

Activities Report

2020

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Further information

Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
250-290 Spring Street
East Melbourne VIC 3002 Australia

Telephone: +61 3 9249 1200
Web: surgeons.org



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Foreword

The Activities Report provides detail of the surgical workforce and its distribution as well as information regarding surgical training and examination results. The report is a document provided for Government departments of health, related agencies and those with an interest in the activities of RACS. The data provided in this report is true and accurate as at December 2020.

In 2020, 237 new Australian and New Zealand Fellows were admitted to RACS. Just over 30% of surgeons who achieved Fellowship through the SET pathway were female. This increases the number of active Fellows to almost 6900. We have 1240 surgical trainees of which 30% are women. The number of trainees approved for flexible training (less than full-time training) has increased to 21, 71% are women.

2020 was a particularly challenging year, with the Covid-19 pandemic influencing college activities for a significant portion of the year. A reduced number of Skills training and professional development courses were held face-to-face. Hard work from our dedicated volunteers and staff ensured these opportunities were still provided albeit in a virtual or hybrid format. Similarly most examinations were still being held, however again in an altered format allowing for travel restrictions and reduced capacities.

RACS continues to implement the Building Respect and Improving Patient Safety Action Plan with training requirements included in our Continuing Professional Development program. We continue to ensure the upskilling of surgical supervisors and trainers, and to promote a respectful culture within surgery. More information regarding the College's work in this area is available for the 'About Respect' section of the RACS website. Annual progress reports are also available.

Dr Sally Langley

President

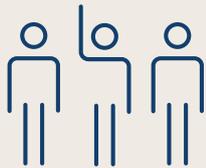
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS), formed in 1927, is a non-profit organisation training surgeons and maintaining surgical standards in Australia and New Zealand. The College's purpose is to be the leading advocate for surgical standards, professionalism and surgical education in Australia and New Zealand.

RACS works in partnership with specialist surgical societies and associations to train medical doctors to become surgeons and to deliver professional development activities to maintain the surgical skills and standards of our Fellows. We also work with governments, hospitals and other organisations to ensure a well-qualified, experienced and appropriately distributed workforce in Australia and New Zealand.

2020 highlights

Fellowship Exam during a pandemic



Candidates

288



Locations

59



Examiners

255



Local Coordinators

36



Trainees

37%

Percentage of successful SET applicants who are female



New Fellows

30%

Percentage of SET Trainees obtaining Fellowship who are female

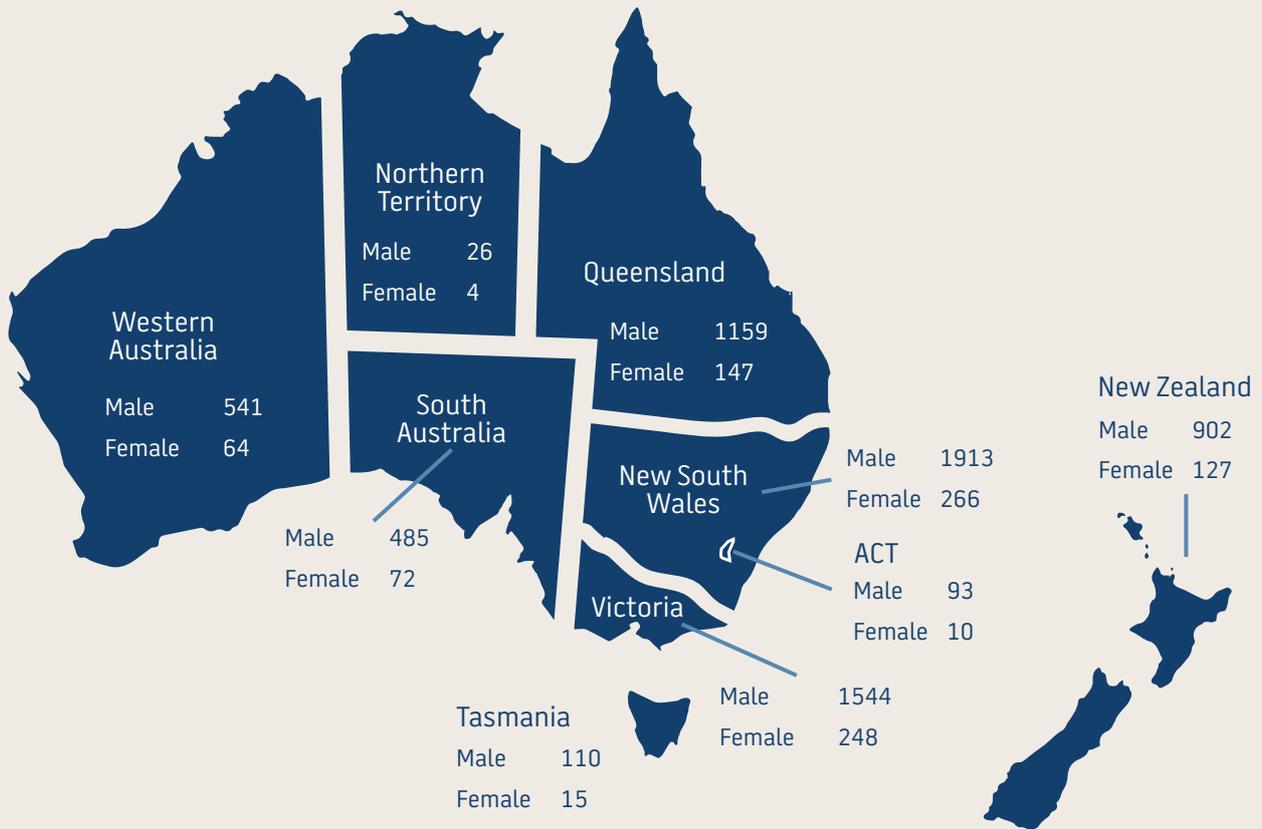


Professional Development during pandemic

2552

Online courses and webinar attendees

Active and retired Fellows



Specialist International Medical Graduate applications



These maps are not to scale and are for relative location purposes only

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Acronyms

~	Not available
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
AOA	Australian Orthopaedic Association
ASGS-RA	Australian Statistical Geography 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 2020. 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 2020, unless otherwise stated. All data has been extracted from a copy of the RACS membership database taken on 31 December 2020.

Key developments for 2020

Compared to 2019, the number of female surgeons in active practice has increased by eight percent, with women making up over 14 per cent of the active surgical workforce. Almost 30 percent of those obtaining RACS Fellowship in 2020 were female.

The number of individual female SET applicants has increased to almost 33% of all individual applicants. Almost 32% of successful applicants were female in 2020.

Despite the disruptions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, RACS delivered professional development opportunities face-to-face, via webinars and online learning to a total of 2727 participants.

Section one: Skills Training

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The Skills Training Department provides the following short courses:

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

Most of these courses are a mandatory requirement of Surgical Education and Training (SET). Doctors from a variety of medical disciplines are involved as both faculty and participants. These courses incorporate a mix of formative and summative assessment, with participants closely mentored and their performance appraised throughout the courses. Courses that incorporate summative assessment (pass or fail) also have an avenue for feedback to be given to SET and SIMG surgical supervisors when required.

OWR is a mandatory requirement for SET Supervisors, SIMG Clinical Assessors and key RACS committee members. In 2020, the Operating with Respect course moved from the Skills Training department to the Professional Development department. Data has now been moved to tables CPD.6 and CPD.7.

ASSET

ASSET is a requirement for all SET trainees (excluding Neurosurgery). 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 in order to successfully complete it. Participants are required to complete ten eLearning modules prior to attending the course, and are provided with a suture jig and disposable instruments with which to practice.

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 objectives. Participants must complete five eLearning modules prior to attending the face-to-face course. They are assessed by their contribution to various sections throughout the course, as well as their performance in a 45-minute simulated patient scenario.

EMST

EMST is a requirement for all SET trainees. The course focuses on the management of 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 to the various interactive discussions, skill stations, a 40-question multiple choice questionnaire paper, and a 15-minute simulated patient 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.

CLEAR

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

TIPS

TIPS is a requirement for Orthopaedic and New Zealand Plastic SET Trainees. TIPS focuses on patient-centred communication and team-oriented non-technical skills in surgery. Through simulation, participants address issues and events that occur in the clinical and operating theatre environment that require skills in communication, teamwork, crisis resource management and leadership. TIPS is designed to be generic to all specialties of surgical training and relevant to Trainees who have already undertaken 2 to 3 years of surgical training. 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 is a requirement for SET Trainees undertaking the Australian orthopaedic training program from 2017. TIPS participants are required to complete the Human Factors eLearning modules prior to attending.

Faculty

The skills course volunteer workforce includes 793 active faculty who taught in 2020. Instructors are represented across all disciplines of medicine and surgery, with 7% (56) teaching on more than one program. Representation of Fellows teaching on skills courses remains at 72% (568) with 3% (24) SET Trainees, 1% (11) Specialist International Medical Graduates and the remaining 32% (254) made up of emergency physicians, anaesthetists, physicians, intensivists, general practitioners, clinical epidemiologists and educators. Faculty figures include overseas instructors, the majority of whom teach on Fiji and Papua New Guinea EMST and CCrISP Outreach courses.

