadership. TIPS is designed to be relevant for all surgical specialties and is relevant for prevocational doctors as well as Trainees. There is no formal assessment for this course; participants are provided with direct feedback throughout the course and are required to attend all components to achieve certification. TIPS participants are required to complete seven Human Factors eLearning modules prior to attending the course.

Faculty

The Skills Training faculty is a volunteer workforce including doctors from multiple disciplines including surgery, emergency medicine, anaesthetics, intensive care, general practice, clinical epidemiology, and medical educators. The Skills Training department attempts to maintain contact with the volunteers to encourage them to continue being involved.

TABLE ST.1 – Skills training course attendance by month and course type

Month and Course		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022	% change 22/23
CCrISP Instructor Course	Courses	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	3	-33.3
	Instructors	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	13	0	0	20	19	5.3
	Participants	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	15	0	0	23	30	-23.3
CCrISP Provider Course	Courses	0	1	4	0	4	5	1	2	2	2	3	0	24	25	-4.0
	Instructors	0	10	51	0	51	68	14	28	24	20	34	0	300	270	11.1
	Participants	0	12	55	0	62	80	16	33	32	32	48	0	370	385	-3.9
EMST ADF Course	Courses	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	5	5	0.0
	Instructors	0	0	10	0	0	11	0	10	0	10	8	0	49	44	11.4
	Participants	0	0	16	0	0	16	0	15	0	16	16	0	79	78	1.3
EMST Instructor Course	Courses	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	4	-50.0
	Instructors	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	9	0	18	31	-41.9
	Participants	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	13	0	25	48	-47.9
EMST Provider Course	Courses	0	3	10	0	4	9	5	6	5	4	3	0	49	46	6.5
	Instructors	0	28	90	0	30	72	50	45	46	46	25	0	432	418	3.3
	Participants	0	51	166	0	69	149	81	80	80	64	34	0	774	710	9.0
EMST Refresher Course	Courses	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	4	0.0
	Instructors	0	0	9	0	10	0	0	0	10	0	11	0	40	32	25.0
	Participants	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	16	0	15	0	46	48	-4.2
ASSET	Courses	1	3	2	1	3	3	2	2	1	1	4	0	23	20	15.0
	Instructors	9	30	19	10	36	31	22	16	9	13	37	0	232	223	4.0
	Participants	20	59	39	20	59	55	39	39	20	20	74	0	444	353	25.8
CLEAR	Courses	0	1	2	0	0	2	0	2	1	1	0	0	9	10	-10.0
	Instructors	0	5	9	0	0	10	0	8	4	5	0	0	41	39	5.1
	Participants	0	32	63	0	0	64	0	62	33	31	0	0	285	237	20.3
TIPS Instructor Course	Courses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.0
	Instructors	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	8	5	60.0
	Participants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	13	10	30.0
TIPS Provider Course	Courses	0	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	2	2	0	14	13	7.7
	Instructors	0	10	8	8	8	27	10	11	10	22	20	0	134	97	38.1
	Participants	0	16	16	11	15	48	16	16	16	32	32	0	218	184	18.5
Total	Courses	1	9	21	2	13	23	11	15	11	12	15	0	133	131	1.5
	Instructors	9	83	196	18	135	219	112	126	103	129	144	0	1274	1178	8.1
	Participants	20	170	355	31	220	412	172	258	197	210	232	0	2277	2083	9.3

Number of instructors documented in this table is the number of instructors per course. A number of instructors teach on multiple courses therefore the number of individual instructors is lower.

TABLE ST.2 – Skills training course attendance by location and course

	Month and Course	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S*	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2023	% Change 22/23
CCrISP Instructor Course	Courses	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	3	-33.3
	Instructors	0	0	0	0	7	0	13	0	20	0	0	20	19	5.3
	Participants	0	0	0	0	8	0	15	0	23	0	0	23	30	-23.3
CCrISP Provider Course	Courses	0	4	0	5	2	0	5	2	18	5	1	24	25	-4.0
	Instructors	0	50	0	70	24	0	64	26	234	57	9	300	270	11.1
	Participants	0	60	0	79	32	0	77	31	279	75	16	370	385	-3.9
EMST ADF Course	Courses	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	5	5	0.0
	Instructors	0	0	0	49	0	0	0	0	49	0	0	49	44	11.4
	Participants	0	0	0	79	0	0	0	0	79	0	0	79	78	1.3
EMST Instructor Course	Courses	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	4	-50.0
	Instructors	0	0	0	9	9	0	0	0	18	0	0	18	31	-41.9
	Participants	0	0	0	13	12	0	0	0	25	0	0	25	48	-47.9
EMST Provider Course	Courses	0	11	0	10	5	1	8	4	39	9	1	49	46	6.5
	Instructors	0	89	0	92	46	8	73	31	339	83	10	432	418	3.3
	Participants	0	168	0	146	82	15	134	67	612	146	16	774	710	9.0
EMST Refresher Course	Courses	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	1	0	4	4	0.0
	Instructors	0	9	0	0	10	0	11	0	30	10	0	40	32	25.0
	Participants	0	0	0	0	16	0	15	0	31	15	0	46	48	-4.2
ASSET	Courses	0	4	0	6	1	0	6	2	19	4	0	23	20	15.0
	Instructors	0	40	0	58	9	0	65	18	190	42	0	232	223	4.0
	Participants	0	79	0	118	16	0	117	40	370	74	0	444	353	25.8
CLEAR	Courses	0	3	0	1	1	0	2	0	7	2	0	9	10	-10.0
	Instructors	0	13	0	5	4	0	11	0	33	8	0	41	39	5.1
	Participants	0	96	0	31	30	0	64	0	221	64	0	285	237	20.3
TIPS Instructor Course	Courses	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0.0
	Instructors	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	8	0	0	8	5	60.0
	Participants	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	13	0	0	13	10	30.0
TIPS Provider Course	Courses	0	3	0	1	1	0	5	2	12	2	0	14	13	7.7
	Instructors	0	24	0	11	9	0	52	20	116	18	0	134	97	38.1
	Participants	0	48	0	16	16	0	75	31	186	32	0	218	184	18.5
Total	Courses	0	26	0	29	13	1	29	10	108	23	2	133	131	1.5
	Instructors	0	225	0	294	118	8	297	95	1037	218	19	1274	1178	8.1
	Participants	0	451	0	482	212	15	510	169	1839	406	32	2277	2083	9.3

Note: Number of instructors documented in this table is the number of instructors per course. A number of instructors teach on multiple courses therefore the number of individual instructors is lower.

TABLE ST.3 – ASSET faculty by location and specialty

Location & Specialty	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022	% change 22/23
CAR	0	2	0	6	0	0	5	3	16	4	0	20	16	25.0
GEN	0	27	0	33	6	0	42	6	114	17	0	131	225	-41.8
NEU	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	7	-85.7
OPH	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	1	200.0
ORT	0	4	0	5	1	0	3	0	13	1	0	14	73	-80.8
OTO	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	5	0	8	22	-63.6
PAE	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	2	6	2	0	8	14	-42.9
PLA	0	0	0	4	0	0	7	1	12	6	0	18	33	-45.5
URO	0	1	0	1	0	0	4	1	7	5	0	12	21	-42.9
VAS	0	2	0	2	1	0	1	3	9	1	0	10	20	-50.0
Sub Total	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	2	6	1	0	7	0	-
SIMG	0	40	0	58	9	0	65	18	190	42	0	232	432	-46.3
SET	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
	0	40	0	58	9	0	65	18	190	42	0	232	432	-46.3

TABLE ST.4 – CCrISP faculty by location and medical discipline

Location & Medical Discipline	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022	% change 22/23
Anesthesia	0	4	0	2	1	0	0	5	12	12	1	25	47	-46.8
Emergency Medicine	0	2	0	6	3	0	4	0	15	0	2	17	14	21.4
General Practice	0	0	0	5	0	0	3	1	9	0	0	9	9	0.0
Intensive Care	0	5	0	7	3	0	10	1	26	0	0	26	24	8.3
Physician	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	3	-33.3
Surgery	0	35	0	38	14	0	42	17	146	41	2	189	207	-8.7
Other	0	4	0	12	2	0	5	2	25	3	4	32	4	700.0
Total	0	50	0	70	24	0	64	26	234	57	9	300	308	-2.6

TABLE ST.5 – EMST faculty by location and medical discipline

Location & Medical Discipline	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022	% change 22/23
Anesthesia	0	17	0	19	10	3	11	4	64	6	1	71	86	-17.4
Emergency Medicine	0	28	0	33	23	0	27	14	125	27	2	154	144	6.9
General Practice	0	4	0	10	2	1	3	3	23	2	0	25	36	-30.6
Intensive Care	0	8	0	20	6	0	5	1	40	16	0	56	44	27.3
*Obstetrics and Gynaecology	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	3	0	0	3	NA	NA
Physician	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	44	-95.5
*Rural/remote medicine	0	1	0	2	1	1	1	0	6	0	0	6	NA	NA
Surgery	0	34	0	51	15	2	29	7	138	30	2	170	176	-3.4
Other	0	6	0	14	7	1	7	0	35	12	5	52	6	766.7
Total	0	98	0	150	65	8	84	31	436	93	10	539	492	9.6

*Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Rural/remote medicine faculty not reported separately in previous years. Both specialties were reported as 'Other'.

TABLE ST.6 – CCrISP and EMST attendance by location and pass rate

Location and Course Pass Rate		ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	OS	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022	% Change 22/23
CCrISP	Attended	0	60	0	81	40	0	94	31	306	74	16	396	385	2.9
	Pass	0	59	0	79	39	0	93	31	301	73	16	390	376	3.7
	%	-	98%	-	98%	98%	-	99%	100%	98%	99%	100%	98%	98%	0.8
EMST	Attended	0	185	0	261	135	16	161	75	833	130	16	979	836	17.1
	Pass	0	178	0	256	134	16	154	73	811	124	14	949	718	32.2
	%	-	96%	-	98%	99%	100%	96%	97%	97%	95%	88%	97%	86%	12.9

TABLE ST.7 – CLEAR faculty by location, specialty and medical discipline

Location, Specialty & Discipline	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022
CAR	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	3	0	5	1
GEN	0	1	0	1	1	0	2	0	5	1	0	6	12
NEU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
ORT	0	6	0	2	1	0	3	0	12	2	0	14	5
OTO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PAE	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	3	1
PLA	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1
URO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
VAS	0	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	5	0	0	5	1
Sub Total	0	10	0	5	4	0	9	0	28	6	0	34	23
Other	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	5	2	0	7	0
Total	0	13	0	5	4	0	11	0	33	8	0	41	23

TABLE ST.8 – TIPS faculty by location and medical discipline

Location & Medical Discipline	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022
Anesthesia	0	5	0	0	1	0	5	1	12	2	0	14	3
Emergency Medicine	0	0	0	2	0	0	5	1	8	0	0	8	4
General Practice	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Physician	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	4	0	0	4	2
Intensive Care	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surgery	0	18	0	7	6	0	39	16	86	14	0	100	58
Other	0	0	0	1	1	0	10	2	14	2	0	16	4
Total	0	24	0	11	9	0	60	20	124	18	0	142	72

Section two: Specialist International Medical Graduates

EXPLANATORY NOTES

AUSTRALIA

RACS is accredited by the Australian Medical Council (AMC) to train surgeons and maintain surgical standards. Specialist International Medical Graduates (SIMGs) with formal postgraduate specialist qualifications in surgery who wish to practice in Australia, apply to RACS for an assessment of their comparability to an Australian and Aotearoa New Zealand trained surgeon.

When assessing comparability, RACS considers the training program completed and subsequent to that any further training, assessment, experience, recent practice and continuing professional development (CPD) undertaken by the SIMG to determine whether all these components will enable the SIMG to practice at a level comparable to the standard expected of an Australian and Aotearoa New Zealand trained surgical specialist commencing in the same field of practice.

Specialist International Medical Graduates – Specialist and/or Area of Need Assessment

The processes for assessing the comparability of SIMGs to Australian and Aotearoa New Zealand trained Fellows are in accordance with the principles outlined in the following publications:

- RACS – Specialist Assessment of Specialist International Medical Graduates in Australia
<https://www.surgeons.org/SIMGs/contacts-guidelines-and-forms>
- RACS – Assessing a Specialist International Medical Graduate’s Comparability to an Australian and Aotearoa New Zealand Trained Surgical Specialist
<https://www.surgeons.org/SIMGs/contacts-guidelines-and-forms>

- Australian Medical Council (AMC)
– Standards for Assessment and Accreditation of Specialist Medical Programs and Professional Development Programs by the Australian Medical Council 2015
[AMC Accreditation Standards and Procedures](#)
- Medical Board of Australia (MBA) Standards – Specialist medical college assessment of specialist international medical graduates
<https://www.medicalboard.gov.au/Registration/International-Medical-Graduates/Specialist-Pathway.aspx>

Specialist International Medical Graduates – RACS Supervised Practice

The processes related to the RACS supervised practice of SIMGs are in accordance with the principles outlined in the following publications:

- RACS – Assessment of the Clinical Practice of SIMGs in Australia and New Zealand
<https://www.surgeons.org/SIMGs/contacts-guidelines-and-forms>
- RACS – Supervisors of Specialist International Medical Graduates in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand
<https://www.surgeons.org/SIMGs/contacts-guidelines-and-forms>
- Medical Board of Australia (MBA) – Supervised practice for international medical graduates
<http://www.medicalboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Policies.aspx>

Specialist International Medical Graduates – Short Term Training in a Medical Specialty Pathway

The Short-Term Training in a Medical Specialty Pathway allows overseas-trained specialists or specialists-in-training the opportunity to undertake a short period (usually up to 24 months) of specialist or advanced training with the objective of developing surgical skills not available in their country of training.

The processes related to the Short-Term Training in a Medical Specialty Pathway are in accordance with the principles outlined in the following publications:

- RACS – Short Term Training in a Medical Specialty Pathway
<https://www.surgeons.org/SIMGs/contacts-guidelines-and-forms>
- Medical Board of Australia (MBA) – Short Term Training in a Medical Specialty Pathway
<http://www.medicalboard.gov.au/Registration/International-Medical-Graduates/Short-term-training.aspx>

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

In Aotearoa New Zealand, the College acts as an agent of, and provides recommendations to, the Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ) on applications by SIMGs for vocational registration in one of RACS' nine surgical specialties. The provision of preliminary advice, an interview or a review occurs only in response to a request from the MCNZ.

The MCNZ holds statutory responsibility for approving the standard for registration and requests that the College advise whether an SIMG's training, qualifications and experience are equivalent to, or as satisfactory as, those of a locally trained doctor registered in the same vocational scope of surgery.

A recommendation on the SIMG's suitability for the vocational registration pathway and, if suitable for that pathway whether s/he should be under MCNZ approved supervision while adjusting to working in the Aotearoa New Zealand health environment or under College approved assessment to also ensure s/he is practicing at the required standard, is provided to the MCNZ. The MCNZ considers this and determines the type of medical registration that will be offered to the SIMG and any restrictions or conditions that may be placed on that registration. The MCNZ advises the College and the SIMG of its decision.

If the SIMG is required to undertake a College approved vocational assessment, the College is asked to approve the post and the supervisor(s) and the supervisor's reports are sent to the College and to the MCNZ. Once all assessment requirements have been completed by the SIMG, the College recommends to the MCNZ whether the SIMG should be approved for inclusion on the vocational register in the relevant specialty, or not.

Admission to Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons is a decision of the College alone and that is not part of the vocational registration assessments for the MCNZ. SIMGs who have obtained vocational registration in Aotearoa New Zealand may apply to the College for admission to Fellowship, and the information from the vocational registration process may be considered by the College in reaching its decision on that application.