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 2020	TOTAL 2019	% change
CCrISP Instructor Course	Courses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-100.0
	Instructors	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	-100.0
	Participants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	-100.0
CCrISP Provider Course	Courses	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	9	25	-64.0
	Instructors	0	27	16	0	0	0	0	0	11	27	26	13	120	331	-63.7
	Participants	0	31	16	0	0	0	0	0	15	32	32	16	142	385	-63.1
EMST ADF Course	Courses	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	4	-25.0
	Instructors	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	13	0	36	42	-14.3
	Participants	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	13	0	45	69	-34.8
EMST Instructor Course	Courses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	-100.0
	Instructors	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	-100.0
	Participants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	-100.0
EMST Provider Course	Courses	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	4	2	17	52	-67.3
	Instructors	21	34	0	0	0	0	0	11	25	33	47	23	194	565	-65.7
	Participants	31	47	0	0	0	0	0	12	33	48	63	34	268	859	-68.8
EMST Refresher Course	Courses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	5	-80.0
	Instructors	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	10	51	-80.4
	Participants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	10	77	-87.0
ASSET	Courses	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	8	22	-63.6
	Instructors	0	28	19	0	0	0	0	0	9	12	20	11	99	362	-72.7
	Participants	0	39	20	0	0	0	0	0	9	11	23	16	118	431	-72.6
CLEAR	Courses	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	10	-70.0
	Instructors	0	6	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	19	59	-67.8
	Participants	0	11	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	0	54	222	-75.7
TIPS Instructor Course	Courses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-100.0
	Instructors	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	-100.0
	Participants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	-100.0
TIPS Provider Course	Courses	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	-90.0
	Instructors	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	97	-90.7
	Participants	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	142	-88.7
Total	Courses	2	10	3	0	0	0	0	1	5	6	11	4	42	132	-68.2
	Instructors	21	115	44	0	0	0	0	11	57	72	120	47	487	1539	-68.4
	Participants	31	160	51	0	0	0	0	12	73	91	169	66	653	2225	-70.7

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.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 2020	TOTAL 2019	% Change 19/20
CCrISP Instructor Course	Courses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-100.0
	Instructors	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	-100.0
	Participants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	-100.0
CCrISP Provider Course	Courses	0	3	0	1	0	0	3	0	7	2	0	9	25	-64.0
	Instructors	0	40	0	14	0	0	38	0	92	28	0	120	331	-63.7
	Participants	0	47	0	16	0	0	48	0	111	31	0	142	385	-63.1
EMST ADF Course	Courses	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	4	-25.0
	Instructors	0	23	0	13	0	0	0	0	36	0	0	36	42	-14.3
	Participants	0	32	0	13	0	0	0	0	45	0	0	45	69	-34.8
EMST Instructor Course	Courses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	-100.0
	Instructors	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	-100.0
	Participants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	-100.0
EMST Provider Course	Courses	0	5	0	3	2	0	2	1	13	4	0	17	52	-67.3
	Instructors	0	56	0	33	22	0	23	10	144	50	0	194	565	-65.7
	Participants	0	77	0	47	32	0	33	16	205	63	0	268	859	-68.8
EMST Refresher Course	Courses	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	5	-80.0
	Instructors	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	10	0	0	10	51	-80.4
	Participants	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	10	0	0	10	77	-87.0
ASSET	Courses	0	3	0	1	0	0	2	1	7	1	0	8	22	-63.6
	Instructors	0	32	0	12	0	0	25	11	80	19	0	99	362	-72.7
	Participants	0	41	0	11	0	0	30	16	98	20	0	118	431	-72.6
CLEAR	Courses	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	3	10	-70.0
	Instructors	0	9	0	0	0	0	6	0	15	4	0	19	59	-67.8
	Participants	0	15	0	0	0	0	11	0	26	28	0	54	222	-75.7
TIPS Instructor Course	Courses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-100.0
	Instructors	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	-100.0
	Participants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	-100.0
TIPS Provider Course	Courses	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	10	-90.0
	Instructors	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	9	0	0	9	97	-90.7
	Participants	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	16	0	0	16	142	-88.7
Total	Courses	0	14	0	6	2	0	10	2	34	8	0	42	132	-68.2
	Instructors	0	160	0	72	22	0	111	21	386	101	0	487	1539	-68.4
	Participants	0	212	0	87	32	0	148	32	511	142	0	653	2225	-70.7

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.

OWR is no longer reported in the Skills Training section. This is now reported in the Section Six: Professional development and standards.

TABLE ST.3 – ASSET faculty by location and specialty

Location & Specialty	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S	TOTAL 2020	TOTAL 2019	% change 19/20
CAR	0	1	0	4	1	0	3	2	11	1	0	12	15	-20.0
GEN	0	30	1	22	8	3	41	9	114	19	2	135	214	-36.9
NEU	0	1	0	5	1	0	0	1	8	0	0	8	9	-11.1
OPH	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0.0
ORT	0	8	0	7	0	0	9	2	26	21	0	47	76	-38.2
OTO	0	6	0	2	3	0	0	2	13	4	1	18	22	-18.2
PAE	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	5	1	0	6	15	-60.0
PLA	0	3	0	5	3	0	4	0	15	3	0	18	32	-43.8
URO	1	1	0	2	2	0	5	1	12	2	0	14	21	-33.3
VAS	0	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	10	0	0	10	20	-50.0
Sub Total	1	54	1	49	21	4	64	21	215	51	3	269	425	-36.7
SIMG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	8	-62.5
SET	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	5	-80.0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	-50.0
TOTAL	1	55	1	49	21	4	64	21	216	54	4	274	440	-37.7

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 2020	TOTAL 2019	% change 19/20
Anesthesia	0	6	0	3	1	0	4	3	17	13	1	31	52	-40.4
Emergency Medicine	1	1	0	3	3	1	1	1	11	0	1	12	13	-7.7
General Practice	0	5	0	2	0	0	2	0	9	0	0	9	8	12.5
Intensive Care	2	4	0	1	1	1	4	0	13	2	0	15	20	-25.0
Physician	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	-50.0
Surgery	0	25	1	23	3	3	29	12	96	38	4	138	178	-22.5
Other	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	8	-87.5
Total	3	41	1	33	8	5	40	16	147	54	6	207	281	-26.3

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 2020	TOTAL 2019	% change 19/20
Anesthesia	0	16	1	8	2	1	9	3	40	6	1	47	71	-33.8
Emergency Medicine	3	22	2	12	10	2	9	13	73	18	0	91	142	-35.9
General Practice	1	2	1	9	2	1	3	3	22	3	0	25	34	-26.5
Intensive Care	1	4	1	9	5	0	7	0	27	5	1	33	43	-23.3
Surgery	3	30	0	12	6	2	17	9	79	23	4	106	158	-32.9
Other	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	2	0	5	9	-44.4
Total	8	75	5	51	26	6	45	28	244	57	6	307	457	-32.8

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 2020	TOTAL 2019	% Change 19/20
CCrISP	Attended	1	45	-	16	3	-	45	2	112	29	0	141	399	-64.7
	Pass	1	45	-	16	3	-	43	2	110	29	0	139	384	-63.8
	%	100	100	-	100	100	-	96	100	98	100	-	99%	96%	2.4
EMST	Attended	4	82	4	71	23	1	41	18	244	74	2	320	1027	-68.8
	Pass	4	78	4	68	20	1	41	15	231	69	1	301	956	-68.5
	%	100	95	10%	96	87	100	100	83	95	93	50	94	93	1.0

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 2020	TOTAL 2019
CAR	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	2
GEN	0	4	0	1	0	3	0	0	8	1	0	9	11
NEU	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
ORT	0	5	0	1	0	0	2	0	8	2	0	10	8
OTO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PAE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
PLA	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	2
URO	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
VAS	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
Sub Total	0	12	0	2	0	3	4	0	21	3	0	24	29
*CLE	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	5	1	0	6	7
Total	0	14	0	3	0	4	5	0	26	4	0	30	36

*CLE – Clinical Epidemiologist

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 2020	TOTAL 2019
Anesthesia	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	3
Emergency Medicine	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	3	5
General Practice	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Physician	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Intensive Care	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surgery	1	4	0	6	7	0	4	0	22	9	0	31	51
Other	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	9
Total	1	5	0	7	9	0	7	0	29	10	0	39	68

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 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 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 New Zealand trained Fellows are in accordance with the principles outlined in the following publications:

- Specialist Assessment of Specialist International Medical Graduates in Australia
<https://www.surgeons.org/SIMGs/contacts-guidelines-and-forms>
- RACS – Assessing an SIMG’s Comparability to an Australian and 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) – Good practice guidelines for the specialist international medical graduate assessment process
<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 IMGs in Australia and New Zealand
<https://www.surgeons.org/SIMGs/contacts-guidelines-and-forms>
- RACS – Supervisors of Specialist International Medical Graduates in Australia
<https://www.surgeons.org/SIMGs/contacts-guidelines-and-formss>
- 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>

NEW ZEALAND

In 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 New Zealand health environment or under College approved assessment to also ensure s/he is 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 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 2020
Specialist recognition	8	16	4	12	4	1	2	3	5	55
Area of need	0	1	0	1	4	0	1	0	0	7
Total	8	17	4	13	8	1	3	3	5	62

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

Country	Qualification	
	Primary	Specialist
Australia	1	0
Belgium	1	1
Brazil	3	3
Colombia	1	1
Egypt	1	1
Hungary	1	0
India	17	15
Iran	2	1
Iraq	2	1
Israel	1	2
Italy	1	1
Japan	1	1
Nigeria	1	1
Pakistan	1	1
Philippines	1	1
Republic of Ireland	4	4
Saudi Arabia	2	2
South Africa	7	10
Spain	1	1
South Korea	1	1
Sudan	1	1
Sweden	0	1
United States of America	1	2
United Kingdom	9	10
Zimbabwe	1	0
Total	62	62

³The 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 2020
No. of SIMGs not comparable	3	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	8

Note: SIMGs are subject to document-based assessment only. Interview is not required. Data inclusive of applications activated in 2018.

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

	CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	Total 2020
Before initial assessment	1	5	1	2	3	0	1	0	0	13
Between initial and final assessment	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	5
Total	2	5	1	3	5	1	1	0	0	18

Note: Number of SIMGs who notify the college that they no longer wish to proceed with their application for specialist assessment

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 2020
Substantially comparable (full scope)	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Substantially comparable (defined scope)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Partially comparable	1	9	2	2	3	0	1	1	5	24
Not comparable	6	4	1	3	0	1	1	2	1	19
In progress	1	2	1	7	0	1	0	0	0	12
Total	9	16	4	12	4	2	2	3	6	58
Applications activated in 2020	8	16	4	12	4	1	2	3	5	55
Total processed	8	16	4	12	4	1	2	3	5	55

Note: If SIMGs comparability is based on a limited scope of practice this should be noted. Data inclusive of applications activated in 2019.

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

Supervision / oversight period		Clinical assessment - by specialty									Total 2020
		CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	
Currently under supervision	≤ 12 months	0	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	8
	≤ 24 months	2	7	1	10	6	3	8	2	1	40
Completed oversight/ supervision		2	5	1	6	4	0	4	0	3	25
Total		4	17	2	16	11	3	12	2	6	73

Supervision / oversight period		Clinical assessment - by location of residence										Total 2020
		ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS Total	NZ	
Currently under supervision	≤ 12 months	0	1	0	5	0	0	1	1	0	0	8
	≤ 24 months	2	8	2	6	4	1	8	8	0	1	40
Completed oversight/ supervision		0	8	2	6	1	0	4	4	25	0	25
Total		2	17	4	17	5	1	13	13	72	1	73

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 2020
Substantially comparable (full scope)	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	4
Substantially comparable (defined scope)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Partially comparable	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Not comparable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
In progress	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	1	1	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	7
Applications activated in 2020	0	1	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	6
Total processed	0	1	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	6

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

Supervision / oversight period		Clinical assessment - by specialty									Total 2020
		CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	
Currently under supervision	≤ 12 months	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
	≤ 24 months	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Completed oversight/ supervision		0	0	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	5
Total		1	2	0	4	1	0	1	1	0	10

Supervision / oversight period		Clinical assessment - by location of residence										Total 2020
		ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS Total	NZ	
Currently under oversight	≤ 12 months	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	3
	≤ 24 months	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Completed oversight/ supervision		0	0	2	0	0	2	1	0	5	0	5
Total		0	0	5	0	0	2	3	0	10	0	10

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 2020
Suitable for area of need position	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	4
Not suitable for area of need position	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
In progress	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	1	1	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	7

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 2020
Recommended for recognition as specialist	Substantially comparable (full scope)	0	6	1	2	2	0	1	1	0	13
	Substantially comparable (defined scope)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Partially comparable	0	2	1	3	1	0	1	0	1	9
	Not comparable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not recommended for recognition as specialist	Substantially comparable (full scope)	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Substantially comparable (defined scope)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Partially comparable	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	5
	Not comparable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		0	10	4	5	5	0	2	1	2	29

Note: 'Substantially Comparable (limited scope)' has been added since 2017.

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

	2020
0-3 months	25
4-6 months	20
7-12 months	1
13 months +	0
In progress	12
Total	58

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

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

	2020
0-3 months	3
4-6 months	3
7-12 months	0
13 months +	0
In progress	1
Total	7

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

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

	2020
0-3 months	0
4-6 months	0
7-12 months	1
13-18 months	12
19-24 months	1
25-36 months	7
37-48 months	0
48 months +	1
Total	22

Note: Timeframe to complete all requirements as specified in specialist recommendation. Period is noted from date of commencement of clinical assessment. 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		2019
Decision being appealed	Outcome of initial assessment	0
	Outcome of final assessment	0
Original decision	Not comparable	0
	Partially comparable	0
RACS decision	Upheld	0
	Overtaken	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 2020
Approved	21	22	13	94	20	6	16	12	8	212
Denied	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	3
Pending	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
In Process	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	21	22	13	95	20	7	16	13	8	215

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 2020
Approved	2	83	4	28	21	2	54	18	212	0	212
Denied	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	3
Pending	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
In Process	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2	84	4	28	23	2	54	18	215	0	215

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

	Total 2020
Total number of IMGs practicing in Australia with valid assessment	83

Note: IMGs undergoing clinical assessment or IMGs 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 International Medical Graduate specialists

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	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Unlikely To Be Suitable For Vocational Pathway	0	5	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	9
Unable To Determine Suitability By Documentation Only	0	1	2	4	2	0	0	2	0	11
Preliminary Advise requests not yet completed	1	1	1	4	4	0	0	0	0	11
Total	1	8	5	8	6	0	1	3	0	32

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

Advice to MCNZ following interview	CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	TOTAL
Vocational Pathway - Supervision (MCNZ approved)	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Vocational Pathway - Supervised Assessment (College Approved)	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Not Recommended As Suitable For Vocational Pathway	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Total	2	5	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	9

Applications yet to achieve interview completion	CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	TOTAL
Applicants withdrawn prior to interview 2020	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Applicants awaiting interview at end of December 2020	0	2	1	3	1	0	1	2	0	10
Interview process incomplete at end of December 2020	1	3	0	4	4	0	0	2	0	14
Total	1	5	1	7	5	0	1	4	0	24

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

IMGs under College approved Vocational Assessment in 2020	CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	TOTAL
For Full Scope Registration	0	3	0	3	1	0	1	0	1	9
For Restricted Scope Registration	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	0	4	0	3	1	0	1	0	1	10

College approved vocational assessments completed in 2020	CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	TOTAL
To Satisfactory Standard	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3
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	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3

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

RACS Recommendation after review	CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	TOTAL
Recommendation Altered	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	3
Recommendation Not Altered	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
In progress	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	4

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

Section Three: Surgical Education and Training

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The College is accredited 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 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.

The Covid19 pandemic brought with it many challenges for RACS to deliver a selection process across Australia and New Zealand. Some specialties offered online virtual selection interviews for the first time in 2020 to overcome the restrictions on travel. Cardiothoracic Surgery did not offer selection in 2020.

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.

The Australian Orthopaedic Association has not notified RACS of the regional or person type breakdown of unsuccessful applications received for the orthopaedic program in Australia. The totals listed in tables SET.1 to SET.4 include successful applicants to Orthopaedic only. Also, it is unclear whether unsuccessful applicants to the orthopaedic program in Australia made applications to other specialties (Table SET.3).

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: There were 244 applicants who were offered a Trainee position in 2020 for the 2021 SET intake (Table SET.5). RACS received a total of 743 applications across the nine specialties. Of these applications, 498 applicants (around two-thirds) were from men and 245 were from women (Table SET.1). General Surgery in Australia and New Zealand recruited the most women in the 2020 selection process for their 2021 intake, with 38.9% (Table SET.5).

Active SET Trainees: In 2020, there were 1240 Trainees on the SET Program, compared with 1205 in 2019 (Table SET.15). There were 21 Trainees approved for Flexible (less than full-time) Training in 2020; with the amount of women in Flexible Training rising from 9 to 15; a 66.7% increase from 2019. 7 Trainees identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, and 18 Trainees identified as Māori (SET.25).

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

Specialty & Type	SET	SIMG	NON SIMG / Trainee ^b	Fellow	TOTAL 2020 ^a	TOTAL 2019 ^a	% Change 19/20
CAR^d	Male	0	0	0	0	36	-100.0%
	Female	0	0	0	0	12	-100.0%
	Total	0	0	0	0	48	-100.0%
GEN	Male	0	0	202	0	202	0.5%
	Female	0	0	119	0	119	6.3%
	Total	0	0	321	0	321	2.6%
NEU	Male	0	0	49	0	49	-3.9%
	Female	0	0	16	0	16	0.0%
	Total	0	0	65	0	65	-3.0%
ORT	Male	0	0	53	0	63	-15.9%
	Female	0	0	17	0	11	54.5%
	Total	0	0	70	0	74	-5.4%
OTO	Male	0	0	66	0	67	-1.5%
	Female	1	0	30	0	26	19.2%
	Total	1	0	96	0	93	4.3%
PAE^c	Male	1	0	10	0	11	-
	Female	0	0	10	0	0	-
	Total	1	0	20	0	21	-
PLA	Male	2	0	46	0	58	-17.2%
	Female	0	0	28	0	28	0.0%
	Total	2	0	74	0	86	-11.6%
URO	Male	1	0	38	0	47	-17.0%
	Female	3	0	9	0	19	-36.8%
	Total	4	0	47	0	66	-22.7%
VAS	Male	4	0	25	1	32	-6.3%
	Female	2	0	10	0	10	20.0%
	Total	6	0	35	1	42	0.0%
Total	Male	8	0	489	1	498	-10.3%
	Female	6	0	239	0	234	4.7%
	Total	14	0	728	1	743	-5.8%

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

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

^c There was no selection held for new Paediatric trainees in 2019.

^d In 2020, due to Covid-19 pandemic, there were not applications for Cardiathoracic Surgery SET program being taken.

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 2020	TOTAL 2019	% Change 19/20
CAR	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	-100.0
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	-100.0
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	-100.0
GEN	Male	5	43	1	45	14	1	46	15	170	32	0	202	201	0.5
	Female	1	32	1	14	7	0	40	7	102	16	1	119	112	6.3
	Total	6	75	2	59	21	1	86	22	272	48	1	321	313	2.6
NEU	Male	1	16	0	9	3	3	9	2	43	6	0	49	51	-3.9
	Female	0	8	0	2	1	0	4	0	15	1	0	16	16	0.0
	Total	1	24	0	11	4	3	13	2	58	7	0	65	67	-3.0
ORT	Male	1	17	0	6	2	1	5	1	33	20	0	53	63	-15.9
	Female	0	2	0	2	1	0	2	3	10	7	0	17	11	54.5
	Total	1	19	0	8	3	1	7	4	43	27	0	70	74	-5.4
OTO	Male	1	19	0	14	2	0	17	3	56	10	0	66	67	-1.5
	Female	0	9	1	5	2	0	7	2	26	5	0	31	26	19.2
	Total	1	28	1	19	4	0	24	5	82	15	0	97	93	4.3
PAE ^b	Male	0	4	1	3	1	0	1	0	10	1	0	11	0	-
	Female	0	1	0	1	1	0	4	1	8	2	0	10	0	-
	Total	0	5	1	4	2	0	5	1	18	3	0	21	0	-
PLA	Male	0	13	0	6	4	1	10	2	36	12	0	48	58	-17.2
	Female	0	5	0	1	1	2	9	4	22	6	0	28	28	0.0
	Total	0	18	0	7	5	3	19	6	58	18	0	76	86	-11.6
URO	Male	0	8	0	9	1	0	9	3	30	9	0	39	47	-17.0
	Female	1	2	0	3	1	0	4	0	11	1	0	12	19	-36.8
	Total	1	10	0	12	2	0	13	3	41	10	0	51	66	-22.7
VAS	Male	1	9	0	9	0	0	8	1	28	2	0	30	32	-6.3
	Female	1	2	0	1	1	0	4	1	10	1	1	12	10	20.0
	Total	2	11	0	10	1	0	12	2	38	3	1	42	42	0.0
Total	Male	9	129	2	101	27	6	105	27	406	92	0	498	555	-10.3
	Female	3	61	2	29	15	2	74	18	204	39	2	245	234	4.7
	Total	12	190	4	130	42	8	179	45	610	131	2	743	789	-5.8

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

^b There was no selection held for new Paediatric trainees in 2019.