Australia

TABLE SIMG.1 – Number of Specialist International Medical Graduate applications received by specialty

	CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	Total 2023
Specialist recognition	10	23	5	19	14	3	9	8	4	95
Area of need	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	4
Total	10	23	5	21	15	3	9	9	4	99

TABLE SIMG.2 – Specialist International Medical Graduate Countries of Training

Country	Qualification	
	Primary	Specialist
Argentina	2	2
Australia	1	0
Bangladesh	1	1
Belgium	0	1
Brazil	1	1
Canada	2	2
Egypt	4	1
France	1	1
Germany	2	1
Hong Kong	1	0
India	21	16
Iran	3	3
Iraq	1	0
Ireland	4	3
Lebanon	1	1
Mexico	2	2
Netherlands	1	1
Pakistan	2	0
Poland	1	1
Portugal	1	1
Qatar	0	1

Country	Qualification	
	Primary	Specialist
Russia	1	1
Saudi Arabia	1	1
Serbia	1	1
South Africa	7	7
Spain	0	1
Sri Lanka	9	8
Sudan	1	1
Sweden	0	1
Syria	2	5
Tanzania	1	1
Thailand	3	3
Turkey	4	4
United Kingdom	14	23
USA	1	2
Venezuela	1	0
Vietnam	1	1
Total	99	99

^aThe country in which the SIMG gained their qualification (primary qualification and specialist qualification).

TABLE SIMG.3 – Number of Specialist International Medical Graduates not comparable after initial paper-based review

	CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	Total 2023
No. of SIMGs not comparable	1	4	2	6	3	0	2	2	1	21

Note: Inclusive of applications activated in 2022. SIMGs are subject to document-based assessment only. Interview is not required.

TABLE SIMG.4 – Number of applications withdrawn by Specialist International Medical Graduates

	CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	Total 2023
Before initial assessment	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	4
Between initial and final assessment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	4

Note: Number of SIMGs who notify the college that they no longer wish to proceed with their application for specialist assessment. Inclusive of applications activated in 2022.

TABLE SIMG.5 – Specialist assessment pathway: Specialist International Medical Graduate outcome of initial assessment

Outcome following the college's paper-based review and/or interview as documented in Medical Board of Australia Report 1

Assessment result	CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	Total 2023
Substantially comparable (full scope)	1	4	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	9
Substantially comparable (defined scope)	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Partially comparable	2	7	0	6	2	1	1	2	0	21
Not comparable	1	5	0	7	5	0	2	2	0	22
In progress	8	8	4	10	7	2	6	5	6	56
Total	13	24	5	23	16	3	10	10	6	110
Applications activated in 2023	10	23	5	21	15	3	9	9	4	99
Total processed	10	23	5	21	15	3	9	9	4	99

Note: If SIMG's comparability is based on a limited scope of practice this should be noted. Data inclusive of applications activated in 2022.

TABLE SIMG.6 – Specialist assessment pathway: Specialist International Medical Graduate specialists under oversight / supervision

		Clinical assessment - by specialty									
Supervision / oversight period		CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	Total 2023
Currently under supervision	≤ 12 months	4	6	1	2	2	0	3	0	1	19
	≤ 18 months	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
	≤ 24 months	2	6	0	5	3	1	4	2	1	24
Completed supervision		2	3	2	3	2	0	3	1	1	17
Total		8	16	1	11	7	1	10	3	3	62

		Clinical assessment - by location of Supervision										
Supervision		ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS Total	NZ	Total 2023
Currently under supervision	≤ 12 months	0	4	2	8	2	0	2	1	19	0	19
	≤ 18 months	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	2
	≤ 24 months	1	8	3	8	0	1	3	0	24	0	24
Completed supervision			6	2	4	1	0	4		17		17
Total		1	19	7	20	3	1	9	2	62	0	62

Note: 'Completed supervision' indicates where the SIMG was supervised and therefore their last known working location.

TABLE SIMG.7 – Area of need pathway: Specialist International Medical Graduate outcome of initial assessment

Outcome following the college's paper-based review and/or interview as documented in Medical Board of Australia Report 1

Assessment result	CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	Total 2023
Substantially comparable (full scope)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Substantially comparable (defined scope)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Partially comparable	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Not comparable	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
In progress	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	4
Applications activated in 2023	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	4
Total processed	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	4

Note: These applications were submitted as both Area of Need and Specialist recognition.

TABLE SIMG.8 – Area of need pathway: Specialist International Medical Graduate specialists under supervision

Supervision / oversight period		Clinical assessment - by specialty									Total 2023
		CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	
Currently under supervision	≤ 12 months	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
	≤ 24 months	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Completed oversight/ supervision		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2

*Of the 4 AoN applications from 2023 only one is currently under supervision.

Supervision / oversight period		Clinical assessment - by location of residence										Total 2023
		ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS Total	NZ	
Currently under oversight	≤ 12 months	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	≤ 24 months	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Completed oversight/ supervision		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2

TABLE SIMG.9 – Specialist International Medical Graduate outcome of area of need assessment

Outcome following the college's paper-based review as documented in area of need assessment outcome report or Medical Board of Australia (MBA) Report combined report.

	CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	Total 2023
Suitable for area of need position	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Not suitable for area of need position	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
In progress	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2

TABLE SIMG.10 – Specialist International Medical Graduate outcome of final assessment

Outcome following the college's final assessment (after the SIMG has completed all the requirements in MBA report 1) as documented in Medical Board of Australia Report 2

		CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	Total 2023
Recommended for recognition as specialist	Substantially comparable (full scope)	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	4
	Substantially comparable (defined scope)	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Partially comparable	2	6	1	1	2	0	1	1	1	15
	Not comparable	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Not recommended for recognition as specialist	Substantially comparable (full scope)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Substantially comparable (defined scope)	1	1	2	0	1	0	3	1	1	10
	Partially comparable	3	9	3	3	5	1	4	2	2	32
	Not comparable	2	2	0	4	0	0	4	4	1	17
Total		5	6	1	8	7	0	8	4	3	42

TABLE SIMG.11 – Specialist International Medical Graduate time for specialist recognition initial assessment

	2023
0-3 months	1
4-6 months	6
7-12 months	13
13 months +	27
In progress	50
Total	97

Note: Timeframe to process from date application is activated until interim recommendation. As documented in Medical Board of Australia Report 1.

TABLE SIMG.12 – Specialist International Medical Graduate time for area of need assessment

	2023
0-3 months	0
4-6 months	3
7-12 months	0
13 months +	0
In progress	1
Total	4

Note: Timeframe to process from date application is activated until interim recommendation. As documented in Medical Board of Australia Report 1.

TABLE SIMG.13 – Specialist International Medical Graduate time for specialist recognition final assessment

	2023
0-3 months	0
4-6 months	0
7-12 months	1
13-18 months	6
19-24 months	6
25-36 months	9
37-48 months	5
48 months +	5
Total	32

Note: Timeframe to complete all requirements as specified in specialist recommendation. Period is noted from date of interim recommendation letter. As documented in Medical Board of Australia Report 2

TABLE SIMG.14 – Specialist International Medical Graduate - number and outcome of appeal

Total number of appeals		2023	2022
Decision being appealed	Outcome of assessment	25	20
Original decision	Not comparable	23	14
	Partially comparable	2	6
RACS decision	Upheld	13	13
	Decision changed	10	7
	Request rejected	2	0

TABLE SIMG.15 – Short-termed specified training: Specialist International Medical Graduate applications by specialty

RACS decision	CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	Total 2023
Approved	27	41	15	157	18	15	34	26	3	336
Denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pending	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
In Process	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	27	41	15	157	18	15	34	26	3	336

TABLE SIMG.16 – Short-termed specified training: Specialist International Medical Graduate specialist applications by location

RACS decision	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS Total	NZ	Total 2023
Approved	6	114	5	51	34	2	94	30	336	NA	336
Denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA	0
Pending	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA	0
In Process	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA	0
Total	6	114	5	51	34	2	94	30	336	NA	336

TABLE SIMG.17 – Number of Specialist International Medical Graduate specialists practising in Australia

	Total 2023
Total number of SIMGs practicing in Australia with valid assessment	108

Note: SIMGs undergoing clinical assessment or SIMGs who have completed clinical assessment and are required to complete the College's Fellowship Examination and/or other requirements as stipulated in their specialist recommendation following a document based assessment and interview.

New Zealand

TABLE SIMG.18 – Applications for Specialist International Medical Graduates

Preliminary advice to the MCNZ following documentation review	CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	TOTAL
Likely To Be Suitable For Vocational Pathway	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	1	5
Unlikely To Be Suitable For Vocational Pathway	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	3
Unable To Determine Suitability By Documentation Only	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	3
Preliminary Advise requests not yet completed	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Total	0	1	0	4	0	1	1	3	3	13

TABLE SIMG.19 – Interview outcomes for Specialist International Medical Graduate applicants

Advice to MCNZ following interview	CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	TOTAL
Vocational Pathway - Supervision (MCNZ approved)	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Vocational Pathway - Supervised Assessment (College Approved)	1	1	1	2	3	1	0	3	2	14
Not Recommended As Suitable For Vocational Pathway	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	4
Total	1	4	1	5	3	1	1	3	2	21

Applications yet to achieve interview completion	CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	TOTAL
applicants withdrawn prior to interview 2022	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
applicants awaiting interview at end of December 2022	0	1	1	2	0	0	3	0	0	7
interview process incomplete at end of December 2022	1	2	1	2	1	0	0	2	0	9
Total	1	3	2	4	1	0	3	2	0	16

TABLE SIMG.20 – International Medical Graduate specialists participating in vocational assessment

IMGs under College approved Vocational Assessment in 2023	CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	TOTAL
For Full Scope Registration	1	4	2	5	6	1	0	3	0	22
For Restricted Scope Registration	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Total	1	5	2	5	7	1	0	3	0	24

College approved vocational assessments completed in 2023	CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	TOTAL
To Satisfactory Standard	0	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	6
Not To Satisfactory Standard	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Withdrawn from program	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	6

TABLE SIMG.21 – RACS review of recommendations for Specialist International Medical Graduate specialist applicants at the request of the Medical Council of New Zealand

RACS Recommendation after review (in 2023 includes comments on submissions made by SIMGs)	CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	TOTAL
Recommendation Altered	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Recommendation Not Altered	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	3
In progress	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Total	0	2	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	6

MCNZ decision of RACS review	CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	TOTAL
RACS review accepted by MCNZ	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
RACS review not accepted by MCNZ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
In progress	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	3
Total	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	5

Section Three: Surgical Education and Training

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The College is accredited and authorised to conduct surgical training in nine specialties.

The following specialties conduct bi-national training programs:

- Cardiothoracic Surgery
- Neurosurgery
- Paediatric Surgery
- Urology Surgery; and
- Vascular Surgery.

Separate programs are conducted in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand for the following specialties:

- General Surgery
- Orthopaedic Surgery
- Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery; and
- Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

The number of appointments made in any year is dependent on the number of trainees finishing the program and the consequent number of vacant accredited posts. The College does not control the number of posts available but accredits posts nominated by jurisdictions. RACS has committed to accrediting any training post that meets the accreditation standards.

Since the introduction of the SET program in 2008, individual specialties have diverged from a common categorisation of trainee SET level. Consequently this report is based on “years in training” and doesn’t reflect individual trainees’ progress towards Fellowship.

Active Trainees who started training, finished training or were admitted to Fellowship in the middle of the year are not counted as an active Trainee in all tables.

DATA HIGHLIGHTS

Applications: A total of 947 applications across the nine specialties were received in 2023 for the 2024 SET intake. Of the applications received, 325 applicants (34%) were women and 622 were men (Table SET.1). When comparing these numbers to the number of applications received in 2022 it should be noted that the data for that year only included successful Australian Orthopaedic surgery applications. Data for the 2023 Activities report includes all Australian Orthopaedic applications.

Of the 947 applications to SET received in 2023, 298 applicants were offered a Trainee position (Table SET.5). 115 (38%) of these offers were made to female applicants, compared to 88 (31%) of 2022 offers. The specialties with the largest increase in the proportion of female to male offers made were General Surgery, Orthopaedic Surgery, and Urology (Table SET.5).

Active SET Trainees: In 2023, there were 1269 Trainees on the SET program. There were 19 Trainees approved for Flexible (less than full-time) Training in 2023 which is a decrease from 2022 (26 Trainees approved for Flexible Training). However, the proportion of females to males approved for Flexible Training increased from 73% to 78% (Table SET.6). 5 Trainees identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander which is a slight decrease to the previous year. 29 Trainees identified as Māori in 2023 which is consistent with 2022 (Table SET.25).

TABLE SET.1 – SET applications by specialty, gender and applicant type^a

Specialty & Type		SET	SIMG	NON SIMG / Trainee ^b	Fellow	TOTAL 2023 ^a	TOTAL 2023 ^a	% Change 22/23
CAR	Male	1	0	35	0	36	35	2.9%
	Female	0	0	16	0	16	12	33.3%
	Total	1	0	51	0	52	47	10.6%
GEN	Male	0	0	159	0	159	185	-14.1%
	Female	0	0	131	0	131	142	-7.7%
	Total	0	0	290	0	290	327	-11.3%
NEU	Male	0	0	47	0	47	46	2.2%
	Female	0	0	14	0	14	17	-17.6%
	Total	0	0	61	0	61	63	-3.2%
ORT ^c	Male	0	0	236	0	236	74	218.9%
	Female	0	0	81	0	81	20	305.0%
	Total	0	0	317	0	317	94	237.2%
OTO	Male	0	0	45	0	45	56	-19.6%
	Female	0	0	20	0	20	22	-9.1%
	Total	0	0	65	0	65	78	-16.7%
PAE	Male	1	0	6	0	7	7	0.0%
	Female	1	0	6	0	7	6	16.7%
	Total	2	0	12	0	14	13	7.7%
PLA	Male	0	0	37	0	37	52	-28.8%
	Female	0	0	23	0	23	32	-28.1%
	Total	0	0	60	0	60	84	-28.6%
URO	Male	1	0	30	0	31	35	-11.4%
	Female	0	0	17	0	17	11	54.5%
	Total	1	0	47	0	48	46	4.3%
VAS	Male	3	0	21	0	24	29	-17.2%
	Female	0	0	16	0	16	18	-11.1%
	Total	3	0	37	0	40	47	-14.9%
Total	Male	6	0	616	0	622	519	19.8%
	Female	1	0	324	0	325	280	16.1%
	Total	7	0	940	0	947	799	18.5%

^aTotal number of SET applications may include more than one application from an individual.

^bNon-SIMG/Trainee refers to applications from those not currently Fellows, Trainees or SIMGs.

^cIncludes successful Australian Orthopaedic surgery applications only in 2022. In 2022, there were 233 applications, 189 from Males and 44 applications from females. The application type is unknown and therefore not included here.

TABLE SET.2 – SET applications by specialty and location of residence^a

Location & Specialty	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S	TOTAL 2023 ^a	TOTAL 2022 ^a	% Change 22/23	
CAR	Male	1	7	0	5	5	2	5	4	29	7	0	36	35	2.9
	Female	0	6	0	3	2	0	1	1	13	3	0	16	12	33.3
	Total	1	13	0	8	7	2	6	5	42	10	0	52	47	10.6
GEN	Male	1	42		30	11	2	37	14	137	22	0	159	185	-14.1
	Female	2	28	3	23	16		29	9	110	21	0	131	142	-7.7
	Total	3	70	3	53	27	2	66	23	247	43	0	290	327	-11.3
NEU	Male	2	14	2	7	4	1	11	3	44	3	0	47	46	2.2
	Female	0	6	0	3	0	0	4	0	13	1	0	14	17	-17.6
	Total	2	20	2	10	4	1	15	3	57	4	0	61	63	-3.2
ORT ^b	Male	1	68	1	55	10	2	53	18	208	27	1	236	74	218.9
	Female	1	19	0	12	7	0	16	7	62	19	0	81	20	305.0
	Total	2	87	1	67	17	2	69	25	270	46	1	317	94	237.2
OTO	Male	1	14	0	13	2	0	9	2	41	4	0	45	56	-19.6
	Female	0	2	0	2	4	0	4	4	16	4	0	20	22	-9.1
	Total	1	16	0	15	6	0	13	6	57	8	0	65	78	-16.7
PAE	Male	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	0	5	2	0	7	7	0.0
	Female	1	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	6	1	0	7	6	16.7
	Total	1	3	0	4	0	0	3	0	11	3	0	14	13	7.7
PLA	Male	0	13	0	4	1	2	9	5	34	3	0	37	52	-28.8
	Female	0	4	0	5	0	0	8	1	18	5	0	23	32	-28.1
	Total	0	17	0	9	1	2	17	6	52	8	0	60	84	-28.6
URO	Male	0	11	0	7	2	0	4	2	26	5	0	31	35	-11.4
	Female	0	4	0	2	0	0	8	0	14	3	0	17	11	54.5
	Total	0	15	0	9	2	0	12	2	40	8	0	48	46	4.3
VAS	Male	0	11	0	6	0	0	4	1	22	2	0	24	29	-17.2
	Female	1	3	0	2	1	1	4	1	13	3	0	16	18	-11.1
	Total	1	14	0	8	1	1	8	2	35	5	0	40	47	-14.9
Total	Male	6	181	3	129	35	9	134	49	546	75	1	622	519	19.8
	Female	5	74	3	54	30	1	75	23	265	60	0	325	280	16.1
	Total	11	255	6	183	65	10	209	72	811	135	1	947	799	18.5

^a Total number of SET applications may include more than one application from an individual.

^b In 2022, includes successful Australian Orthopaedic surgery applications only. In 2022, there were 233 applications, 189 from males and 44 applications from females. Their geographic location is unknown and therefore not included here. In 2023, all applications are included.

TABLE SET.3 – Individual SET applicants by number of applications and applicant type^a

Number & Type	SET	SET Deferred	SIMG	NON IMG / Trainee	Fellow	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022	% Change 22/23	
1	Male	6	0	0	582	0	588	474	24.1
	Female	1	0	0	308	0	309	265	16.6
	Total	7	0	0	890	0	897	739	21.4
2	Male	0	0	0	34	0	34	21	61.9
	Female	0	0	0	16	0	16	6	166.7
	Total	0	0	0	50	0	50	27	85.2
3	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-100.0
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	NA
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	-100.0
24	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
Total	Male	6	0	0	616	0	622	496	25.4
	Female	1	0	0	324	0	325	272	19.5
	Total	7	0	0	940	0	947	768	23.3

^aTotal number of SET applications may include more than one application from an individual.

^bIncludes successful Australian Orthopaedic surgery applications in 2022 only. In 2022, there were 233 applications, 189 from Males and 44 applications from females. The application type and number of applications per applicant is unknown and therefore not included here. In 2023, all applications are included

TABLE SET.4 – SET applications outcome by specialty and applicant type^a

Specialty	Offers		Unsuccessful		Waiting List		Withdrawn		Ineligible		Declined		Total application outcomes 2023
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
CAR	6	11.5	14	26.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	32	61.5	0	0.0	52
GEN	133	45.9	149	51.4	0	0.0	1	0.3	3	1.0	4	1.4	290
NEU	8	13.1	53	86.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	61
ORT	72	22.7	245	77.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	317
OTO	19	29.2	44	67.7	0	0.0	1	1.5	0	0.0	1	1.5	65
PAE	4	28.6	1	7.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	9	64.3	0	0.0	14
PLA	21	35.0	29	48.3	0	0.0	2	3.3	8	13.3	0	0.0	60
URO	24	50.0	24	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	48
VAS	11	27.5	27	67.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	5.0	40
Total	298	31.5	586	61.9	0	0.0	4	0.4	52	5.5	7	0.7	947
Applicant type													
SET	2	28.6	4	57.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	14.3	0	0.0	7
SIMG	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	-	0
F	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
Non SIMG / Trainee	296	31.7	582	62.4	0	0.0	4	0.4	51	5.5	7	0.8	933
Total	298	31.5	586	61.9	0	0.0	4	0.4	52	5.5	7	0.7	947

^aData in 'Declined' column relates to applicants who receive and accepted an offer for a different specialty.

TABLE SET.5 – Successful SET application by specialty and location of residence

Specialty & Location	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022	% Change 22/23	
CAR	Male	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	5	0	0	5	4	25.0
	Female	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	-66.7
	Total	0	2	0	0	1	0	2	1	6	0	0	6	7	-14.3
GEN	Male	1	20	0	14	3	2	17	5	62	8	0	70	74	-5.4
	Female	1	12	3	15	4	0	14	4	53	10	0	63	48	31.3
	Total	2	32	3	29	7	2	31	9	115	18	0	133	122	9.0
NEU	Male	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	5	0	0	5	7	-28.6
	Female	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	3	0.0
	Total	1	2	1	2	0	0	1	1	8	0	0	8	10	-20.0
ORT	Male	0	13	0	8	3	1	12	5	42	8	0	50	55	-9.1
	Female	1	2	0	1	1	0	3	2	10	12	0	22	8	175.0
	Total	1	15	0	9	4	1	15	7	52	20	0	72	63	14.3
OTO	Male	0	3	0	4	0	0	5	0	12	1	0	13	16	-18.8
	Female	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	4	2	0	6	8	-25.0
	Total	0	3	0	5	1	0	5	2	16	3	0	19	24	-20.8
PAE	Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	1	100.0
	Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	3	-33.3
	Total	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	4	4	0.0
PLA	Male	0	4	0	1	1	0	5	2	13	0	0	13	16	-18.8
	Female	0	2	0	3	0	0	2	0	7	1	0	8	10	-20.0
	Total	0	6	0	4	1	0	7	2	20	1	0	21	26	-19.2
URO	Male	0	4	0	2	2	0	2	2	12	4	0	16	15	6.7
	Female	0	4	0	1	0	0	1	0	6	2	0	8	3	166.7
	Total	0	8	0	3	2	0	3	2	18	6	0	24	18	33.3
VAS	Male	0	5	0	3	0	0	1	0	9	0	0	9	8	12.5
	Female	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	2	0.0
	Total	0	7	0	3	0	0	1	0	11	0	0	11	10	10.0
Total	Male	2	53	1	32	9	3	46	16	162	21	0	183	196	-6.6
	Female	2	23	3	24	7	0	20	8	87	28	0	115	88	30.7
	Total	4	76	4	56	16	3	66	24	249	49	0	298	284	4.9

TABLE SET.6 – Active SET Trainees by status and training location^a

Trainee status		ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022	% Change 22/23
Clinical	Male	14	261	6	141	54	9	168	58	711	146	1	858	844	1.7
	Female	6	105	1	56	20	8	87	32	315	69	0	384	381	0.8
	Total	20	366	7	197	74	17	255	90	1026	215	1	1242	1225	1.4
Accredited Research	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Part Time	Male	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	4	0	0	4	7	-42.9
	Female	0	6	0	1	0	1	7	0	15	0	0	15	19	-21.1
	Total	0	7	0	1	2	1	8	0	19	0	0	19	26	-26.9
Probationary	Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	3	-33.3
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	-50.0
	Total	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	3	5	-40.0
Exam Pending	Male	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	3	6	-50.0
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	2	0.0
	Total	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	1	0	5	8	-37.5
Total	Male	14	265	6	141	56	9	169	58	718	148	1	867	860	0.8
	Female	6	112	1	57	20	9	95	32	332	70	0	402	404	-0.5
	Total	20	377	7	198	76	18	264	90	1050	218	1	1269	1264	0.4

^a Total data cannot be verified as Australian Orthopaedic Association do not routinely report individual Australian Orthopaedic trainee data to RACS.

TABLE SET.7 – Inactive SET Trainees by status and training location^a

Location of Training by SET Status		ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022	% Change 22/23
Approved Interruption to training	Male	1	8	0	1	2	0	1	1	14	6	1	21	25	-16.0
	Female	1	5	0	3	1	1	12	2	25	9	0	34	29	17.2
	Total	2	13	0	4	3	1	13	3	39	15	1	55	54	1.9
Deferred	Male	0	1	0	2	1	0	3	0	7	1	0	8	5	60.0
	Female	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	0	5	0	0	5	4	25.0
	Total	0	1	0	3	3	0	5	0	12	1	0	13	9	44.4
Suspended	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
TOTAL	Male	1	9	0	3	3	0	4	1	21	7	1	29	30	-3.3
	Female	1	5	0	4	3	1	14	2	30	9	0	39	33	18.2
	Total	2	14	0	7	6	1	18	3	51	16	1	68	63	7.9

^a Total data cannot be verified as Australian Orthopaedic Association do not routinely report individual Australian Orthopaedic trainee data to RACS.

TABLE SET.8 – Active SET Trainees by status and specialty^a

Trainee Status		CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022	% Change 22/23
Clinical	Male	25	286	45	249	66	9	66	75	37	858	844	1.7
	Female	11	190	11	61	28	11	37	25	10	384	381	0.8
	Total	36	476	56	310	94	20	103	100	47	1242	1225	1.4
Accredited Research	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Part Time	Male	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	7	-42.9
	Female	1	13	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	15	19	-21.1
	Total	1	17	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	19	26	-26.9
Probationary	Male	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	3	-33.3
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	-50.0
	Total	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	5	-40.0
Exam Pending	Male	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	-50.0
	Female	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0.0
	Total	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	8	-37.5
Total	Male	27	292	45	249	66	9	67	75	37	867	860	0.8
	Female	12	204	11	62	28	11	38	26	10	402	404	-0.5
	Total	39	496	56	311	94	20	105	101	47	1269	1264	0.4

^a Total data cannot be verified as Australian Orthopaedic Association do not routinely report individual Australian Orthopaedic trainee data to RACS.

TABLE SET.9 – Inactive SET Trainees by status and specialty^a

Trainee status		CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022	% Change 22/23
Approved Interruption to training	Male	0	12	2	0	3	0	1	1	2	21	25	-16.0
	Female	1	15	2	2	5	2	5	0	2	34	29	17.2
	Total	1	27	4	2	8	2	6	1	4	55	54	1.9
Deferred	Male	0	4	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	8	5	60.0
	Female	0	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	5	4	25.0
	Total	0	7	0	0	2	1	2	1	0	13	9	44.4
Suspended	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Total	Male	0	16	2	0	4	1	2	2	2	29	30	-3.3
	Female	1	18	2	2	6	2	6	0	2	39	33	18.2
	Total	1	34	4	2	10	3	8	2	4	68	63	7.9

^a Total data cannot be verified as Australian Orthopaedic Association do not routinely report individual Australian Orthopaedic trainee data to RACS.

TABLE SET.10 – SET Trainees that exited the SET program, by specialty^a

Specialty	Terminated from SET		Withdrawn from SET		Other		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
CAR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GEN	3	0	3	3	0	0	6	3
NEU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ORT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PAE	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
PLA	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
URO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VAS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	4	1	3	4	0	0	7	5

^a Trainees that exited SET have not been counted as active Trainees in table SET.6 & 8.

TABLE SET.11 – SET Trainees that exited the SET program, by year of training^a

Specialty	Terminated from SET		Withdrawn from SET		Other		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Year 1	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	2
Year 2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Year 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Year 4	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Year 5	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
Year 6+	2	1	1	1	0	0	3	2
Total	4	1	3	4	0	0	7	5
% of all trainees	1.0%	0.2%	0.7%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.7%	1.2%

^a Trainees that exited SET have not been counted as active Trainees in table SET.6 & 8.

TABLE SET.12 – SET Trainees that exited the SET program, by region^a

Specialty	Terminated from SET		Withdrawn from SET		Other		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
ACT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NSW	2	0	2	0	0	0	4	0
NT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
QLD	1	0	1	2	0	0	2	2
SA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TAS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VIC	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
WA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AUS	3	1	3	3	0	0	6	4
NZ	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
O/S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	4	1	3	4	0	0	7	5

^a Trainees that exited SET have not been counted as active Trainees in table SET.6 & 8.

TABLE SET.13 – Active SET Trainees by age and location of training post^a

Active Trainees by Specialty & Age		ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S	TOTAL 2023
<30	Male	0	15	0	4	4	1	4	2	30	4	0	34
	Female	0	5	0	3	1	1	3	0	13	2	0	15
	Total	0	20	0	7	5	2	7	2	43	6	0	49
30-34	Male	6	136	6	75	19	5	84	24	355	85	0	440
	Female	4	59	1	26	13	5	52	15	175	41	0	216
	Total	10	195	7	101	32	10	136	39	530	126	0	656
35-39	Male	6	86	0	46	28	3	69	27	265	51	0	316
	Female	2	35	0	22	5	2	35	15	116	23	0	139
	Total	8	121	0	68	33	5	104	42	381	74	0	455
40-44	Male	2	21	0	13	3	0	8	4	51	7	1	59
	Female	0	12	0	6	1	1	4	2	26	2	0	28
	Total	2	33	0	19	4	1	12	6	77	9	1	87
45-49	Male	0	6	0	3	2	0	4	1	16	0	0	16
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
	Total	0	6	0	3	2	0	5	1	17	0	0	17
50-54	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	3
	Total	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	4
55-70+	Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	Male	14	265	6	141	56	9	169	58	718	148	1	867
	Female	6	112	1	57	20	9	95	32	332	70	0	402
	Total	20	377	7	198	76	18	264	90	1050	218	1	1269

^a Total data cannot be verified as Australian Orthopaedic Association do not routinely report individual Australian Orthopaedic trainee data to RACS.

In 2023, 29 Trainees have identified as Māori and five identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

Includes Trainees who have identified their ethnicity/ancestry. Identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander or Māori is optional.

TABLE SET.14 – Active SET Trainees by age and specialty^a

Active Trainees by Specialty & Age		CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	TOTAL 2023
←30	Male	0	17	2	4	1	0	2	7	1	34
	Female	0	9	1	3	1	0	0	0	1	15
	Total	0	26	3	7	2	0	2	7	2	49
30-34	Male	10	155	19	125	34	2	38	33	24	440
	Female	5	125	6	27	17	5	15	11	5	216
	Total	15	280	25	152	51	7	53	44	29	656
35-39	Male	15	90	16	98	29	5	21	33	9	316
	Female	6	56	4	26	8	3	20	12	4	139
	Total	21	146	20	124	37	8	41	45	13	455
40-44	Male	1	19	7	19	2	2	5	1	3	59
	Female	1	12	0	5	2	3	3	2	0	28
	Total	2	31	7	24	4	5	8	3	3	87
45-49	Male	0	11	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	16
	Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Total	0	11	1	3	0	0	1	1	0	17
50-54	Male	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Female	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
	Total	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	4
55-70+	Male	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	Male	27	292	45	249	66	9	67	75	37	867
	Female	12	204	11	62	28	11	38	26	10	402
	Total	39	496	56	311	94	20	105	101	47	1269

^a Total data cannot be verified as Australian Orthopaedic Association do not routinely report individual Australian Orthopaedic trainee data to RACS.