^c In 2020, due to Covid-19 pandemic, there were not applications for Cardiathoracic Surgery SET program being taken.

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

Number & Type	SET	SET Deferred	SIMG	NON SIMG / Trainee	Fellow	TOTAL 2020	TOTAL 2019	% Change 19/20	
1	Male	8	0	0	427	1	436	465	-6.2
	Female	6	0	0	207	0	213	210	1.4
	Total	14	0	0	634	1	649	675	-3.9
2	Male	0	0	0	29	0	29	45	-35.6
	Female	0	0	0	16	0	16	9	77.8
	Total	0	0	0	45	0	45	54	-16.7
3	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-100.0
24	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Total	Male	8	0	0	456	1	465	510	-8.8
	Female	6	0	0	223	0	229	220	4.1
	Total	14	0	0	679	1	694	730	-4.9

^aUnsuccessful applicants to the Orthopaedic SET program are not included..

TABLE SET.4 – SET applications outcome by specialty and applicant type^{a,b,c}

Specialty	Offers		Unsuccessful		Waiting List		Withdrawn		Ineligible		Declined		Total application outcomes 2020
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
CAR	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0
GEN	108	33.6	210	65.4	0	0.0	3	0.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	321
NEU	13	20.0	48	73.8	0	0.0	3	4.6	1	1.5	0	0.0	65
ORT	54	77.1	16	22.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	70
OTO	15	15.5	82	84.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	97
PAE	3	14.3	18	85.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	21
PLA	21	27.6	53	69.7	0	0.0	1	1.3	0	0.0	1	1.3	76
URO	21	41.2	30	58.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	51
VAS	9	21.4	33	78.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	42
Total	244	32.8	490	65.9	0	0.0	7	0.9	1	0.1	1	0.1	743
Applicant type													
SET	3	21.4	11	78.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	14
IMG	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	-	0
F		0.0	1	-	0	-	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Non IMG / Trainee	241	33.1	478	65.7	0	0.0	7	1.0	1	0.1	1	0.1	728
Total	244	32.8	490	65.9	0	0.0	7	0.9	1	0.1	1	0.1	743

^aIncludes deferred applications

^bTotals do not include declined applications as they were subsequently offered to other applicants and reflected in the Offers column.

^cThere was no selection held for new Paediatric trainees in 2020.

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

Specialty & Location	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S	TOTAL 2020	TOTAL 2019	% Change 19/20
CAR	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	-100.0
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	-100.0
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	-100.0
GEN	Male	2	19	0	14	3	1	10	5	54	12	0	77	-14.3
	Female	1	13	0	2	1	0	13	4	34	8	0	47	-10.6
	Total	3	32	0	16	4	1	23	9	88	20	0	124	-12.9
NEU	Male	0	4	0	2	1	2	0	0	9	1	0	8	25.0
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	2	50.0
	Total	0	5	0	2	1	2	1	0	11	2	0	10	30.0
ORT	Male	1	17	0	5	2	1	5	1	32	8	0	63	-36.5
	Female	0	2	0	2	1	0	2	3	10	4	0	11	27.3
	Total	1	19	0	7	3	1	7	4	42	12	0	74	-27.0
OTO	Male	0	4	0	2	0	0	1	1	8	4	0	12	0.0
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	50.0
	Total	0	5	0	2	0	0	1	1	9	6	0	14	7.1
PAE ^a	Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	-
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	-
	Total	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	-
PLA	Male	0	5	0	2	2	1	2	0	12	4	0	8	100.0
	Female	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	5	0	0	10	-50.0
	Total	0	7	0	2	2	1	5	0	17	4	0	18	16.7
URO	Male	0	2	0	4	1	0	3	1	11	3	0	14	0.0
	Female	0	0	0	2	1	0	3	0	6	1	0	6	16.7
	Total	0	2	0	6	2	0	6	1	17	4	0	20	5.0
VAS	Male	0	3	0	1	0	0	2	1	7	0	0	9	-22.2
	Female	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	0.0
	Total	0	3	0	1	1	0	3	1	9	0	0	11	-18.2
Total	Male	3	55	0	30	9	5	24	9	135	32	0	200	-16.5
	Female	1	19	0	6	4	0	23	8	61	16	0	84	-8.3
	Total	4	74	0	36	13	5	47	17	196	48	0	284	-14.1

^aDue to the Covid-19 pandemic, there was no selection held for new Cardiothoracic trainees in 2020.

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 2020	TOTAL 2019	% Change 19/20
Clinical	Male	13	263	1	153	60	13	165	59	727	132	1	860	831	3.5
	Female	7	89	4	47	16	4	97	25	289	62	0	351	344	2.0
	Total	20	352	5	200	76	17	262	84	1016	194	1	1211	1175	3.1
Accredited Research	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-100.0
	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	1	-100.0
Part Time	Male	0	1	0	1	1	0	3	0	6	0	0	6	7	-14.3
	Female	0	6	0	4	2	0	2	1	15	0	0	15	9	66.7
	Total	0	7	0	5	3	0	5	1	21	0	0	21	16	31.3
Probationary	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	-100.0
	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	2	-100.0
Exam Pending	Male	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	4	1	0	5	8	-37.5
	Female	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3	0	0	3	3	0.0
	Total	0	2	0	1	1	1	2	0	7	1	0	8	11	-27.3
Total	Male	13	266	1	155	61	14	168	59	737	133	1	871	849	2.6
	Female	7	95	4	51	19	4	101	26	307	62	0	369	356	3.7
	Total	20	361	5	206	80	18	269	85	1044	195	1	1240	1205	2.9

^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 2020	TOTAL 2019	% Change 19/20
Approved Interruption to training	Male	0	5	1	6	2	1	7	0	22	1	0	23	19	21.1
	Female	0	6	1	4	4	1	7	1	24	9	0	33	32	3.1
	Total	0	11	2	10	6	2	14	1	46	10	0	56	51	9.8
Deferred	Male	0	2	0	1	2	0	2	0	7	0	3	10	8	25.0
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	3	5	-40.0
	Total	0	2	0	1	2	0	4	0	9	0	4	13	13	0.0
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	0	7	1	7	4	1	9	0	29	1	3	33	27	22.2
	Female	0	6	1	4	4	1	9	1	26	9	1	36	37	-2.7
	Total	0	13	2	11	8	2	18	1	55	10	4	69	64	7.8

^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 2020	TOTAL 2019	% Change 19/20
Clinical	Male	29	295	43	243	62	11	65	78	35	861	834	3.2
	Female	10	166	11	47	22	18	40	23	13	350	304	15.1
	Total	39	461	54	290	84	29	105	101	48	1211	1138	6.4
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	1	-100.0
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-100.0
Part Time	Male	0	3	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	6	0	-
	Female	0	11	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	15	6	150.0
	Total	0	14	0	0	4	1	0	2	0	21	6	250.0
Probationary	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-100.0
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-100.0
Exam Pending	Male	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	15	-66.7
	Female	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	-50.0
	Total	2	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	21	-61.9
Total	Male	31	301	43	243	64	12	65	78	35	872	849	2.7
	Female	10	179	11	48	24	18	40	25	13	368	318	15.7
	Total	41	480	54	291	88	30	105	103	48	1240	1167	6.3

^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 2020	TOTAL 2019	% Change 19/20
Approved Interruption to training	Male	2	13	2	0	0	1	1	4	0	23	19	21.1
	Female	0	25	2	0	2	1	2	1	0	33	32	3.1
	Total	2	38	4	0	2	2	3	5	0	56	51	9.8
Deferred	Male	0	5	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	10	8	25.0
	Female	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	5	-40.0
	Total	1	5	0	1	3	0	0	1	2	13	13	0.0
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	2	18	2	1	3	1	1	4	1	33	27	22.2
	Female	1	25	2	0	2	1	2	2	1	36	37	-2.7
	Total	3	43	4	1	5	2	3	6	2	69	64	7.8

^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	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
GEN	1	2	2	4	0	0	3	6
NEU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ORT	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	1
OTO	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
PAE	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
PLA	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
URO	2	0	1	1	0	0	3	1
VAS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	8	2	4	7	0	0	12	9

^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	0	4	0	0	0	4
Year 2	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Year 3	1	2	3	1	0	0	4	3
Year 4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Year 5	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	1
Year 6+	2	0	1	0	0	0	3	0
Total	8	2	4	7	0	0	12	9
% of all trainees	0.9%	0.5%	1.1%	1.9%	0.0%	0.0%	3.1%	2.4%

^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	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	3
NT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
QLD	2	0	1	2	0	0	3	2
SA	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
TAS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VIC	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
WA	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
AUS	5	1	4	4	0	0	9	5
NZ	3	1	0	3	0	0	3	4
O/S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	8	2	4	7	0	0	12	9

^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 age and location		ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S	TOTAL 2020
<30	Male	0	19	0	9	1	1	8	0	38	6	0	44
	Female	1	12	2	2	2	0	2	0	21	2	0	23
	Total	1	31	2	11	3	1	10	0	59	8	0	67
30-34	Male	8	144	0	66	37	8	99	38	400	83	1	484
	Female	3	35	1	23	10	4	67	18	161	38	0	199
	Total	11	179	1	89	47	12	166	56	561	121	1	683
35-39	Male	4	72	1	60	19	3	39	17	215	32	0	247
	Female	2	36	1	26	4	0	26	7	102	16	0	118
	Total	6	108	2	86	23	3	65	24	317	48	0	365
40-44	Male	1	26	0	17	3	2	19	4	72	10	0	82
	Female	1	9	0	0	3	0	6	1	20	5	0	25
	Total	2	35	0	17	6	2	25	5	92	15	0	107
45-49	Male	0	3	0	3	1	0	3	0	10	2	0	12
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
	Total	0	4	0	3	1	0	3	0	11	3	0	14
50-54	Male	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Total	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
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	13	267	1	155	61	14	168	59	738	133	1	872
	Female	7	94	4	51	19	4	101	26	306	62	0	368
	Total	20	361	5	206	80	18	269	85	1044	195	1	1240

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

18 Trainees have identified as Māori and 7 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 2020
←30	Male	0	25	2	9	0	0	0	6	2	44
	Female	1	15	1	2	1	0	0	1	2	23
	Total	1	40	3	11	1	0	0	7	4	67
30-34	Male	18	167	18	138	40	4	35	44	20	484
	Female	7	94	2	31	9	4	27	16	9	199
	Total	25	261	20	169	49	8	62	60	29	683
35-39	Male	7	70	17	73	19	7	20	24	10	247
	Female	2	55	8	13	10	11	11	6	2	118
	Total	9	125	25	86	29	18	31	30	12	365
40-44	Male	4	32	5	20	5	1	8	4	3	82
	Female	0	13	0	2	3	3	2	2	0	25
	Total	4	45	5	22	8	4	10	6	3	107
45-49	Male	1	6	1	3	0	0	1	0	0	12
	Female	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
	Total	1	7	1	3	1	0	1	0	0	14
50-54	Male	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Total	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
55-70+	Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	Male	31	301	43	243	64	12	65	78	35	872
	Female	10	179	11	48	24	18	40	25	13	368
	Total	41	480	54	291	88	30	105	103	48	1240

^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 2020	TOTAL 2019	% Change 19/20
Year 1	Male	3	61	0	30	13	3	35	16	161	33	0	194	171	
	Female	2	21	2	11	3	2	20	3	64	18	0	82	88	
	Total	5	82	2	41	16	5	55	19	225	51	0	276	259	6.6
Year 2	Male	2	56	0	29	12	5	27	10	141	27	0	168	161	
	Female	2	21	2	10	5	2	19	9	70	15	0	85	75	
	Total	4	77	2	39	17	7	46	19	211	42	0	253	236	7.2
Year 3	Male	2	46	1	28	10	1	37	13	138	18	0	156	183	
	Female	1	15	0	12	4	0	21	7	60	10	0	70	52	
	Total	3	61	1	40	14	1	58	20	198	28	0	226	235	-3.8
Year 4	Male	4	50	0	34	14	2	32	11	147	33	0	180	152	
	Female	0	13	0	9	2	0	17	6	47	8	0	55	52	
	Total	4	63	0	43	16	2	49	17	194	41	0	235	204	15.2
Year 5	Male	1	42	0	26	10	2	24	9	114	16	0	130	131	
	Female	0	12	0	4	3	0	18	1	38	8	0	46	54	
	Total	1	54	0	30	13	2	42	10	152	24	0	176	185	-4.9
Year 6+	Male	1	12	0	8	2	1	13	0	37	6	1	44	51	
	Female	2	12	0	5	2	0	6	0	27	3	0	30	35	
	Total	3	24	0	13	4	1	19	0	64	9	1	74	86	-14.0
Total	Male	13	267	1	155	61	14	168	59	738	133	1	872	849	
	Female	7	94	4	51	19	4	101	26	306	62	0	368	356	
	Total	20	361	5	206	80	18	269	85	1044	195	1	1240	1205	2.9

^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 2020	TOTAL 2019	% Change 19/20
Year 1	Male	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	6	2	0	8	1	
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	3	1	
	Total	0	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	7	4	0	11	2	450.0
Year 2	Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	5	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	
	Total	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	8	-75.0
Year 3	Male	0	1	0	1	1	0	2	0	5	0	0	5	4	
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	3	0	
	Total	0	2	0	1	1	0	3	0	7	1	0	8	4	100.0
Year 4	Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	4	0	0	4	6	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
	Total	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	4	0	0	4	8	-50.0
Year 5	Male	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	5	1	0	6	4	
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	1	
	Total	0	3	0	2	1	0	1	0	7	1	0	8	5	60.0
Year 6+	Male	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	0	5	1	1	7	6	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	3	
	Total	0	1	0	0	0	1	4	0	6	1	1	8	9	-11.1
Total	Male	0	7	0	4	3	2	8	2	26	4	1	31	26	
	Female	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	6	4	0	10	10	
	Total	0	10	0	4	3	2	11	2	32	8	1	41	36	13.9

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 2020	TOTAL 2019	% Change 19/20
Year 1	Male	0	21	0	13	6	2	13	5	60	11	0	71	77	
	Female	0	15	2	4	0	1	14	2	38	7	0	45	50	
	Total	0	36	2	17	6	3	27	7	98	18	0	116	127	-8.7
Year 2	Male	0	29	0	15	8	4	10	4	70	9	0	79	57	
	Female	2	11	2	4	2	0	13	6	40	7	0	47	33	
	Total	2	40	2	19	10	4	23	10	110	16	0	126	90	40.0
Year 3	Male	1	18	0	11	2	0	13	4	49	6	0	55	61	
	Female	1	8	0	5	0	0	7	2	23	4	0	27	32	
	Total	2	26	0	16	2	0	20	6	72	10	0	82	93	-11.8
Year 4	Male	1	18	0	11	6	1	7	5	49	13	0	62	42	
	Female	0	10	0	5	1	0	11	1	28	7	0	35	22	
	Total	1	28	0	16	7	1	18	6	77	20	0	97	64	51.6
Year 5	Male	1	6	0	5	0	0	6	1	19	4	0	23	42	
	Female	0	5	0	0	1	0	3	0	9	2	0	11	21	
	Total	1	11	0	5	1	0	9	1	28	6	0	34	63	-46.0
Year 6+	Male	1	2	0	3	1	0	2	0	9	2	0	11	16	
	Female	0	4	0	5	2	0	3	0	14	0	0	14	18	
	Total	1	6	0	8	3	0	5	0	23	2	0	25	34	-26.5
Total	Male	4	94	0	58	23	7	51	19	256	45	0	301	295	
	Female	3	53	4	23	6	1	51	11	152	27	0	179	176	
	Total	7	147	4	81	29	8	102	30	408	72	0	480	471	1.9

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 2020	TOTAL 2019	% Change 19/20
Year 1	Male	0	4	0	0	1	0	2	0	7	1	0	8	6	
	Female	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	1	
	Total	1	4	0	0	1	0	3	0	9	1	0	10	7	42.9
Year 2	Male	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	5	1	0	6	3	
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	6	
	Total	1	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	6	1	0	7	9	-22.2
Year 3	Male	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	3	11	
	Female	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	0	5	0	0	5	0	
	Total	0	0	0	3	1	0	3	1	8	0	0	8	11	-27.3
Year 4	Male	0	4	0	2	0	0	3	0	9	1	0	10	10	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	Total	0	4	0	2	0	0	3	0	9	1	0	10	11	-9.1
Year 5	Male	0	4	0	1	1	0	2	1	9	0	0	9	6	
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	
	Total	0	5	0	1	1	0	2	1	10	0	0	10	9	11.1
Year 6+	Male	0	3	0	3	0	0	1	0	7	0	0	7	7	
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	3	
	Total	0	4	0	3	0	0	2	0	9	0	0	9	10	-10.0
Total	Male	1	17	0	8	2	1	9	2	40	3	0	43	43	
	Female	1	3	0	2	1	0	4	0	11	0	0	11	14	
	Total	2	20	0	10	3	1	13	2	51	3	0	54	57	-5.3

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 2020	TOTAL 2019	% Change 19/20
Year 1	Male	2	20	0	10	2	0	9	7	50	12	0	62	34	
	Female	0	5	0	1	1	0	1	0	8	3	0	11	11	
	Total	2	25	0	11	3	0	10	7	58	15	0	73	45	62.2
Year 2	Male	0	9	0	5	1	0	7	1	23	11	0	34	46	
	Female	0	3	0	1	0	0	1	2	7	4	0	11	10	
	Total	0	12	0	6	1	0	8	3	30	15	0	45	56	-19.6
Year 3	Male	0	12	0	9	3	1	10	3	38	7	0	45	54	
	Female	0	2	0	0	2	0	3	1	8	2	0	10	3	
	Total	0	14	0	9	5	1	13	4	46	9	0	55	57	-3.5
Year 4	Male	0	14	0	12	3	1	11	4	45	9	0	54	46	
	Female	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	3	10	
	Total	0	15	0	12	4	1	11	5	48	9	0	57	56	1.8
Year 5	Male	0	14	0	9	4	0	8	6	41	6	0	47	56	
	Female	0	3	0	0	1	0	7	0	11	2	0	13	11	
	Total	0	17	0	9	5	0	15	6	52	8	0	60	67	-10.4
Year 6+	Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	
	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	0	-
Total	Male	2	70	0	45	13	2	45	21	198	45	0	243	236	
	Female	0	14	0	2	5	0	12	4	37	11	0	48	45	
	Total	2	84	0	47	18	2	57	25	235	56	0	291	281	3.6