TABLE SET.15 – Active SET Trainees by years in training and training post location^a

Location & Year of Training		ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022	% Change 22/23
Year 1	Male	4	57	2	30	13	4	36	17	163	35	0	198	174	
	Female	4	25	1	9	1	4	16	8	68	12	0	80	81	
	Total	8	82	3	39	14	8	52	25	231	47	0	278	255	9.0
Year 2	Male	2	48	3	26	10	3	38	12	142	31	0	173	173	
	Female	1	17	0	17	5	2	15	4	61	16	0	77	82	
	Total	3	65	3	43	15	5	53	16	203	47	0	250	255	-2.0
Year 3	Male	4	54	1	28	11	2	30	7	137	37	0	174	184	
	Female	1	21	0	8	4	0	26	11	71	15	0	86	79	
	Total	5	75	1	36	15	2	56	18	208	52	0	260	263	-1.1
Year 4	Male	3	64	0	35	13	0	35	15	165	27	0	192	170	
	Female	0	28	0	11	4	0	23	2	68	14	0	82	87	
	Total	3	92	0	46	17	0	58	17	233	41	0	274	257	6.6
Year 5	Male	1	36	0	18	6	0	22	6	89	16	1	106	126	
	Female	0	14	0	8	5	2	12	6	47	13	0	60	55	
	Total	1	50	0	26	11	2	34	12	136	29	1	166	181	-8.3
Year 6+	Male	0	6	0	4	3	0	8	1	22	2	0	24	33	
	Female	0	7	0	4	1	1	3	1	17	0	0	17	20	
	Total	0	13	0	8	4	1	11	2	39	2	0	41	53	-22.6
Total	Male	14	265	6	141	56	9	169	58	718	148	1	867	860	
	Female	6	112	1	57	20	9	95	32	332	70	0	402	404	
	Total	20	377	7	198	76	18	264	90	1050	218	1	1269	1264	0.4

^a Total data cannot be verified as Australian Orthopaedic Association do not routinely report individual Australian Orthopaedic trainee data to RACS.

TABLE SET.16 – Active Cardiothoracic SET Trainees by years in training and training post location

Location & Year of Training		ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022	% Change 22/23
Year 1	Male	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	3	1	0	4	5	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	3	1	
	Total	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	4	3	0	7	6	16.7
Year 2	Male	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	1	0	5	1	
	Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	
	Total	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	0	5	1	0	6	2	200.0
Year 3	Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	8	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	3	
	Total	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	11	-81.8
Year 4	Male	0	3	0	1	1	0	0	1	6	2	0	8	2	
	Female	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	
	Total	0	5	0	1	1	0	0	1	8	2	0	10	3	233.3
Year 5	Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	5	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	
	Total	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	3	8	-62.5
Year 6+	Male	0	1	0	2	0	0	3	0	6	1	0	7	6	
	Female	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	4	0	0	4	2	
	Total	0	2	0	3	0	1	4	0	10	1	0	11	8	37.5
Total	Male	0	8	0	3	2	0	6	3	22	5	0	27	27	
	Female	0	3	0	2	0	1	3	0	9	3	0	12	11	
	Total	0	11	0	5	2	1	9	3	31	8	0	39	38	2.6

TABLE SET.17 – Active General Surgery SET Trainees by years in training and training post location

Location & Year of Training		ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022	% Change 22/23
Year 1	Male	1	20	2	13	3	3	14	6	62	11	0	73	55	
	Female	2	15	1	6	0	3	4	6	37	7	0	44	44	
	Total	3	35	3	19	3	6	18	12	99	18	0	117	99	18.2
Year 2	Male	1	19	3	7	2	1	12	3	48	8	0	56	67	
	Female	0	11	0	8	4	1	10	0	34	8	0	42	44	
	Total	1	30	3	15	6	2	22	3	82	16	0	98	111	-11.7
Year 3	Male	1	18	1	14	4	0	15	3	56	14	0	70	64	
	Female	1	11	0	3	2	0	18	5	40	8	0	48	42	
	Total	2	29	1	17	6	0	33	8	96	22	0	118	106	11.3
Year 4	Male	0	23	0	16	4	0	15	5	63	8	0	71	79	
	Female	0	21	0	4	1	0	14	2	42	7	0	49	51	
	Total	0	44	0	20	5	0	29	7	105	15	0	120	130	-7.7
Year 5	Male	0	7	0	3	2	0	2	1	15	1	1	17	21	
	Female	0	6	0	2	0	2	4	0	14	4	0	18	16	
	Total	0	13	0	5	2	2	6	1	29	5	1	35	37	-5.4
Year 6+	Male	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	0	5	0	0	5	8	
	Female	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	5	
	Total	0	3	0	0	3	0	2	0	8	0	0	8	13	-38.5
Total	Male	3	88	6	53	17	4	60	18	249	42	1	292	294	
	Female	3	66	1	23	8	6	50	13	170	34	0	204	202	
	Total	6	154	7	76	25	10	110	31	419	76	1	496	496	0.0

TABLE SET.18 – Active Neurosurgery SET Trainees by years in training and training post location

Location & Year of Training		ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022	% Change 22/23
Year 1	Male	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	6	1	0	7	12	
	Female	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	1	
	Total	2	2	0	3	1	0	0	1	9	1	0	10	13	-23.1
Year 2	Male	0	3	0	2	1	0	2	0	8	3	0	11	10	
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	4	
	Total	0	4	0	2	1	0	2	0	9	3	0	12	14	-14.3
Year 3	Male	0	3	0	2	0	1	2	0	8	1	0	9	8	
	Female	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	0	0	4	1	
	Total	0	5	0	2	0	1	4	0	12	1	0	13	9	44.4
Year 4	Male	0	6	0	0	0	0	2	0	8	0	0	8	6	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	2	
	Total	0	6	0	0	0	0	3	0	9	0	0	9	8	12.5
Year 5	Male	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	1	6	0	0	6	5	
	Female	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	3	
	Total	0	2	0	2	2	0	1	1	8	0	0	8	8	0.0
Year 6+	Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	4	0	0	4	2	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	Total	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	4	0	0	4	3	33.3
Total	Male	1	15	0	8	3	1	9	3	40	5	0	45	43	
	Female	1	5	0	1	1	0	3	0	11	0	0	11	12	
	Total	2	20	0	9	4	1	12	3	51	5	0	56	55	1.8

TABLE SET.19 – Active Orthopaedic SET Trainees by years in training and training post location^a

Location & Year of Training		ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022	% Change 22/23
Year 1	Male	0	18	0	9	5	0	8	5	45	12	0	57	51	
	Female	1	1	0	1	0	0	5	0	8	0	0	8	12	
	Total	1	19	0	10	5	0	13	5	53	12	0	65	63	3.2
Year 2	Male	0	11	0	10	4	0	11	5	41	12	0	53	41	
	Female	1	4	0	2	0	1	1	1	10	2	0	12	14	
	Total	1	15	0	12	4	1	12	6	51	14	0	65	55	18.2
Year 3	Male	1	18	0	5	2	1	5	1	33	8	0	41	63	
	Female	0	3	0	2	1	0	1	3	10	3	0	13	11	
	Total	1	21	0	7	3	1	6	4	43	11	0	54	74	-27.0
Year 4	Male	2	21	0	10	2	0	9	7	51	12	0	63	35	
	Female	0	5	0	1	1	0	1	0	8	3	0	11	11	
	Total	2	26	0	11	3	0	10	7	59	15	0	74	46	60.9
Year 5	Male	1	9	0	5	1	0	7	1	24	11	0	35	51	
	Female	0	2	0	1	2	0	5	3	13	4	0	17	12	
	Total	1	11	0	6	3	0	12	4	37	15	0	52	63	-17.5
Year 6+	Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Total	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	-66.7
Total	Male	4	78	0	39	14	1	40	19	195	55	0	250	244	
	Female	2	15	0	7	4	1	13	7	49	12	0	61	60	
	Total	6	93	0	46	18	2	53	26	244	67	0	311	304	2.3

^a Total data cannot be verified as Australian Orthopaedic Association do not routinely report individual Australian Orthopaedic trainee data to RACS.

TABLE SET.20 – Active Otolaryngology Head and Neck SET Trainees by years in training and training post location

Location & Year of Training		ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022	% Change 22/23
Year 1	Male	1	6	0	2	0	0	3	1	13	4	0	17	12	
	Female	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	2	7	1	0	8	7	
	Total	1	8	0	2	0	0	6	3	20	5	0	25	19	31.6
Year 2	Male	1	4	0	1	0	0	4	0	10	2	0	12	14	
	Female	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	3	3	0	6	5	
	Total	1	4	0	3	0	0	5	0	13	5	0	18	19	-5.3
Year 3	Male	0	2	0	3	1	0	1	2	9	5	0	14	11	
	Female	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	4	4	
	Total	0	4	0	3	1	0	1	2	11	7	0	18	15	20.0
Year 4	Male	0	3	0	2	2	0	2	1	10	1	0	11	13	
	Female	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3	0	0	3	8	
	Total	0	3	0	2	3	0	4	1	13	1	0	14	21	-33.3
Year 5	Male	0	3	0	2	1	0	4	0	10	2	0	12	15	
	Female	0	1	0	4	1	0	0	0	6	1	0	7	6	
	Total	0	4	0	6	2	0	4	0	16	3	0	19	21	-9.5
Year 6+	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	-100.0
Total	Male	2	18	0	10	4	0	14	4	52	14	0	66	66	
	Female	0	5	0	6	2	0	6	2	21	7	0	28	31	
	Total	2	23	0	16	6	0	20	6	73	21	0	94	97	-3.1

TABLE SET.21 – Active Paediatric SET Trainees by years in training and training post location

Location & Year of Training		ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022	% Change 22/23
Year 1	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	2	
	Total	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	2	0.0
Year 2	Male	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	
	Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	
	Total	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	3	2	50.0
Year 3	Male	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	
	Total	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	0	#DIV/0!
Year 4	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-100.0
Year 5	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	1	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	4	-50.0
Year 6+	Male	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	4	1	0	5	6	
	Female	0	3	0	2	0	0	1	0	6	0	0	6	6	
	Total	0	4	0	4	1	0	1	0	10	1	0	11	12	-8.3
Total	Male	0	1	0	3	2	0	0	1	7	2	0	9	9	
	Female	0	4	0	3	0	0	2	1	10	1	0	11	12	
	Total	0	5	0	6	2	0	2	2	17	3	0	20	21	-4.8

TABLE SET.22 – Active Plastic and Reconstructive SET Trainees by years in training and training post location

Location & Year of Training		ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022	% Change 22/23
Year 1	Male	0	5	0	0	1	0	5	2	13	3	0	16	14	
	Female	0	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	5	2	0	7	7	
	Total	0	7	0	0	2	0	7	2	18	5	0	23	21	9.5
Year 2	Male	0	2	0	1	2	2	3	2	12	2	0	14	16	
	Female	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	5	2	0	7	6	
	Total	0	3	0	2	2	2	3	5	17	4	0	21	22	-4.5
Year 3	Male	0	4	0	2	2	0	3	0	11	4	0	15	8	
	Female	0	2	0	0	1	0	2	1	6	1	0	7	10	
	Total	0	6	0	2	3	0	5	1	17	5	0	22	18	22.2
Year 4	Male	0	2	0	1	1	0	3	0	7	1	0	8	14	
	Female	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	5	2	0	7	8	
	Total	0	2	0	3	1	0	6	0	12	3	0	15	22	-31.8
Year 5	Male	0	4	0	5	0	0	2	1	12	1	0	13	10	
	Female	0	3	0	0	1	0	1	2	7	2	0	9	4	
	Total	0	7	0	5	1	0	3	3	19	3	0	22	14	57.1
Year 6+	Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	4	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	3	
	Total	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	7	-71.4
Total	Male	0	18	0	9	6	2	16	5	56	11	0	67	66	
	Female	0	8	0	3	3	0	8	7	29	9	0	38	38	
	Total	0	26	0	12	9	2	24	12	85	20	0	105	104	1.0

TABLE SET.23 – Active Urology SET Trainees by years in training and training post location

Location & Year of Training		ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022	% Change 22/23
Year 1	Male	1	6	0	2	1	1	3	1	15	1	0	16	17	
	Female	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	5	
	Total	1	8	0	3	1	1	3	1	18	1	0	19	22	-13.6
Year 2	Male	0	5	0	2	0	0	3	2	12	2	0	14	15	
	Female	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	0	5	0	0	5	5	
	Total	0	5	0	3	1	0	6	2	17	2	0	19	20	-5.0
Year 3	Male	1	4	0	2	1	0	3	1	12	3	0	15	15	
	Female	0	1	0	3	0	0	1	0	5	1	0	6	6	
	Total	1	5	0	5	1	0	4	1	17	4	0	21	21	0.0
Year 4	Male	1	3	0	4	3	0	2	1	14	2	0	16	14	
	Female	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	5	2	0	7	4	
	Total	1	3	0	7	3	0	4	1	19	4	0	23	18	27.8
Year 5	Male	0	8	0	1	0	0	3	0	12	0	0	12	15	
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	1	0	4	4	
	Total	0	9	0	1	0	0	5	0	15	1	0	16	19	-15.8
Year 6+	Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	2	
	Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	
	Total	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	3	4	-25.0
Total	Male	3	27	0	11	5	1	15	5	67	8	0	75	78	
	Female	0	4	0	9	1	0	8	0	22	4	0	26	26	
	Total	3	31	0	20	6	1	23	5	89	12	0	101	104	-2.9

TABLE SET.24 – Active Vascular Surgery SET Trainees by years in training and training post location

Location & Year of Training		ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022	% Change 22/23
Year 1	Male	0	1	0	2	1	0	2	0	6	2	0	8	8	
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	2	2	
	Total	0	2	0	2	1	1	2	0	8	2	0	10	10	0.0
Year 2	Male	0	2	0	2	1	0	1	0	6	1	0	7	8	
	Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	
	Total	0	2	0	3	1	0	1	0	7	1	0	8	10	-20.0
Year 3	Male	1	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	6	2	0	8	7	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	2	2	
	Total	1	4	0	0	0	0	2	1	8	2	0	10	9	11.1
Year 4	Male	0	3	0	1	0	0	2	0	6	1	0	7	6	
	Female	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	2	
	Total	0	3	0	2	1	0	2	0	8	1	0	9	8	12.5
Year 5	Male	0	3	0	0	1	0	3	0	7	0	0	7	3	
	Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	4	
	Total	0	2	0	1	1	0	3	1	9	0	0	9	7	28.6
Year 6+	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0.0
Total	Male	1	13	0	5	3	0	9	0	31	6	0	37	33	
	Female	0	1	0	3	1	1	2	2	10	0	0	10	12	
	Total	1	14	0	8	4	1	11	2	41	6	0	47	45	4.4

TABLE SET.25 – Active SET Indigenous Trainees by specialty

		CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022	% Change 22/23
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	Male	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	4	6	-33.3
	Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.0
	Total	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	7	-28.6
Māori	Male	0	2	1	10	3	0	0	0	1	17	19	-10.5
	Female	0	4	0	3	4	0	1	0	0	12	10	20.0
	Total	0	6	1	13	7	0	1	0	1	29	29	0.0
Total	Male	1	3	1	11	3	0	0	0	2	21	25	-16.0
	Female	0	4	0	4	4	0	1	0	0	13	11	18.2
	Total	1	7	1	15	7	0	1	0	2	34	36	-5.6

Section four: Examinations

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Surgical Science Examinations – Generic and Speciality Specific

The Generic Surgical Science Examination (GSSE) comprises two components and is mandatory for all specialities. Numbers reflected in these reports are representative of all examination sittings held in Australia and New Zealand in 2023 (including all attempts). Passing the GSSE is now a requirement prior to applying to the SET program for all specialities, therefore we are no longer reporting on the pass rate of SET Trainees who took the GSSE exam. The GSSE was conducted three times in 2023 for a total of 830 candidates.

All Specialty Specific Examinations (SSE) are presented in the one table and indicate all sittings and all attempts (Table EXAM.2). Held concurrently with some of the GSSE examinations, the SSE is conducted for Cardiothoracic Surgery (CSSP), Orthopaedic Surgery (OPBS), Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery, Paediatric Anatomy and Embryology (PAE), Paediatric Pathology and Pathophysiology (PPE) Examinations, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgical Sciences and Principles (PRSSP), Urology and Vascular Surgery. From 2014 the Board in General Surgery replaced the SSE with Surgical Education and Assessment Modules (SEAM), which is not reported by RACS. From 2016, the Board of Neurosurgery removed the SSE as a requirement.