^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 2020	TOTAL 2019	% Change 19/20
Year 1	Male	1	3	0	2	1	0	2	1	10	2	0	12	14	
	Female	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	9	
	Total	2	3	0	2	1	0	3	1	12	2	0	14	23	-39.1
Year 2	Male	0	3	0	2	1	0	4	1	11	3	0	14	17	
	Female	0	0	0	3	2	0	2	1	8	1	0	9	6	
	Total	0	3	0	5	3	0	6	2	19	4	0	23	23	0.0
Year 3	Male	0	6	0	3	1	0	4	1	15	2	0	17	13	
	Female	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	1	5	1	0	6	2	
	Total	0	7	0	3	2	0	6	2	20	3	0	23	15	53.3
Year 4+	Male	0	6	0	3	0	0	1	0	10	3	0	13	7	
	Female	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	2	
	Total	0	6	0	5	0	0	1	0	12	3	0	15	9	66.7
Year 5	Male	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	4	2	0	6	5	
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	3	6	
	Total	0	1	0	1	0	0	4	1	7	2	0	9	11	-18.2
Year 6+	Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	2	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	
	Total	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	4	4	0.0
Total	Male	1	19	0	11	3	0	14	3	51	13	0	64	58	
	Female	1	2	0	5	3	0	6	3	20	4	0	24	27	
	Total	2	21	0	16	6	0	20	6	71	17	0	88	85	3.5

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 2020	TOTAL 2019	% Change 19/20
Year 1	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	1	
	Total	0	0	0	0	1	-100.0								
Year 2	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	
	Total	0	0	0	0	5	-100.0								
Year 3	Male	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	4	
	Female	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	3	3	
	Total	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	5	0	0	5	7	-28.6
Year 4	Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	4	3	
	Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	3	5	
	Total	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	4	0	7	8	-12.5
Year 5	Male	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	1	
	Female	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	4	1	0	5	2	
	Total	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	6	1	0	7	3	133.3
Year 6+	Male	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	4	0	0	4	4	
	Female	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	7	5	
	Total	1	6	0	1	0	0	2	0	10	1	0	11	9	22.2
Total	Male	0	2	1	1	1	0	2	2	9	3	0	12	14	
	Female	1	5	0	5	1	0	3	0	15	3	0	18	19	
	Total	1	7	1	6	2	0	5	2	24	6	0	30	33	-9.1

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 2020	TOTAL 2019	% Change 19/20
Year 1	Male	0	1	0	0	1	0	5	0	7	1	0	8	14	
	Female	0	0	0	2	1	1	2	1	7	4	0	11	7	
	Total	0	1	0	2	2	1	7	1	14	5	0	19	21	-9.5
Year 2	Male	0	5	0	3	0	0	3	1	12	1	0	13	11	
	Female	0	3	0	1	1	1	1	0	7	0	0	7	7	
	Total	0	8	0	4	1	1	4	1	19	1	0	20	18	11.1
Year 3	Male	0	3	0	1	2	0	1	2	9	1	0	10	15	
	Female	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	3	6	1	0	7	7	
	Total	0	5	0	1	2	0	2	5	15	2	0	17	22	-22.7
Year 4	Male	0	3	0	2	2	0	3	1	11	4	0	15	15	
	Female	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	3	7	0	0	7	7	
	Total	0	4	0	3	2	0	5	4	18	4	0	22	22	0.0
Year 5	Male	0	5	0	2	2	2	2	0	13	2	0	15	12	
	Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	4	3	0	7	3	
	Total	0	5	0	3	2	2	5	0	17	5	0	22	15	46.7
Year 6+	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	0	4	2	
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	
	Total	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	2	0	5	3	66.7
Total	Male	0	17	0	8	7	2	16	4	54	11	0	65	69	
	Female	0	7	0	5	2	2	9	7	32	8	0	40	32	
	Total	0	24	0	13	9	4	25	11	86	19	0	105	101	4.0

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 2020	TOTAL 2019	% Change 19/20
Year 1	Male	0	5	0	3	1	0	3	1	13	2	0	15	17	
	Female	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	4	2	0	6	6	
	Total	0	5	0	6	1	0	4	1	17	4	0	21	23	-8.7
Year 2	Male	0	4	0	3	1	0	2	3	13	2	0	15	16	
	Female	0	2	0	1	0	1	2	0	6	1	0	7	3	
	Total	0	6	0	4	1	1	4	3	19	3	0	22	19	15.8
Year 3	Male	1	5	0	2	1	0	4	0	13	2	0	15	16	
	Female	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	4	4	
	Total	1	6	0	3	1	0	5	0	16	3	0	19	20	-5.0
Year 4	Male	3	3	0	2	2	0	2	0	12	0	0	12	17	
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	4	0	0	4	1	
	Total	3	4	0	2	2	0	5	0	16	0	0	16	18	-11.1
Year 5	Male	0	9	0	5	0	0	1	0	15	0	0	15	2	
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	3	
	Total	0	10	0	5	0	0	2	0	17	0	0	17	5	240.0
Year 6+	Male	0	2	0	1	0	0	3	0	6	0	0	6	12	
	Female	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	3	
	Total	1	2	0	1	0	0	4	0	8	0	0	8	15	-46.7
Total	Male	4	28	0	16	5	0	15	4	72	6	0	78	80	
	Female	1	5	0	5	0	1	9	0	21	4	0	25	20	
	Total	5	33	0	21	5	1	24	4	93	10	0	103	100	3.0

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 2020	TOTAL 2019	% Change 19/20
Year 1	Male	0	6	0	1	0	0	0	1	8	2	0	10	8	
	Female	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	2	
	Total	0	6	0	2	1	0	0	1	10	2	0	12	10	20.0
Year 2	Male	1	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	6	0	0	6	4	
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	4	
	Total	1	4	0	0	1	0	1	0	7	1	0	8	8	0.0
Year 3	Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	4	0	0	4	5	
	Female	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	5	0	0	5	1	
	Total	0	1	0	2	0	0	5	1	9	0	0	9	6	50.0
Year 4	Male	0	0	0	2	1	0	3	0	6	0	0	6	6	
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	
	Total	0	0	0	2	1	0	3	1	7	0	0	7	8	-12.5
Year 5	Male	0	2	0	1	1	0	2	0	6	1	0	7	3	
	Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	5	
	Total	0	2	0	2	1	0	3	0	8	1	0	9	8	12.5
Year 6+	Male	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	
	Total	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	1	200.0
Total	Male	1	13	0	4	4	0	8	2	32	3	0	35	27	
	Female	0	2	0	4	1	0	4	1	12	1	0	13	14	
	Total	1	15	0	8	5	0	12	3	44	4	0	48	41	17.1

TABLE SET.25 – Active SET Indigenous Trainees by specialty

		CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	TOTAL 2020
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	Male	1	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	6
	Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Total	1	1	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	7
Māori	Male	0	0	1	8	3	0	0	1	1	14
	Female	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
	Total	0	2	1	10	3	0	0	1	1	18
Total	Male	1	1	1	11	4	0	0	1	1	20
	Female	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	5
	Total	1	3	1	14	4	0	0	1	1	25

Section four: Examinations

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Surgical Science Examinations – Generic and Speciality Specific

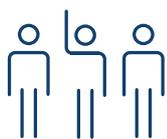
The Generic Surgical Science Examination (GSSE) comprises two components and is mandatory for all specialities. Numbers reflected in these reports are representative of all examination sittings held in Australia and New Zealand in 2020 (including all attempts). Passing the GSSE is now a requirement prior 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 once in 2020 due to the COVID impacts. This resulted in the largest recorded GSSE in college history.

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 was one Clinical Exam sitting in 2020 held in February due to the COVID impacts. For trainees commencing from 2016, the Board of Neurosurgery removed the Clinical Examination as a requirement. For trainees commencing from 2018, General Surgery, Orthopaedic Surgery (Australia), and Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery removed the Clinical Examination as a requirement. For Trainees commencing training from 2019, Orthopaedic Surgery (New Zealand) removed the Clinical Examination as a requirement.

Fellowship Exam during a pandemic



Candidates

288



Locations

59



Examiners

255



Local Coordinators

36

Fellowship Examinations

Numbers reflected in the Fellowship Examination (FEX) reports are representative of the exams held in Australia and New Zealand in October 2020 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 Fellowship Examination within a 5-year period since their first attempt; includes SET Trainees and IMGs
- Annual FEX pass rate by location and specialty – SET Trainees
- Annual FEX pass rate by location and specialty – International Medical Graduates
- Cumulative attempts to pass the FEX (all candidates presenting in 2020 and the number of attempts). Note that previous reporting of this table has always included cumulative attempts for both SET and SIMGs, and we have changed the title of this table to reflect this.

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. Activities Reports from earlier years did not report this information.

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

Generic and Specialty Specific Surgical Science Examinations

Overall annual pass rate of individual attempts (total sittings) at GSSE increased from 52.5% in 2019 to 58.1% in 2020. The pass rate in the SSE increased from 80.5% in 2019 to 95.8% in 2020.

Clinical Examination

The pass rate for the one sitting of the Clinical Examination in 2020 was 74.6% an increase from 61.7% in 2019.