Clinical Examination

The Clinical Examination is an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) consisting of 16 five-minute stations. Numbers reflected in the Clinical Examination report are representative of the exams held in Australia and New Zealand for all sittings and all attempts. There were three Clinical Exam sittings in 2023 held in a single large venue in all sittings. Now Clinical Examination sits in a prevocational space, seven (7) specialities are mandating Clinical Examination as a prerequisite from 2022-2025 (Cardiothoracic, General Surgery, Orthopaedic New Zealand, Plastic & Reconstructive, Urology and Vascular).

Fellowship Examinations

Numbers reflected in the Fellowship Examination (FEX) reports are representative of the exams held in Australia and New Zealand in May and September 2023 and reported with respect to:

- Individual sitting and annual pass rate
- Eventual pass rate by specialty which compares the number of candidates successfully completing the FEX within a 5-year period since their first attempt; includes SET Trainees and SIMGs
- Annual FEX pass rate by location and specialty – SET Trainees
- Annual FEX pass rate by location and specialty – Specialist International Medical Graduates
- Cumulative attempts to pass the FEX (all candidates presenting in 2023 and the number of attempts).

Data reporting in Tables EXAM.6 and EXAM.7

Tables EXAM.6 and EXAM.7 report annual pass rates per candidate. The annual pass rate reports on the overall success of the candidate passing FEX within the calendar year. Previous years Activities Reports have reported the pass rate per individual attempt.

EXAM.8 reports the number of candidates and pass rate by gender and specialty. The numbers represent all candidates who sat and passed the FEX within the calendar year.

Location – State and/or Country reflected in these reports refer to the candidate's mailing address. This is not necessarily the location where the candidate has undertaken all of their training, oversight and/or examinations.

DATA HIGHLIGHTS

Pass rates have been conserved with very similar values in 2021 and 2022 across all exams.

Pass rates have been conserved with very similar values in 2022 and 2023 across all exams.

Generic and Specialty Specific Surgical Science Examinations

Overall annual pass rate of individual attempts (total sittings) at GSSE has remained steady with 60.6% in 2022 and 59.6% in 2023. The pass rate in the SSE decreased from 95.2% in 2022 to 89.6% in 2023.

Clinical Examination

The pass rate of the Clinical Examination in 2023 was 78.7% an increase from 77.0% in 2022.

Fellowship Examination

The overall pass rate for the FEX bounced back from 66.5% in 2022 to 70.4% in 2023.

RACS is proud to continue to deliver consistent, high-quality examinations across Australia and New Zealand.

RACS continues to monitor examination pass rates and identify areas for ongoing improvement.

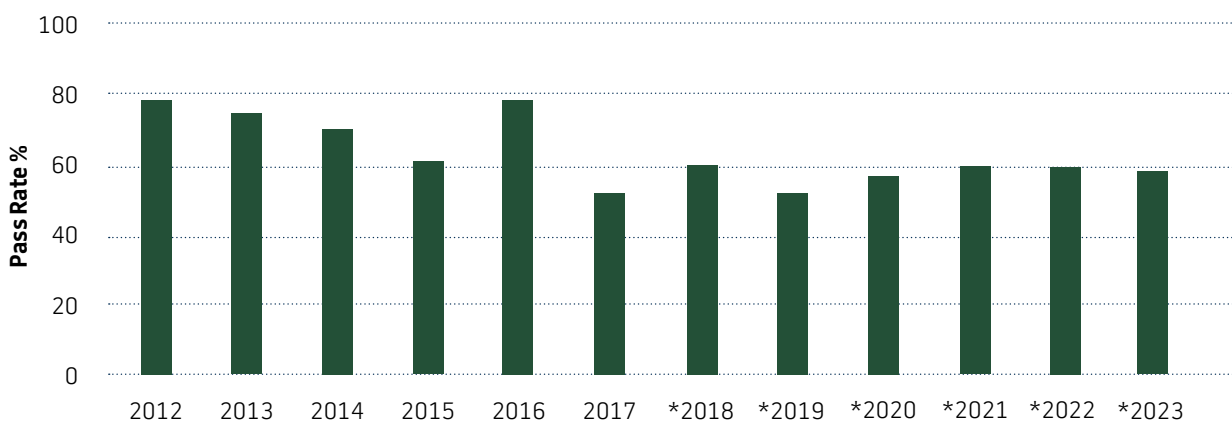
Note: Where location is specified, the State and/or Country reflected in these reports refer to the candidate's mailing address.
This is not necessarily the location where the candidate has undertaken all of their training, oversight and/or examinations.

TABLE EXAM.1 – Non-SET cumulative attempts to pass Generic Surgical Science Examination by location

Attempt No.		ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS Total	NZ	O/S	Total
1	Sat	6	133	3	120	39	6	122	51	480	91	5	576
	Pass	2	81	2	86	30	4	88	32	325	71	3	399
	% pass	33.3	60.9	66.7	71.7	76.9	66.7	72.1	62.7	67.7	78.0	60.0	69.3
2	Sat	0	25	0	25	9	2	32	8	101	15	0	116
	Pass	0	12	0	12	4	0	12	4	44	8	0	52
	% pass	-	48.0	-	48.0	44.4	0.0	37.5	50.0	43.6	53.3	-	44.8
3	Sat	0	18	1	4	1	2	19	7	52	4	0	56
	Pass	0	5	0	1	1	0	7	1	15	0	0	15
	% pass	-	27.8	0.0	25.0	100.0	0.0	36.8	14.3	28.8	0.0	-	26.8
4	Sat	1	8	0	4	2	1	12	3	31	5	0	36
	Pass	0	4	0	1	0	0	4	2	11	4	0	15
	% pass	0.0	50.0	-	25.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	66.7	35.5	80.0	-	41.7
5	Sat	1	2	0	1	3	0	5	0	12	1	0	13
	Pass	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	5	0	0	5
	% pass	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	33.3	-	80.0	-	41.7	0.0	-	38.5
6	Sat	0	7	0	1	1	0	2	1	12	0	0	12
	Pass	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	0	5
	% pass	-	57.1	-	0.0	0.0	-	50.0	0.0	41.7	-	-	41.7
7	Sat	0	3	0	1	0	0	4	1	9	0	0	9
	Pass	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	2
	% pass	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	-	25.0	100.0	22.2	-	-	22.2
8	Sat	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	3
	Pass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% pass	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	-	0.0
9	Sat	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	3
	Pass	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	2
	% pass	-	0.0	-	-	100.0	-	100.0	-	66.7	-	-	66.7
10	Sat	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	2
	Pass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% pass	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	-	0.0
11	Sat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	Pass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% pass	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	-	0.0
12	Sat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Pass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% pass	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	Sat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Pass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% pass	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	Sat	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Pass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% pass	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0
15	Sat	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Pass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% pass	-	-	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	0.0	-	-	0.0
16	Sat	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Pass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% pass	-	-	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	0.0	-	-	0.0
TOTAL	Sat	8	198	4	156	59	11	200	71	707	118	5	830
	Pass	2	106	2	100	37	4	118	40	409	83	3	495
	% pass	25.0%	53.5%	50.0%	64.1%	62.7%	36.4%	59.0%	56.3%	57.9%	70.3%	60.0%	59.6%

Note: In previous RACS Activities Reports to 2017, EXAM.1 reported the SET Trainee pass rate of individual attempts at the GSSE by specialty and location. Since 2018, GSSE is a requirement prior to applying to the SET program for all specialties. The table above was reported as EXAM.10 in Activities Reports prior to 2018.

FIGURE EXAM.1 – Overall annual pass rate of individual attempts (total sittings) at Generic Surgical Science Examination (2012-2023).



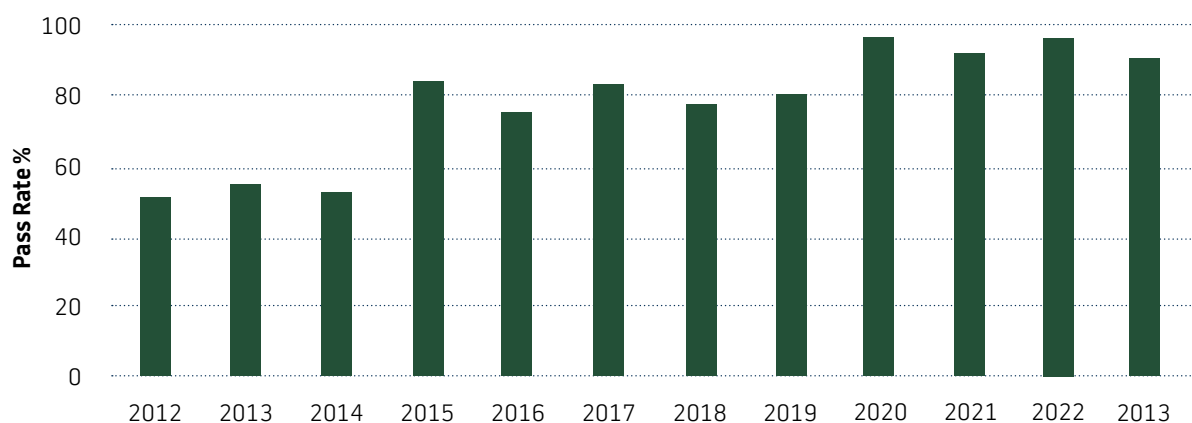
*2018 to 2022 pass rate based on non-SET attempts to pass the GSSE. Previous years is the pass rate for SET trainees.

TABLE EXAM.2 – Pass rate of individual attempts (total sittings) at Specialty Specific Surgical Science Examination by specialty and location

Location, Specialty & Outcomes	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S	TOTAL 2023	%Pass
*CAR P1	Sat	0	3	0	0	0	1	1	5	2	0	7	85.7
	Pass	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	4	2	0	6	
*CAR P2	Sat	0	4	0	1	0	1	1	7	3	0	10	90.0
	Pass	0	3	0	1	0	1	1	6	3	0	9	
ORT (OPBS)	Sat	1	20	0	10	5	13	5	54	12	0	66	100.0
	Pass	1	20	0	10	5	13	5	54	12	0	66	
OTO	Sat	1	6	0	4	0	7	3	21	3	0	24	87.5
	Pass	1	6	0	4	0	5	2	18	3	0	21	
*PAE (ANAT)	Sat	0	7	0	5	0	0	0	12	0	0	12	100.0
	Pass	0	7	0	5	0	0	0	12	0	0	12	
*PAE (PATH)	Sat	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	3	100.0
	Pass	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	3	
PLA	Sat	0	7	0	4	1	8	12	32	12	0	44	72.7
	Pass	0	6	0	4	1	6	6	23	9	0	32	
URO	Sat	1	4	0	5	2	9	0	21	2	0	23	87.0
	Pass	1	3	0	5	2	7	0	18	2	0	20	
VAS	Sat	0	4	0	2	1	3	0	10	2	0	12	91.7
	Pass	0	4	0	2	1	3	0	10	1	0	11	
Total sitting	Sat	3	55	0	31	10	43	23	165	36	0	201	89.6
	Pass	3	51	0	31	10	37	16	148	32	0	180	
	% Pass	100.0	92.7	-	100.0	100.0	-	86.0	69.6	89.7	88.9	-	89.6

*2023 results and later include CSSP1 and CSSP2, and APE and PPD as separate exams in calculating overall pass rate

Note: Sat numbers are based on unique candidates; that is, candidates who sat multiple times for examinations are only counted once

FIGURE EXAM.2 – Overall annual pass rate of individual attempts (total sittings) at Specialty Specific Surgical Science Examination (2012-2023)**TABLE EXAM.3 – Pass rate of individual attempts (total sittings) at Clinical Examination by specialty and location**

Location, Specialty & Outcomes		ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S	TOTAL 2022	% Pass
CAR	Sat	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3	2	0	5	100.0
	Pass	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3	2	0	5	
GEN	Sat	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	100.0
	Pass	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	
NEU	Sat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
	Pass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
ORT	Sat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	100.0
	Pass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
OTO	Sat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
	Pass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PAE	Sat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
	Pass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PLA	Sat	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	100.0
	Pass	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	
URO	Sat	0	6	0	1	1	1	1	0	10	0	0	10	100.0
	Pass	0	6	0	1	1	1	1	0	10	0	0	10	
VAS	Sat	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	3	100.0
	Pass	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	3	
P	Sat	6	39	1	45	18	0	52	17	178	137	0	315	77.1
	Pass	5	29	1	33	15	0	40	14	137	106	0	243	
X-SET	Sat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
	Pass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total Sitting	Sat	6	50	1	46	20	1	55	18	197	141	0	338	78.7
	Pass	5	40	1	34	17	1	43	15	156	110	0	266	
	% pass	83.3	80.0	100.0	73.9	85.0	100.0	78.2	83.3	79.2	78.0	-	78.7	

Note: Sat numbers are based on unique candidates, ie candidates who sat multiple times for examinations are only counted once. Clinical exam now sits in the prevocational space. CAR, GEN, ORT(NZ), PLA, URO and VAS mandating CEX as a pre-requisite

FIGURE EXAM. 3 – Overall annual pass rate of individual attempts (total sittings) at Clinical Examination (2012-2023)

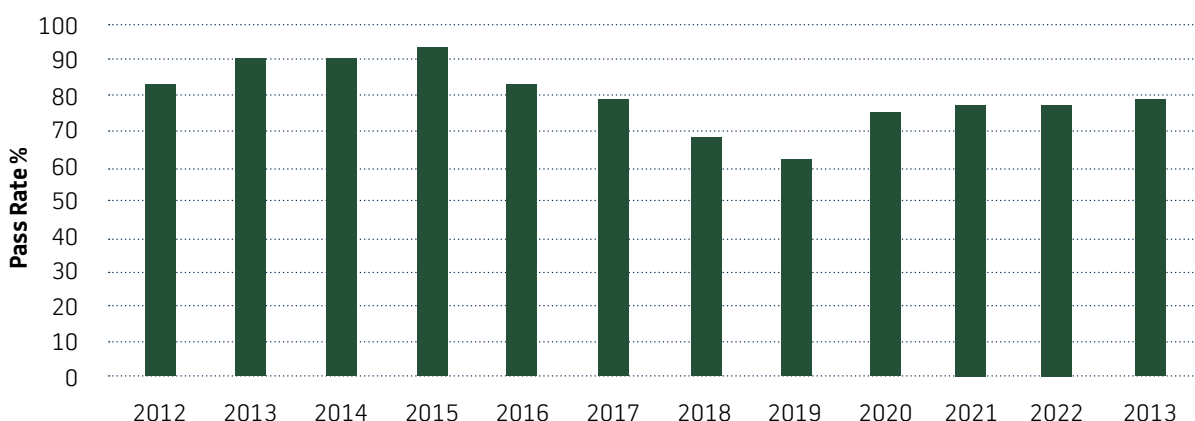


TABLE EXAM.4 – SET and SIMG individual attempts and annual pass rate of Fellowship Examinations by specialty

Surgical Speciality	May			September			Total individual attempts & pass rate*			Annual pass rate ^A		
	Sat	Pass	%	Sat	Pass	%	Sat	Pass	%	Sat	Pass	%
CAR	13	6	46.2	8	5	62.5	21	11	52.4	15	11	73.3
GEN	116	77	66.4	56	38	67.9	172	115	66.9	143	115	80.4
NEU	6	6	100.0	3	2	66.7	9	8	88.9	9	8	88.9
ORT	58	47	81.0	38	27	71.1	96	74	77.1	86	74	86.0
OTO	21	17	81.0	5	4	80.0	26	21	80.8	23	21	91.3
PAE	5	1	20.0	6	4	66.7	11	5	45.5	7	5	71.4
PLA	15	10	66.7	15	10	66.7	30	20	66.7	25	20	80.0
URO	16	12	75.0	11	10	90.9	27	22	81.5	25	22	88.0
VAS	10	7	70.0	4	3	75.0	14	10	71.4	12	10	83.3
Total	260	183	70.4	146	103	70.5	406	286	70.4	345	286	82.9

^a Individual exam pass rate reports on the number of candidates who have sat a particular exam; either May or September.