Fellowship Examination

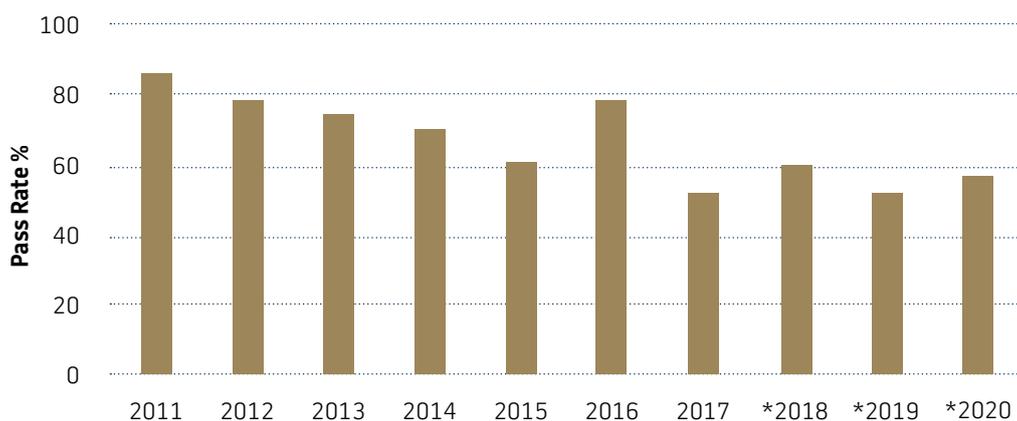
The overall pass rate for the FEX increased from 68.4% in 2019 to 71.6% in 2020. Despite the COVID-19 restrictions and implications, RACS is proud to have delivered exams across Australia and New Zealand by adopting new delivery models for examination and ensuring consistent high standards are maintained. 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	7	121	3	113	37	4	118	31	434	91	1	526
	Pass	4	78	1	78	27	3	77	20	288	77	0	365
	% pass	57.1	64.5	33.3	69.0	73.0	75.0	65.3	64.5	66.4	84.6	0.0	69.4
2	Sat	1	43	1	27	14	4	37	8	135	9	0	144
	Pass	1	20	0	17	4	1	18	6	67	3	0	70
	% pass	100.0	46.5	0.0	63.0	28.6	25.0	48.6	75.0	49.6	33.3	-	48.6
3	Sat	1	22	1	14	3	2	14	7	64	5	0	69
	Pass	0	7	0	5	1	1	6	3	23	0	0	23
	% pass	0.0	31.8	0.0	35.7	33.3	50.0	42.9	42.9	35.9	0.0	-	33.3
4	Sat	0	11	0	5	1	0	13	3	33	1	0	34
	Pass	0	2	0	2	0	0	6	0	10	1	0	11
	% pass	-	18.2	-	40.0	0.0	-	46.2	0.0	30.3	100	-	32.4
5	Sat	0	6	1	7	0	0	6	1	21	0	0	21
	Pass	0	3	1	2	0	0	1	0	7	0	0	7
	% pass	-	50.0	100	28.6	-	-	16.7	0.0	33.3	-	-	33.3
6	Sat	0	4	0	3	3	0	1	2	13	1	0	14
	Pass	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
	% pass	-	25.0	-	33.3	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	15.4	0.0	-	14.3
7	Sat	1	3	0	0	2	0	0	1	7	0	0	7
	Pass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% pass	0	0.0	-	-	0.0	-	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0
8	Sat	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	4
	Pass	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2
	% pass	-	0.0	-	100.0	-	-	100.0	-	66.7	0.0	-	50
9	Sat	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	5
	Pass	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	% pass	-	33.3	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	25.0	0.0	-	20
10	Sat	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	4
	Pass	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	% pass	0.0	0.0	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	25.0	-	-	25
11	Sat	1	0	0	0	0	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
Total	Sat	12	216	6	172	60	10	190	53	719	109	1	829
	Pass	5	112	2	107	32	5	109	29	401	81	0	482
	% pass	41.7	51.9	33.3	62.2	53.3	50.0	57.4	54.7	55.8	74.3	0.0	58.1

Note: In previous RACS Activities Reports, EXAM.1 reported the SET Trainee pass rate of individual attempts at the GSSE by specialty and location. Now that passing the GSSE is a requirement prior to applying to the SET program for all specialties, we are no longer reporting on the pass rate of SET Trainees who took the GSSE exam. The table above was reported as EXAM.10 in previous years' Activities Reports.

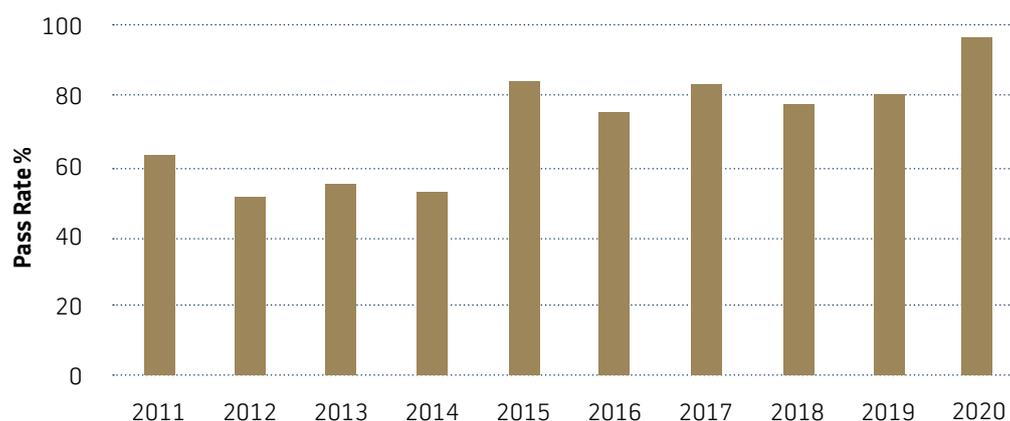
FIGURE EXAM.1 – Overall annual pass rate of individual attempts (total sittings) at Generic Surgical Science Examination (2011-2020).

*2018, 2019 and 2020 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 2020
CAR	Sat	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	6	1	0	7
	Pass	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	5	1	0	6
GEN	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
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 (OPBS)	Sat	2	25	0	10	3	0	10	7	57	13	0	70
	Pass	2	25	0	10	3	0	10	7	57	13	0	70
OTO	Sat	1	6	0	2	2	0	3	2	16	5	0	21
	Pass	1	6	0	2	2	0	3	2	16	3	0	19
PAE (ANAT)	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 (PATH)	Sat	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	2	6	2	0	8
	Pass	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	4	2	0	6
PLA	Sat	0	4	0	7	1	0	9	1	22	3	0	25
	Pass	0	4	0	7	1	0	9	1	22	3	0	25
URO	Sat	1	3	0	6	1	0	6	3	20	5	0	25
	Pass	1	3	0	5	1	0	6	2	18	5	0	23
VAS	Sat	0	5	0	1	1	1	1	0	9	0	0	9
	Pass	0	5	0	1	1	1	1	0	9	0	0	9
Total sitting	Sat	4	47	0	27	10	1	32	15	136	29	0	165
	Pass	4	45	0	26	10	1	32	13	131	27	0	158
	% Pass	100	95.7	-	96.3	100	100	100	86.7	96.3	93.1	-	95.8

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 (2011-2020)**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 2020
		CAR	Sat	-	3	0	-	-	-	-	1	4	3
	Pass	-	2	0	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	0	5
GEN	Sat	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	0	3	0	3
	Pass	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	0	3	0	3
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	0	0	0
	Pass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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	-	6	0	5	3	-	15	1	30	4	0	34
	Pass	-	6	0	4	3	-	15	1	29	4	0	33
URO	Sat	1	6	0	7	-	-	5	-	19	3	0	22
	Pass	1	5	0	7	-	-	4	-	17	2	0	19
VAS	Sat	-	2	0	1	2	-	2	1	8	2	0	10
	Pass	-	1	0	1	1	-	2	1	6	2	0	8
P	Sat	-	15	0	13	7	2	15	6	58	5	0	63
	Pass	-	10	0	9	4	0	7	2	32	4	0	36
X-SET	Sat	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1		2
	Pass	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1		2
Total Sitting	Sat	1	32	0	27	12	2	37	9	120	21	0	141
	Pass	1	24	0	22	8	0	28	5	88	18	0	106
	% pass	100	75.0	-	81.5	66.7	0.0	75.7	55.6	73.3	85.7	-	75.2

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

FIGURE EXAM. 3 – Overall annual pass rate of individual attempts (total sittings) at Clinical Examination (2011-2019)

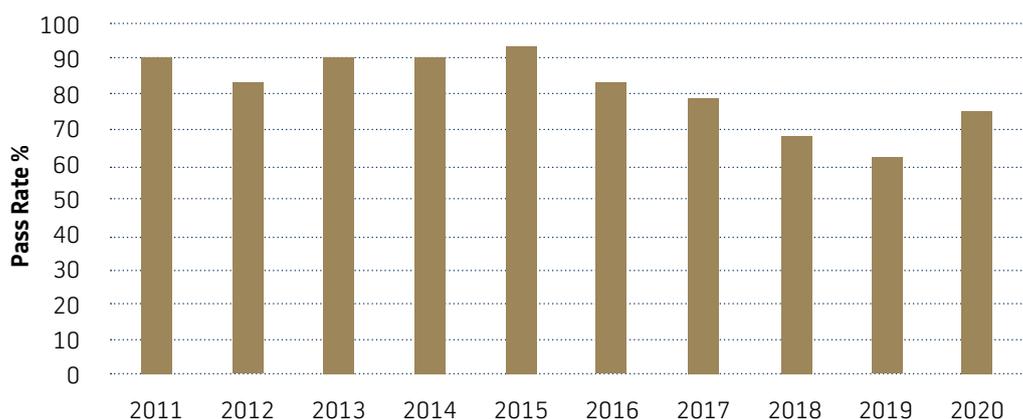


TABLE EXAM.4 – SET and IMG individual attempts and annual pass rate of Fellowship Examinations by specialty

	April - Cancelled due to Covid-19			September			Total individual attempts & pass rate ^a			Annual pass rate ^b		
	Sat	Pass	%	Sat	Pass	%	Sat	Pass	%	Sat	Pass	%
CAR	0	0	-	10	3	30.0	10	3	30.0	10	3	30.0
GEN	0	0	-	109	75	68.8	109	75	68.8	109	75	68.8
NEU	0	0	-	16	13	81.3	16	13	81.3	16	13	81.3
ORT	0	0	-	65	51	78.5	65	51	78.5	65	51	78.5
OTO	0	0	-	20	16	80.0	20	16	80.0	20	16	80.0
PAE	0	0	-	3	2	66.7	3	2	66.7	3	2	66.7
PLA	0	0	-	31	23	74.2	31	23	74.2	31	23	74.2
URO	0	0	-	19	13	68.4	19	13	68.4	19	13	68.4
VAS	0	0	-	13	9	69.2	13	9	69.2	13	9	69.2
Total	0	0	-	286	205	71.7	286	205	71.7	286	205	71.7

^a Total sittings: records numbers of candidates; some candidates sit twice during a year. In 2020, there was only one opportunity to sit the exam due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In previous years, there were two opportunities.

^b Annual pass rate reports on the success rate of the individual candidates (over 1 or 2 sittings) passing Fellowship Exam in 2020.