^b The annual pass rate reports on the overall success of the candidate passing the Fellowship Exam within the calendar year.

TABLE EXAM.5 – Eventual Fellowship Examination pass rate by specialty

This table compares the number of Trainees and SIMG's successfully completing the Fellowship Examination within a 5 year period since first attempt.

		2015	2020	% Fellows 15/20	2016	2021	% Fellows 16/21	2017	2022	% Fellows 17/22	2018	2023	% Fellows 18/23
		Initially Sat	Eventual Pass		Initially Sat	Eventual Pass		Initially Sat	Eventual Pass		Initially Sat	Eventual Pass	
CAR	Trainee	5	5	100.0	3	3	100.0	6	6	100.0	7	7	100.0
	SIMG	2	2	100.0	1	1	100.0	1	1	100.0	1	0	0.0
GEN	Trainee	85	84	98.8	86	86	100.0	81	79	97.5	108	108	100.0
	SIMG	10	10	100.0	12	12	100.0	4	4	100.0	2	1	50.0
NEU	Trainee	10	10	100.0	11	11	100.0	3	3	100.0	6	6	100.0
	SIMG	0	0	-	0	0	-	1	1	100.0	1	1	100.0
ORT	Trainee	62	62	100.0	51	51	100.0	51	50	98.0	43	43	100.0
	SIMG	14	9	64.3	12	11	91.7	6	5	83.3	13	12	92.3
OTO	Trainee	8	8	100.0	18	18	100.0	15	15	100.0	23	23	100.0
	SIMG	3	1	33.3	1	1	100.0	1	0	0.0	1	0	0.0
PAE	Trainee	4	4	100.0	3	3	100.0	3	2	66.7	2	2	100.0
	SIMG	0	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	-
PLA	Trainee	15	15	100.0	23	23	100.0	18	18	100.0	18	17	94.4
	SIMG	1	1	100.0	3	3	100.0	2	2	100.0	3	2	66.7
URO	Trainee	21	21	100.0	18	18	100.0	21	18	85.7	15	14	93.3
	SIMG	1	1	100.0	1	1	100.0	2	2	100.0	1	1	100.0
VAS	Trainee	4	4	100.0	9	9	100.0	9	9	100.0	11	11	100.0
	SIMG	4	3	75.0	1	1	100.0	2	2	100.0	0	0	#DIV/0!
Total	Trainee	214	213	99.5	222	222	100.0	207	200	96.6	233	231	99.1
	SIMG	35	27	77.1	31	30	96.8	19	17	89.5	22	17	77.3

TABLE EXAM.6 – Fellowship Examinations pass rate (per sitting) of SET Trainees by location and specialty

		ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S	TOTAL 2023	% Pass
CAR	Sat	0	4	0	1	1	2	8	0	16	1	0	17	52.9
	Pass	0	2	0	1	1	1	3	0	8	1	0	9	
GEN	Sat	0	67	0	25	10	0	35	7	144	17	0	161	68.3
	Pass	0	46	0	15	4	0	24	6	95	15	0	110	
NEU	Sat	0	1	0	2	2	0	3	1	9	0	0	9	88.9
	Pass	0	1	0	2	2	0	2	1	8	0	0	8	
ORT	Sat	3	34	0	13	4	1	11	8	74	17	0	91	80.2
	Pass	2	27	0	11	4	1	8	5	58	15	0	73	
OTO	Sat	0	4	0	4	3	0	3	1	15	5	0	20	90.0
	Pass	0	3	0	4	3	0	3	1	14	4	0	18	
PAE	Sat	0	3	0	2	0	0	3	0	8	3	0	11	45.5
	Pass	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	4	1	0	5	
PLA	Sat	0	9	0	5	2	0	4	2	22	2	0	24	70.8
	Pass	0	7	0	4	1	0	2	2	16	1	0	17	
URO	Sat	1	4	0	7	2	0	7	1	22	3	0	25	80.0
	Pass	1	4	0	6	1	0	4	1	17	3	0	20	
VAS	Sat	0	3	0	3	1	0	4	1	12	0	0	12	75.0
	Pass	0	2	0	2	1	0	3	1	9	0	0	9	
Total Sitting	Sat	4	129	0	62	25	3	78	21	322	48	0	370	72.7
	Pass	3	93	0	46	17	2	51	17	229	40	0	269	
	%Pass	75.0	72.1	-	74.2	68.0	66.7	65.4	81.0	71.1	83.3	-	72.7	

TABLE EXAM.7 – Fellowship Examinations pass rate (per sitting) of Specialist International Medical Graduates by location and specialty

Location, Specialty & Outcomes		ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S	TOTAL 2023	% Pass
CAR	Sat	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	4	0	0	4	
	Pass	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	50.0
GEN	Sat	1	2	1	3	2	0	1	1	11	0	0	11	
	Pass	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	5	0	0	5	45.5
NEU	Sat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Pass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
ORT	Sat	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	5	
	Pass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	20.0
OTO	Sat	0	2	0	3	0	0	1	0	6	0	0	6	
	Pass	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	50.0
PAE	Sat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Pass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	81.25
PLA	Sat	0	1	0	2	1	0	2	0	6	0	0	6	
	Pass	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	50.0
URO	Sat	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	2	
	Pass	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	2	100.0
VAS	Sat	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	
	Pass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	50.0
Total Sitting	Sat	1	6	1	12	4	0	8	4	36	0	0	36	
	Pass	0	2	0	5	3	0	3	4	17	0	0	17	47.2
	% pass	0.0	33.3	0.0	41.7	75.0	-	37.5	100.0	47.2	-	-	47.2	

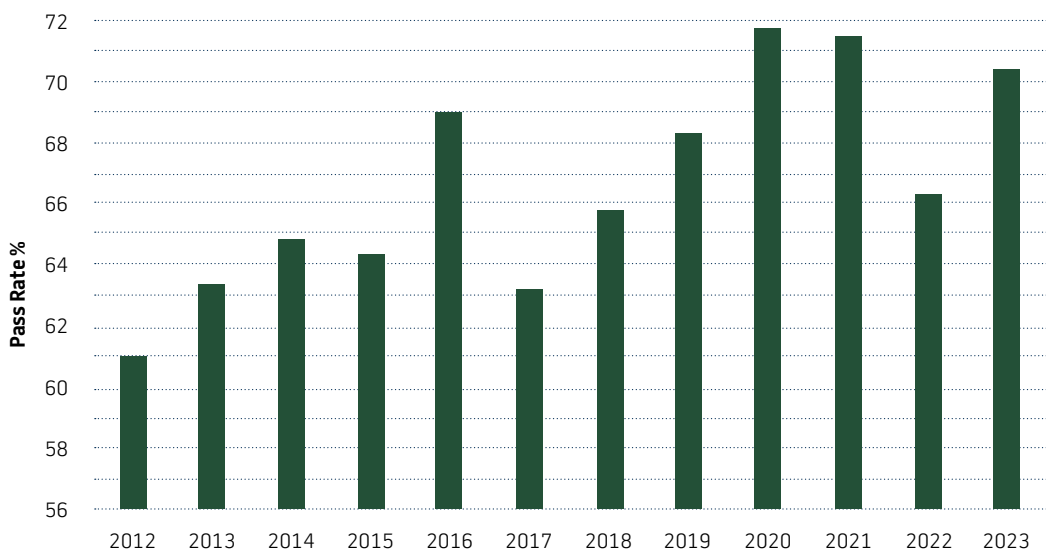
TABLE EXAM.8 – Fellowship Examinations pass rate (per sitting) of SET and SIMG by gender and specialty

		CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	TOTAL 2023	% pass
Female	Sat	5	68	1	20	6	3	7	4	3	117	76.1
	Pass	4	50	1	15	5	2	6	4	2	89	
Male	Sat	16	104	8	76	20	8	23	23	11	289	68.2
	Pass	7	65	7	59	16	3	14	18	8	197	
Total	Sat	21	172	9	96	26	11	30	27	14	406	70.4
	Pass	11	115	8	74	21	5	20	22	10	286	
	% Pass	52.4	66.9	88.9	77.1	80.8	45.5	66.7	81.5	71.4		

TABLE EXAM.9 – SET Trainees and SIMGs cumulative attempts to pass Fellowship Examination by specialty for candidates presenting in 2023

Attempt		CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022
1	Sat	9	115	9	78	20	4	18	21	9	283	281
	Pass	4	83	8	62	17	2	13	19	7	215	209
	% Pass	44.4	72.2	88.9	79.5	85.0	50.0	72.2	90.5	77.8	76.0	74.4
2	Sat	7	31	0	13	2	3	8	3	1	68	83
	Pass	4	19	0	9	2	1	5	1	1	42	50
	% Pass	57.1	61.3	-	69.2	100.0	33.3	62.5	33.3	100.0	61.8	60.2
3	Sat	1	13	0	2	0	3	2	2	1	24	37
	Pass	0	8	0	1	0	2	1	2	0	14	16
	% Pass	0.0	61.5	-	50.0	-	66.7	50.0	100.0	0.0	58.3	43.2
4	Sat	2	4	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	12	20
	Pass	2	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	8	9
	% Pass	100.0	75.0	-	-	100.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	100.0	66.7	45.0
5	Sat	0	4	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	8	7
	Pass	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	2
	% Pass	-	25	-	67	0	-	-	-	-	38	29
6	Sat	1	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	6	2
	Pass	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	% Pass	0.0	33.3	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	0.0	16.7	0.0
7	Sat	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	4	7
	Pass	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	2
	% Pass	100	0	-	-	100	-	-	-	100	75	29
8	Sat	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
	Pass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% Pass	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	Sat	21	172	9	96	26	11	30	27	14	406	430
	Pass	11	115	8	74	21	5	20	22	10	286	286
	% Pass	52.4	66.9	88.9	77.1	80.8	45.5	66.7	81.5	71.4	70.4	66.5

FIGURE EXAM.4 – Overall Fellowship Examination pass rate of SET Trainees and SIMGs (2012-2023).



Section five: Workforce distribution

EXPLANATORY NOTES

In all tables the last known address is used when the current address is unknown. Region is based on mailing postcode and country. An active Fellow is involved in medicine, surgery, medico-legal work or other specialist non-procedural and non-clinical work such as surgical administration and academia.

DATA HIGHLIGHTS

In 2023, there were 8750 Fellows across Australia, New Zealand and overseas (Table WFD.1). Of these 5954 were active Fellows in Australia and 895 were active Fellows in New Zealand (Table WFD.2).

294 SET Trainees and Specialist International Medical Graduates obtained Fellowship in 2023 (Table WFD.11). Over 30 per cent of surgeons who achieved Fellowship through the SET pathway were female (Table WFD.9), while nearly 18 per cent of SIMGs who obtained Fellowship were female (Table WFD.10). Female surgeons make up over 16 per cent of the active surgical workforce, with the number of female surgeons in active practice increasing by over seven per cent in the last year (Table WFD.3). Furthermore, females make up over 27 per cent of Fellows aged 44 years and under. In 2013, females made up just over 17 per cent of Fellows in this age group - an almost 60 per cent increase in 10 years.

Since 2019, Fellows mailing address postcodes have been mapped to the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS-RA) codes rather than RRMA code (Rural Remote and Metropolitan Areas) for the purposes of indicating the spread of surgeons in metropolitan and rural and remote areas (see Appendix A). The specialties of General Surgery (18 per cent), Orthopaedic surgery (15%) and Urology (15%) continue to have largest proportion of Fellows working in rural and remote areas (Table WFD6).

TABLE WFD.1 – Active and retired RACS Fellows by location and specialty

Location & Specialty		ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S	Total 2023	Total 2022	% Change 22/23
CAR	Male	5	65	0	42	14	5	69	18	218	34	31	283	281	0.7
	Female	0	4	0	2	0	0	6	1	13	6	3	22	21	4.8
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	5	69	0	44	14	5	75	19	231	40	34	305	302	1.0
GEN	Male	30	687	18	393	176	33	544	185	2066	301	166	2533	2483	2.0
	Female	9	155	4	85	36	9	137	40	475	63	27	565	517	9.3
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0.0
	Total	39	842	22	478	212	42	681	225	2541	365	193	3099	3001	3.3
NEU	Male	10	87	1	54	19	8	74	25	278	27	27	332	328	1.2
	Female	2	16	0	10	5	2	7	2	44	1	5	50	47	6.4
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	12	103	1	64	24	10	81	27	322	28	32	382	375	1.9
ORT	Male	20	494	6	358	133	30	359	156	1556	314	80	1950	1931	1.0
	Female	3	21	0	20	9	0	26	3	82	23	5	110	104	5.8
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0.0
	Total	23	515	6	378	142	30	386	159	1639	337	85	2061	2036	1.2
OTO	Male	12	180	2	111	45	6	125	51	532	93	27	652	634	2.8
	Female	0	30	1	20	8	2	29	10	100	23	4	127	118	7.6
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	12	210	3	131	53	8	154	61	632	116	31	779	752	3.6
PAE	Male	4	33	0	17	5	3	28	8	98	14	19	131	129	1.6
	Female	2	11	0	7	4	2	11	3	40	8	5	53	51	3.9
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	6	44	0	24	9	5	39	11	138	22	24	184	180	2.2
PLA	Male	5	143	3	73	53	14	143	58	492	61	18	571	566	0.9
	Female	0	23	0	18	10	1	35	11	98	21	7	126	122	3.3
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	5	166	3	91	63	15	178	69	590	82	25	697	688	1.3
URO	Male	9	152	1	104	37	13	137	44	497	72	33	602	591	1.9
	Female	0	18	0	10	4	0	25	9	66	9	4	79	72	9.7
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0.0
	Total	9	170	1	114	41	13	162	53	563	82	37	682	664	2.7
VAS	Male	4	79	1	38	23	5	68	21	239	22	5	266	262	1.5
	Female	2	10	0	11	3	1	12	3	42	1	0	43	40	7.5
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	6	89	1	49	26	6	80	24	281	23	5	309	302	2.3
Sub Total	Male	99	1920	32	1190	505	117	1547	566	5976	938	406	7320	7205	1.6
	Female	18	288	5	183	79	17	288	82	960	155	60	1175	1092	7.6
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	3	3	0.0
	Total	117	2208	37	1373	584	134	1836	648	6937	1095	466	8498	8300	2.4
OB & GYN	Male	0	3	0	1	0	0	11	0	15	0	1	16	17	-5.9
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	0	3	0	1	0	0	11	0	15	0	1	16	17	-5.9
OPH	Male	3	69	0	40	11	2	49	16	190	11	6	207	218	-5.0
	Female	0	11	1	2	2	0	10	1	27	2	0	29	30	-3.3
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	3	80	1	42	13	2	59	17	217	13	6	236	248	-4.8
Total	Male	102	1992	32	1231	516	119	1607	582	6181	949	413	7543	7440	1.4
	Female	18	299	6	185	81	17	298	83	987	157	60	1204	1122	7.3
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	3	3	NA
	Total	120	2291	38	1416	597	136	1906	665	7169	1108	473	8750	8565	2.2

TABLE WFD.2 – Active RACS Fellows by location and specialty

Location & Specialty		ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022	% Change 22/23
CAR	Male	3	51	0	33	10	4	59	14	174	24	18	216	223	-3.1
	Female	0	4	0	2	0	0	4	1	11	5	3	19	18	5.6
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	3	55	0	35	10	4	63	15	185	29	21	235	241	-2.5
GEN	Male	25	519	15	301	126	26	412	139	1563	219	111	1893	1887	0.3
	Female	9	152	4	84	35	9	136	40	469	62	26	557	509	9.4
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	NA
	Total	34	671	19	385	161	35	548	179	2032	282	137	2451	2397	2.3
NEU	Male	8	77	1	48	13	6	68	20	241	19	20	280	283	-1.1
	Female	2	16	0	10	5	2	7	2	44	1	5	50	47	6.4
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	10	93	1	58	18	8	75	22	285	20	25	330	330	0.0
ORT	Male	19	438	6	326	108	25	321	133	1376	263	56	1695	1686	0.5
	Female	3	20	0	20	9	0	26	2	80	22	4	106	101	5.0
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	NA
	Total	22	458	6	346	117	25	348	135	1457	285	60	1802	1788	0.8
OTO	Male	9	136	2	91	37	3	103	41	422	76	20	518	508	2.0
	Female	0	29	1	20	8	2	29	10	99	22	4	125	117	6.8
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	9	165	3	111	45	5	132	51	521	98	24	643	625	2.9
PAE	Male	3	22	0	12	3	2	18	7	67	11	8	86	88	-2.3
	Female	1	10	0	6	3	1	9	3	33	7	4	44	45	-2.2
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	4	32	0	18	6	3	27	10	100	18	12	130	133	-2.3
PLA	Male	4	121	3	59	43	12	124	45	411	49	14	474	473	0.2
	Female	0	22	0	17	9	1	33	11	93	21	7	121	117	3.4
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	4	143	3	76	52	13	157	56	504	70	21	595	590	0.8
URO	Male	8	128	1	93	28	12	117	33	420	57	25	502	498	0.8
	Female	0	18	0	10	4	0	25	9	66	9	4	79	72	9.7
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	NA
	Total	8	146	1	103	32	12	142	42	486	67	29	582	571	1.9
VAS	Male	4	68	1	32	18	3	50	17	193	20	3	216	218	-0.9
	Female	2	10	0	11	3	1	12	3	42	1	0	43	40	7.5
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	6	78	1	43	21	4	62	20	235	21	3	259	258	0.4
Sub Total	Male	83	1560	29	995	386	93	1272	449	4867	738	275	5880	5864	0.3
	Female	17	281	5	180	76	16	281	81	937	150	57	1144	1066	7.3
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	3	3	NA
	Total	100	1841	34	1175	462	109	1554	530	5805	890	332	7027	6933	1.4
OB & GYN	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
OPH	Male	2	44	0	28	7	1	38	9	129	4	4	137	151	-9.3
	Female	0	8	0	1	2	0	9	0	20	1	0	21	24	-12.5
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	2	52	0	29	9	1	47	9	149	5	4	158	175	-9.7
Total	Male	85	1604	29	1023	393	94	1310	458	4996	742	279	6017	6015	0.0
	Female	17	289	5	181	78	16	290	81	957	151	57	1165	1090	6.9
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	3	3	NA
	Total	102	1893	34	1204	471	110	1601	539	5954	895	336	7185	7108	1.1

TABLE WFD.3 – Active RACS Fellows by location and age

Active Fellows by Location & Age		ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022	% Change 22/23
←35	Male	1	29	0	8	6	1	19	4	68	5	7	80	73	9.6
	Female	0	9	0	4	1	1	9	4	28	3	1	32	24	33.3
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	1	38	0	12	7	2	28	8	96	8	8	112	97	15.5
35-39	Male	6	137	2	88	40	9	118	44	444	72	50	566	551	2.7
	Female	4	50	2	32	11	3	55	19	176	29	13	218	224	-2.7
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	10	187	4	120	51	12	173	63	620	101	63	784	775	1.2
40-44	Male	13	207	6	143	49	10	191	65	684	97	16	797	816	-2.3
	Female	5	67	1	50	17	2	74	14	230	37	15	282	267	5.6
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	18	274	7	193	66	12	265	79	914	134	31	1079	1083	-0.4
45-49	Male	8	255	4	178	60	15	223	81	824	104	31	959	963	-0.4
	Female	3	66	1	48	15	1	55	19	208	31	8	247	212	16.5
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	2	2	NA
	Total	11	321	5	226	75	16	279	100	1033	136	39	1208	1177	2.6
50-54	Male	16	232	5	163	71	16	203	81	787	108	29	924	933	-1.0
	Female	3	42	1	19	15	5	28	12	125	21	8	154	147	4.8
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	19	274	6	182	86	21	231	93	912	129	37	1078	1080	-0.2
55-59	Male	13	212	6	148	41	8	141	64	633	109	25	767	738	3.9
	Female	2	24	0	16	8	2	26	9	87	12	2	101	88	14.8
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	NA
	Total	15	236	6	164	49	10	167	73	720	122	27	869	827	5.1
60-64	Male	11	168	2	120	46	14	129	45	535	112	33	680	631	7.8
	Female	0	12	0	7	5	0	19	2	45	12	7	64	70	-8.6
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	11	180	2	127	51	14	148	47	580	124	40	744	701	6.1
65-69	Male	9	107	2	65	25	11	91	41	351	81	25	457	474	-3.6
	Female	0	9	0	4	3	2	14	2	34	4	2	40	27	48.1
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	9	116	2	69	28	13	105	43	385	85	27	497	501	-0.8
70+	Male	6	213	2	82	48	9	157	24	541	50	59	650	684	-5.0
	Female	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	1	1	6	8	-25.0
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	6	215	2	82	49	9	158	24	545	51	60	656	692	-5.2
Total	Male	83	1560	29	995	386	93	1272	449	4867	738	275	5880	5863	0.3
	Female	17	281	5	180	76	16	281	81	937	150	57	1144	1067	7.2
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	3	3	NA
	Total	100	1841	34	1175	462	109	1554	530	5805	890	332	7027	6933	1.4
% of active Fellows under 55 years															
%	Male	53.0	55.1	58.6	58.3	58.5	54.8	59.3	61.2	57.7	52.3	48.4	56.6	56.9	-0.6
	Female	88.2	83.3	100.0	85.0	77.6	75.0	78.6	84.0	81.9	80.7	78.9	81.6	81.9	-0.4
	Unspecified	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	-	100.0	50.0	-	66.7	66.7	NA
	Total	59.0	59.4	64.7	62.4	61.7	57.8	62.8	64.7	61.6	57.1	53.6	60.6	60.8	-0.2

Note: Data excludes OB&GYN and OPH.

TABLE WFD.4 – Active Australian RACS Fellows by specialty and age

Active Fellows by Specialty & Age		CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022	% Change 22/23
<35	Male	2	39	3	9	3	0	3	6	3	68	62	9.7
	Female	0	23	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	28	21	33.3
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	2	62	3	9	6	0	3	6	5	96	83	15.7
35-39	Male	11	165	22	121	31	5	30	37	22	444	445	-0.2
	Female	2	91	9	16	14	7	13	16	8	176	181	-2.8
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	13	256	31	137	45	12	43	53	30	620	626	-1.0
40-44	Male	17	239	30	194	58	4	54	56	32	684	700	-2.3
	Female	2	122	7	18	29	5	19	18	10	230	223	3.1
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	19	361	37	212	87	9	73	74	42	914	923	-1.0
45-49	Male	19	255	36	252	71	11	73	76	31	824	829	-0.6
	Female	1	98	7	20	25	6	28	14	9	208	173	20.2
	Unspecified	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	NA
	Total	20	353	43	273	96	17	101	90	40	1033	1003	3.0
50-54	Male	32	229	52	224	67	11	75	71	26	787	790	-0.4
	Female	3	61	10	8	13	4	12	9	5	125	125	0.0
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	35	290	62	232	80	15	87	80	31	912	915	-0.3
55-59	Male	31	187	34	154	64	12	58	63	30	633	601	5.3
	Female	1	37	9	7	9	3	9	8	4	87	75	16.0
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	32	224	43	161	73	15	67	71	34	720	676	6.5
60-64	Male	28	147	25	177	36	11	48	46	17	535	492	8.7
	Female	0	18	1	7	4	8	6	1	0	45	50	-10.0
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	28	165	26	184	40	19	54	47	17	580	542	7.0
65-69	Male	21	107	13	101	35	6	25	32	11	351	370	-5.1
	Female	2	16	1	4	2	0	5	0	4	34	23	47.8
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	23	123	14	105	37	6	30	32	15	385	393	-2.0
70+	Male	13	195	26	144	57	7	45	33	21	541	573	-5.6
	Female	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	5	-20.0
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	13	198	26	144	57	7	46	33	21	545	578	-5.7
Total	Male	174	1563	241	1376	422	67	411	420	193	4867	4862	0.1
	Female	11	469	44	80	99	33	93	66	42	937	876	7.0
	Unspecified	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	NA
	Total	185	2032	285	1457	521	100	504	486	235	5805	5739	1.2
% of active Fellows under 55 years													
%	Male	46.6	59.3	59.3	58.1	54.5	46.3	57.2	58.6	59.1	57.7	58.1	-0.8
	Female	72.7	84.2	75.0	77.5	84.8	66.7	77.4	86.4	81.0	81.9	82.5	-0.8
	Unspecified	-	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	100.0	0.0
	Total	48.1	65.1	61.8	59.2	60.3	53.0	60.9	62.3	63.0	61.6	61.9	-0.4

Note: Data excludes OB&GYN and OPH.

TABLE WFD.5 – Active New Zealand RACS Fellows by specialty and age

Active Fellows by Specialty & Age		CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022	% Change 22/23
<35	Male	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5	6	-16.7
	Female	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	200.0
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	0	7	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	8	7	14.3
35-39	Male	1	30	1	23	5	0	4	7	1	72	75	-4.0
	Female	1	10	0	7	3	3	5	0	0	29	30	-3.3
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	2	40	1	30	8	3	9	7	1	101	105	-3.8
40-44	Male	3	28	1	41	10	1	2	10	1	97	95	2.1
	Female	3	15	0	3	5	2	4	4	1	37	33	12.1
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	6	43	1	44	15	3	6	14	2	134	128	4.7
45-49	Male	3	25	5	46	6	2	6	8	3	104	100	4.0
	Female	0	13	0	2	7	0	7	2	0	31	29	6.9
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	NA
	Total	3	38	5	48	13	2	13	11	3	136	130	4.6
50-54	Male	4	36	4	36	8	1	10	8	1	108	115	-6.1
	Female	0	10	0	5	3	0	2	1	0	21	17	23.5
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	4	46	4	41	11	1	12	9	1	129	132	-2.3
55-59	Male	3	26	4	39	12	1	10	9	5	109	111	-1.8
	Female	0	6	0	1	2	0	2	1	0	12	12	0.0
	Unspecified	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	NA
	Total	3	33	4	40	14	1	12	10	5	122	124	-1.6
60-64	Male	3	29	3	36	15	5	10	7	4	112	103	8.7
	Female	1	4	1	2	1	2	0	1	0	12	12	0.0
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	4	33	4	38	16	7	10	8	4	124	115	7.8
65-69	Male	5	24	1	29	12	0	4	3	3	81	78	3.8
	Female	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	4	3	33.3
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	5	25	1	31	12	0	5	3	3	85	81	4.9
70+	Male	2	17	0	13	7	1	3	5	2	50	51	-2.0
	Female	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	-50.0
	Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA
	Total	2	17	0	13	8	1	3	5	2	51	53	-3.8
Total	Male	24	219	19	263	76	11	49	57	20	738	734	0.5
	Female	5	62	1	22	22	7	21	9	1	150	139	7.9
	Unspecified	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	NA
	Total	29	282	20	285	98	18	70	67	21	890	875	1.7
% of active Fellows under 55 years													
%	Male	45.8	56.2	57.9	55.5	39.5	36.4	44.9	57.9	30.0	52.3	53.3	-1.8
	Female	80.0	82.3	0.0	77.3	81.8	71.4	85.7	77.8	100.0	80.7	79.1	1.9
	Unspecified		0.0								50.0	50.0	NA
	Total	51.7	61.7	55.0	57.2	49.0	50.0	57.1	61.2	33.3	57.1	56.5	1.0

Note: Data excludes OB&GYN and OPH.

TABLE WFD.6 – Active Australian RACS Fellows by ASGS-RA code and specialty

Australian Active Fellows by ASGS-RA & Speciality	RA 1	RA 2	RA 3	RA 4	RA 5	TOTAL 2023	% In RA1 2023
CAR	178	3	3	1	0	185	96.2
GEN	1662	269	89	12	0	2032	81.8
NEU	271	9	4	1	0	285	95.1
ORT	1234	183	38	2	0	1457	84.7
OTO	459	51	10	1	0	521	88.1
PAE	91	5	4	0	0	100	91.0
PLA	466	27	11	0	0	504	92.5
URO	413	63	10	0	0	486	85.0
VAS	212	14	9	0	0	235	90.2
Total	4986	624	178	17	0	5805	85.9

Note: Data excludes OB&GYN and OPH.

TABLE WFD.7 – Active Australian RACS Fellows by ASGS-RA code and location

Australian Active Fellows by ASGS-RA & Location	RA 1	RA 2	RA 3	RA 4	RA 5	TOTAL 2023	% In RA1 2023
ACT	100	0	0	0	0	100	100.0
NSW	1615	211	14	1	0	1841	87.7
NT	0	0	30	4	0	34	0.0
QLD	940	140	94	1	0	1175	80.0
SA	442	16	3	1	0	462	95.7
TAS	0	89	12	8	0	109	0.0
VIC	1395	146	13	0	0	1554	89.8
WA	494	22	12	2	0	530	93.2
Total	4986	624	178	17	0	5805	85.9

Note: Data excludes OB&GYN and OPH.

TABLE WFD.8 – Active Australian RACS Fellows by RRMA and age group

Australian Active Fellows by ASGS-RA & Age	RA 1	RA 2	RA 3	RA 4	RA 5	TOTAL 2023	% In RA1 2023
≤35	87	7	2	0	0	96	90.6
35-39	559	46	15	0	0	620	90.2
40-44	810	81	22	1	0	914	88.6
45-49	888	110	33	2	0	1033	86.0
50-54	795	84	30	3	0	912	87.2
55-59	595	94	28	3	0	720	82.6
60-64	464	95	18	3	0	580	80.0
65-69	324	44	16	1	0	385	84.2
70+	464	63	14	4	0	545	85.1
Total	4986	624	178	17	0	5805	85.9

Note: Data excludes OB&GYN and OPH.

TABLE WFD.9 – Active RACS SET Trainees obtaining RACS Fellowship in 2023 by location of residence and specialty

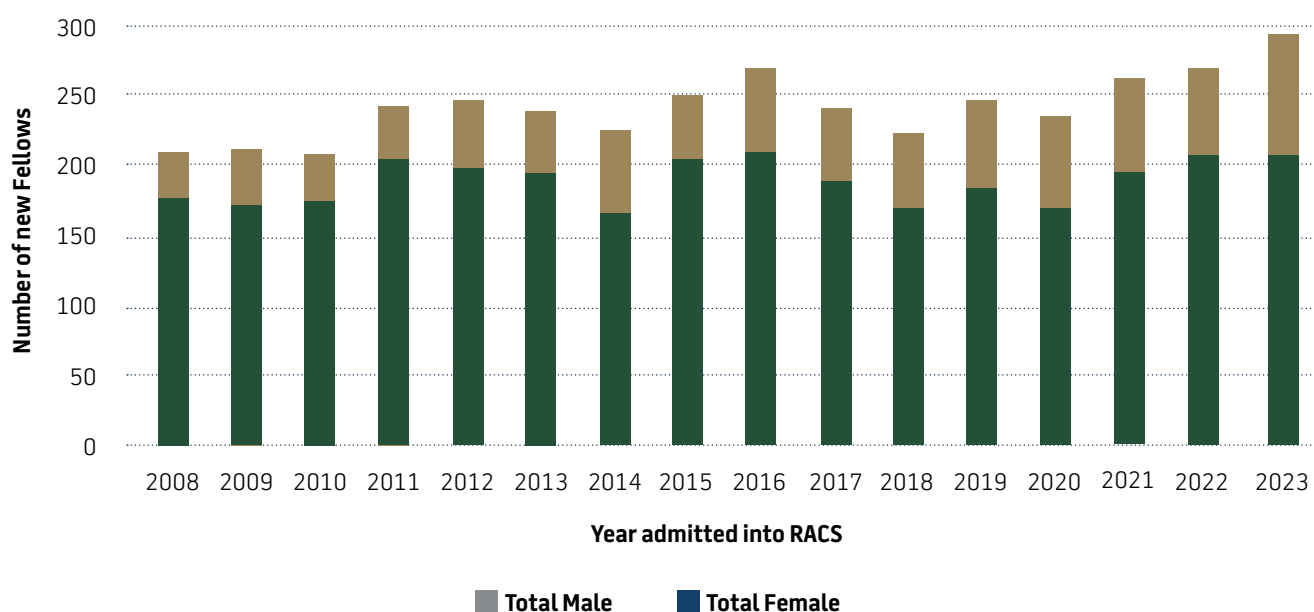
Location & Specialty		ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S	TOTAL 2023
CAR	Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	2	5
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Total	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	0	2	6
GEN	Male	2	23	0	11	7	1	14	5	63	9	3	75
	Female	2	6	0	9	0	1	14	6	38	9	0	47
	Total	4	29	0	20	7	2	28	11	101	18	3	122
NEU	Male	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	3
	Female	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	4
	Total	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	5	0	2	7
ORT	Male	1	14	1	11	1	0	12	3	43	4	7	54
	Female	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	6
	Total	1	16	1	11	1	0	12	3	45	6	9	60
OTO	Male	0	5	0	2	0	0	2	1	10	4	2	16
	Female	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	5	2	0	7
	Total	0	6	0	3	1	0	3	2	15	6	2	23
PAE	Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	2
	Total	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	1	0	4
PLA	Male	0	2	0	1	4	0	2	1	10	0	2	12
	Female	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	4	1	0	5
	Total	0	3	0	2	4	0	3	2	14	1	2	17
URO	Male	0	4	0	2	0	0	3	0	9	2	4	15
	Female	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	4	1	1	6
	Total	0	5	0	4	0	0	4	0	13	3	5	21
VAS	Male	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	3
	Female	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	3
	Total	0	0	0	3	1	0	2	0	6	0	0	6
Total	Male	3	50	1	29	13	1	37	12	146	19	20	185
	Female	2	12	0	17	1	1	19	8	60	16	5	81
	Total	5	62	1	46	14	2	56	20	206	35	25	266

TABLE WFD.10 – Active Specialist International Medical Graduates obtaining RACS Fellowship in 2023 by location of residence and specialty

Location & Specialty		ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S	TOTAL 2023
CAR	Male	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
	Total	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	2
GEN	Male	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	5	1	0	6
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
	Total	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	1	6	1	0	7
NEU	Male	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	4
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	4
ORT	Male	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	0	0	4
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	0	0	4
OTO	Male	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	4
	Female	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2
	Total	0	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	6	0	0	6
PAE	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
PLA	Male	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
URO	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
VAS	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	2
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	2
Total	Male	0	8	4	2	2	0	1	4	21	2	0	23
	Female	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	5	0	0	5
	Total	0	8	5	2	2	0	3	6	26	2	0	28

TABLE WFD.11 – Total number of SET Trainees and Specialist International Medical Graduates obtaining RACS Fellowship by specialty (2008 – 2023)

		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
CAR	Male	10	6	5	11	5	15	4	7	10	4	4	5	3	4	9	6
	Female	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	3	0	1	2
	Total	10	6	5	12	6	15	4	9	12	4	4	6	6	4	10	8
GEN	Male	62	47	63	54	64	57	55	65	74	68	50	73	65	70	64	81
	Female	14	23	13	12	30	17	20	25	33	26	24	36	37	35	26	48
	Total	76	70	76	66	94	74	75	90	107	94	74	109	102	105	90	129
NEU	Male	14	7	12	6	9	5	6	18	9	11	1	5	9	14	13	7
	Female	4	2	0	0	0	3	6	0	1	1	4	2	4	3	0	4
	Total	18	9	12	6	9	8	12	18	10	12	5	7	13	17	13	11
ORT	Male	41	67	49	60	59	61	38	60	66	54	62	41	56	53	54	58
	Female	2	3	2	8	2	4	3	4	3	7	3	5	9	8	6	6
	Total	43	70	51	68	61	65	41	64	69	61	65	46	65	61	60	64
OTO	Male	9	12	16	21	12	15	14	14	13	12	15	19	9	11	18	20
	Female	4	5	6	5	7	6	11	4	2	7	5	7	6	4	6	9
	Total	13	17	22	26	19	21	25	18	15	19	20	26	15	15	24	29
PAE	Male	3	2	3	2	4	2	4	5	1	4	1	1	1	0	5	3
	Female	0	1	1	3	2	1	4	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	6	2
	Total	3	3	4	5	6	3	8	6	4	5	2	2	2	2	11	5
PLA	Male	19	7	7	18	22	14	13	11	15	11	17	10	12	19	19	13
	Female	4	3	8	4	1	5	5	8	7	7	8	7	3	7	9	5
	Total	23	10	15	22	23	19	18	19	22	18	25	17	15	26	28	18
URO	Male	15	12	15	22	19	22	21	14	17	17	12	18	10	18	14	15
	Female	3	3	3	3	3	5	6	1	6	3	6	5	3	3	2	7
	Total	18	15	18	25	22	27	27	15	23	20	18	23	13	21	16	22
VAS	Male	4	11	5	10	5	4	11	9	5	8	8	10	3	7	10	5
	Female	1	1	0	2	2	2	4	1	2	0	2	1	3	3	6	3
	Total	5	12	5	12	7	6	15	10	7	8	10	11	6	10	16	8
Total	Male	177	171	175	204	199	195	166	203	210	189	170	182	168	196	206	208
	Female	32	41	33	38	48	43	59	46	59	52	53	65	69	65	62	86
	Total	209	212	208	242	247	238	225	249	269	241	223	247	237	261	268	294

FIGURE WFD.1 – Total annual number of SET Trainees and Specialist International Medical Graduates obtaining RACS Fellowship (2008–2023).**TABLE WFD.12 – Ratio of active Australian and New Zealand RACS Fellows per population by location**

Location & Specialty	No Fellows	Ratio of Fellows per 10,000 population	Population
ACT	100	2.1	466,800
NSW	1841	2.2	8,339,300
NT	34	1.3	252,500
QLD	1175	2.2	5,459,400
SA	462	2.5	1,851,700
TAS	109	1.9	572,800
VIC	1554	2.3	6,812,500
WA	530	1.8	2,878,600
AUS	5805	2.2	26,633,600
NZ	890	1.7	5,269,200

Population data was taken from the Australian Bureau of Statistics website www.abs.gov.au and from Statistics New Zealand website www.stats.govt.nz and is accurate as at June 2023 (Aust) and September 2023 (NZ). Data excludes Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Ophthalmology Fellows. In NZ, there are an additional 153 surgeons who are classified as Specialist International Medical Graduates which increases the ratio of surgeons per 10,000 population to 2.0.

TABLE WFD.13 – Ratio of active Australian and New Zealand RACS Fellows per population aged 65 years or older by location.

Location & Specialty	No Fellows	Ratio of Fellows per 1,000 population >=65 years	Population Over the Age of 65
ACT	96	1.5	63,847
NSW	1809	1.2	1,458,365
NT	34	1.4	23,626
QLD	1157	1.2	926,696
SA	456	1.2	370,145
TAS	106	0.9	122,336
VIC	1527	1.4	1,127,983
WA	520	1.1	463,137
AUS	5705	1.3	4,556,135
NZ	872	1.0	871,400

Population data was taken from the Australian Bureau of Statistics website www.abs.gov.au and from Statistics New Zealand website www.stats.govt.nz and is accurate as at June 2023 (Aust) and June 2023 (NZ). Data excludes the surgical specialties of Paediatric surgery, Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Ophthalmology.

Section six: Professional development and standards

EXPLANATORY NOTES

All active Fellows have a requirement to participate in either the College CPD program or in another CPD program approved by the College as meeting its standards for CPD. CPD program data is submitted to RACS in the year following participation, therefore the latest available 2022 CPD participation data are reported in Tables CPD.1 to CPD.5.

The 2022 CPD period occurred across an 18-month period from 1 July 2021 to 31 December 2022, a one-off period to recalibrate the program back into an annual calendar year cycle.

In 2022 there were 6692 Fellows participating in the College CPD or other CPD approved program.

Participation in the CPD Program by non-FRACS is reported in Table CPD.5.

To facilitate the maintenance of surgical competence of Fellows, RACS provides professional development activities that are tailored to the specific needs of Fellows. These activities address the skills and knowledge required in each of the RACS surgical competencies.

DATA HIGHLIGHTS

In 2022 92.1% of Fellows complied with the RACS CPD program requirements. This represented a small decline from the previous year, with the majority residing in Australia.

During 2023, the Professional Development Department together with faculty and STANZ offices delivered 70 activities via face to face, webinars and online learning to a total of 753 participants (546 Fellows, 50 Trainees, 56 SIMGs and 101 non-members). In addition, The Operating with Respect emodule was completed by 703 and Introduction to Operating with Respect by 104.

The pause to PD activities impacted the face-to-face delivery of courses with 174 attendees at 14 courses, however we were able to increase the delivery of online programs with 579 attendees over 56 online courses and webinars.

As part of the RACS' Building Respect, Improving Patient Safety Action Plan, 9 Foundation Skills for Surgical Educator (FSSE) courses were delivered in 2022. The mandatory group made up 29% of the attendees in 2023.

We were able to deliver 11 Operating with Respect (OWR) courses across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand in 2023. The mandatory group made up 24% of the attendees in 2023.

During 2023, 38 Faculty members donated their time to deliver over 41 Professional Development activities delivering close to 500 volunteer teach hours.

TABLE CPD.1 – Participation in RACS CPD program 2020 - 2022 by specialty

Specialty	2020			2021			2022		
	Total required to participate	Total compliant	% compliant	Total required to participate	Total compliant	% compliant	Total required to participate	Total compliant	% compliant
CAR	230	214	93.0	225	204	90.7	223	198	88.8
GEN	2228	2110	94.7	2250	2111	93.8	2247	2061	91.7
NEU	304	280	92.1	307	282	91.9	310	283	91.3
ORT	562	534	95.0	539	490	90.9	525	471	89.7
OTO	606	588	97.0	613	586	95.6	604	569	94.2
PAE	126	115	91.3	118	107	90.7	123	110	89.4
PLA	540	529	98.0	554	523	94.4	562	526	93.6
URO	544	525	96.5	557	526	94.4	547	512	93.6
VAS	238	234	98.3	249	242	97.2	251	240	95.6
Sub Total	5378	5129	95.4	5412	5071	93.7	5392	4970	92.2
OB & GYN and OPH	5	4	80.0	5	3	60.0	4	2	50.0
Total	5383	5133	95.4	5417	5074	93.7	5396	4972	92.1

TABLE CPD.2 – Participation in RACS CPD program 2020 - 2022 by region

Location	2020			2021			2022		
	Total required to participate	Total compliant	% compliant	Total required to participate	Total compliant	% compliant	Total required to participate	Total compliant	% compliant
ACT	76	76	100.0	71	71	100.0	74	74	100.0
NSW	1422	1414	99.4	1419	1350	95.1	1418	1313	92.6
NT	24	24	100.0	23	23	100.0	23	23	100.0
SA	363	360	99.2	368	358	97.3	920	883	96.0
QLD	905	901	99.6	903	876	97.0	370	354	95.7
TAS	91	90	98.9	87	86	98.9	88	87	98.9
VIC	1229	1217	99.0	1225	1205	98.4	1236	1193	96.5
WA	396	391	98.7	401	395	98.5	411	402	97.8
AUS Total	4506	4473	99.3	4497	4364	97.0	4540	4329	95.4
NZ	566	566	100.0	641	641	100.0	573	563	98.3
O/S	311	94	30.2	279	69	24.7	283	80	28.3
Total	5383	5133	95.4	5417	5074	93.7	5396	4972	92.1

TABLE CPD.3 – Fellow participation in RACS and other CPD programs in 2022

College CPD Programs	Number of participating Fellows	% of participating Fellows
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons	5396	80.6%
Australian Orthopaedic Association	891	13.3%
New Zealand Orthopaedic Association	270	4.0%
Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists	135	2.0%
Other	0	0.0%
Total	6692	100.0%

TABLE CPD.4 – Participation in RACS CPD program in 2022 by program category and specialty

Nil data.

From 1 July 2021, the new CPD requirements are determined by Area of Practice (Scope of Practice), including technical and non-technical areas. This replaces the practice category from previous years. All CPD participants now complete the same requirements.

TABLE CPD.5 – Non-FRACS Registrations in RACS CPD Program in 2022

	AUS	NZ	O/S	Total registrations
Persons	1	0	N/A	1
SIMGs	0	96	N/A	96
Total	1	96	0	97

Note: The category 'Persons' are surgeons who do not have a FRACS and are not on a pathway to Fellowship

TABLE CPD.6 – Professional Development participation by location and status

Location	Fellow	SET	SIMG	non-SIMG/Trainee/Fellow	Total 2023 ^a	Total 2022 ^b	% change 22/23
ACT	7	0	1	1	9	21	-57.1
NSW	150	5	15	23	193	351	-45.0
NT	6	3	0	0	9	55	-83.6
QLD	64	8	7	24	103	321	-67.9
SA	45	1	1	7	54	97	-44.3
TAS	18	0	0	2	20	24	-16.7
VIC	150	4	10	27	191	451	-57.6
WA	36	2	6	6	50	113	-55.8
AUS Total	476	23	40	90	629	1433	-56.1
NZ	67	30	10	11	118	210	-43.8
O/S	3	3	0	0	6	14	-57.1
Total	546	56	50	101	753	1657	-54.6

^aExcludes Operating with Respect emodule - 703 in 2023; Excludes Introduction to Operating with Respect - 104 in 2023

^bIncludes face to face and online activities; not including eLearning

TABLE CPD.7 – Professional Development participation by specialty and status

Specialty	2023^a	Total 2022^b	% Change 22/23
CAR	16	32	-50.0
GEN	251	440	-43.0
NEU	25	49	-49.0
ORT	50	83	-39.8
OTO	66	126	-47.6
PAE	30	65	-53.8
PLA	50	82	-39.0
URO	38	90	-57.8
VAS	20	48	-58.3
Sub Total	546	1015	-46.2
OPH	0	4	-100.0
SET	50	90	-44.4
SIMG	56	83	-32.5
non-RACS	101	465	-78.3
*Total	753	1657	-54.6

^aExcludes Operating with Respect emodule - 703 in 2023; Excludes Introduction to Operating with Respect - 104 in 2023

^b2022 difference of 4 in tables for Fellows is based on OPH inclusion as Fellows in the table 6

Appendix A: Definitions for regional and rural data

ASGS-RA Codes

The Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) defines Remoteness Areas into 5 classes of relative remoteness across Australia. These 5 classes of remoteness are:

- Major Cities of Australia (RA1)
- Inner Regional Australia (RA2)
- Outer Regional Australia (RA3)
- Remote Australia (RA4)
- Very Remote Australia (RA5)

The five classes of remoteness are determined using a process that provides a consistent definition across Australia and over time. This allows statistical data to be classified in a consistent way that allows users to analyse changes in data for different remoteness categories over time.

Relative remoteness is measured in an objective way using the Accessibility and Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA+), which is developed by the Hugo Centre for Migration and Population Research at the University of Adelaide. ARIA+ is derived by measuring the road distance from a point to the nearest Urban Centres and Localities in five separate population ranges. For more information on how ARIA+ is created see the University of Adelaide website at <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/hugo-centre/spatial-data/aria/>

RACS' database provides members addresses only, not geolocation. For the purposes of this report, the Australian Bureau of Statistics' "2017 Postcode to 2016 Remoteness Area" have been mapped to ASGS-RA codes (Refer: 120.0.55.005 – Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 5 – Remoteness Structure, July 2016.)