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

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

		2012	2017	%	2013	2018	%	2014	2019	%	2015	2020	%
		Initially Sat	Eventual Pass	Fellows 12/17	Initially Sat	Eventual Pass	Fellows 13/18	Initially Sat	Eventual Pass	Fellows 14/19	Initially Sat	Eventual Pass	Fellows 15/20
CAR	Trainee	7	7	100.0	4	3	75.0	10	10	100.0	5	5	100.0
	IMG	2	2	100.0	2	2	100.0	1	1	100.0	2	2	100.0
GEN	Trainee	85	83	97.6	60	59	98.3	68	66	97.1	85	84	98.8
	IMG	7	6	85.7	6	6	100.0	6	6	100.0	10	10	100.0
NEU	Trainee	10	10	100.0	10	10	100.0	10	10	100.0	10	10	100.0
	IMG	1	1	100.0	1	1	100.0	4	4	100.0	-	-	-
ORT	Trainee	56	54	96.4	38	38	100.0	56	55	98.2	62	62	100.0
	IMG	6	6	100.0	2	2	100.0	8	6	75.0	14	9	64.3
OTO	Trainee	20	20	100.0	20	20	100.0	19	17	89.5	8	8	100.0
	IMG	2	1	50.0	3	3	100.0	2	1	50.0	3	1	33.3
PAE	Trainee	3	3	100.0	3	2	66.7	2	2	100.0	4	4	100.0
	IMG	-	-	-	1	1	100.0	2	2	100	-	-	-
PLA	Trainee	13	13	100.0	17	17	100.0	14	14	100.0	15	15	100.0
	IMG	3	2	66.7	1	1	100.0	2	2	100.0	1	1	100.0
URO	Trainee	22	22	100.0	17	17	100.0	22	22	100.0	21	21	100.0
	IMG	2	2	100.0	5	5	100.0	-	-	-	1	1	100.0
VAS	Trainee	7	7	100.0	16	16	100.0	6	6	100.0	4	4	100.0
	IMG	-	-	-	1	1	100.0	2	2	100.0	4	3	75.0
Total	Trainee	223	219	98.2	185	182	98.4	207	202	97.6	214	213	99.5
	IMG	23	20	87.0	22	22	100.0	27	24	88.9	35	27	77.1

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 2020	% Pass
CAR	Sat	-	2	-	-	1	-	1	-	4	2	0	6	50.0
	Pass	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	3	0	0	3	
GEN	Sat	1	29	1	17	4	-	27	4	83	22	0	105	71.4
	Pass	1	18	0	11	4	-	20	4	58	17	0	75	
NEU	Sat	1	7	-	4	1	-	3	-	16	-	0	16	81.3
	Pass	1	5	-	3	1	-	3	-	13	-	0	13	
ORT	Sat	-	18	-	7	4	-	9	7	45	10	0	55	87.3
	Pass	-	14	-	7	4	-	8	6	39	9	0	48	
OTO	Sat	-	5	-	3	-	-	3	-	11	4	0	15	86.7
	Pass	-	4	-	3	-	-	2	-	9	4	0	13	
PAE	Sat	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	0	3	66.7
	Pass	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	0	2	
PLA	Sat	-	7	-	4	2	-	8	1	22	3	0	25	72.0
	Pass	-	6	-	4	0	-	7	1	18	0	0	18	
URO	Sat	1	3	-	3	2	1	5	-	15	4	0	19	68.4
	Pass	0	3	-	2	1	1	3	-	10	3	0	13	
VAS	Sat	-	4	-	2	2	-	3	-	11	-	0	11	72.7
	Pass	-	3	-	1	2	-	2	-	8	-	0	8	
Total Sitting	Sat	3	77	1	40	16	1	59	12	209	46	0	255	75.7
	Pass	2	55	0	31	13	1	46	11	159	34	0	193	
	%Pass	66.7	71.4	0.0	77.5	81.3	100.0	78.0	91.7	76.1	73.9	-	75.7	

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 2020
CAR	Sat	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	4	0	0	4
	Pass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GEN	Sat	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	4	0	0	4
	Pass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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
ORT	Sat	0	1	2	5	0	0	2	0	10	0	0	10
	Pass	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
OTO	Sat	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	5	0	0	5
	Pass	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	3
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	1	3	5	0	0	5
	Pass	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	0	0	4
URO	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
VAS	Sat	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
	Pass	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total Sitting	Sat	0	7	3	6	2	0	7	5	30	0	0	30
	Pass	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	5	11	0	0	11
	% pass	-	28.6	0.0	66.7	0.0	-	0.0	100.0	36.7	-	-	36.7

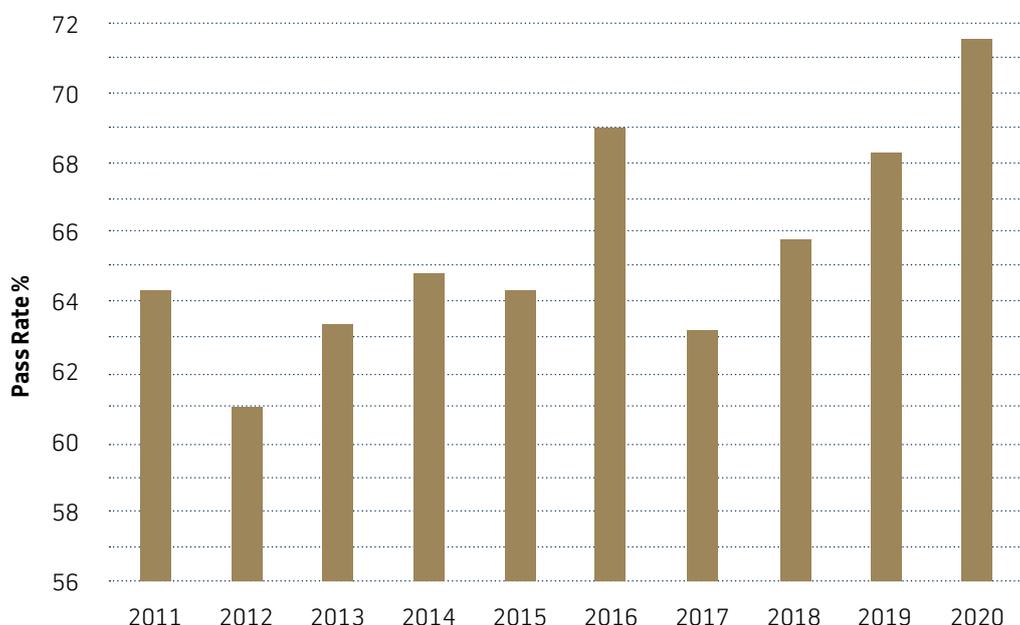
TABLE EXAM.8 – Fellowship Examinations pass rate (per sitting) of SET and SIMG by gender and specialty

		CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	TOTAL 2020	% pass
Female	Sat	0	34	3	8	6	3	8	3	5	70	74.3
	Pass	0	22	2	8	6	2	6	2	4	52	
Male	Sat	10	75	13	57	14	0	23	16	8	216	70.8
	Pass	3	53	11	43	10	0	17	11	5	153	
Total	Sat	10	109	16	65	20	3	31	19	13	286	71.7
	Pass	3	75	13	51	16	2	23	13	9	205	
	% Pass	30.0	68.8	81.3	78.5	80.0	66.7	74.2	68.4	69.2		

TABLE EXAM.9 – SET Trainees and SIMGs cumulative attempts to pass Fellowship Examination by specialty for candidates presenting in 2020

Attempt		CAR	GEN	NEU	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS	TOTAL 2020	TOTAL 2019
1	Sat	4	93	16	56	15	2	28	15	10	239	260
	Pass	1	71	13	46	12	2	21	11	7	184	189
	% Pass	25.0	76.3	81.3	82.1	80.0	100.0	75.0	73.3	70.0	77.0	72.7
2	Sat	4	5	0	3	1	0	2	3	3	21	74
	Pass	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	6	49
	% Pass	25.0	0.0	-	33.3	0.0	-	50.0	33.3	66.7	28.6	66.2
3	Sat	1	7	0	4	4	1	0	0	0	17	21
	Pass	0	2	0	3	4	0	0	0	0	9	11
	% Pass	0.0	28.6	-	75.0	100.0	0.0	-	-	-	52.9	52.4
4	Sat	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	8
	Pass	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
	% Pass	-	0.0	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	33.3	25.0
5	Sat	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	4	7
	Pass	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	3
	% Pass	-	100	-	0	-	-	-	100	-	75	43
6	Sat	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
	Pass	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
	% Pass	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	66.7
7	Sat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Pass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% Pass	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0
TOTAL	Sat	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
	Pass	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
	% Pass	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	-	-	100.0	0.0
		10	109	16	65	20	3	31	19	13	286	374
		3	75	13	51	16	2	23	13	9	205	256
		30.0	68.8	81.3	78.5	80.0	66.7	74.2	68.4	69.2	71.7	68.4

FIGURE EXAM.4 –Overall Fellowship Examination pass rate of SET Trainees and SIMGs (2011-2020).



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 2020, there were 7921 Fellows across Australia, New Zealand and overseas (Table WFD.1). Of these 5484 were active Fellows in Australia and 851 were active Fellows in New Zealand (Table WFD.2).

237 SET Trainees and Specialist International Medical Graduates obtained Fellowship in 2020 (Table WFD.11). Just over 30% of surgeons who achieved Fellowship through the SET pathway were female (Table WFD.9), while just 19% of SIMGs who obtained Fellowship were female (Table WFD.10). Female surgeons make up just over 14% of active surgical workforce, with the number of female surgeons in active practice increasing by 8% in the last year (Table WFD.3).

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 surgeon in metropolitan and rural and remote areas (see Appendix A). The specialities of General Surgery (21%), Orthopaedic surgery (16%) and Urology (16%) continue to have largest proportion of Fellows working in rural and remote areas.

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 2020	Total 2019	% Change 19/20
CAR	Male	6	66	0	40	15	5	64	19	215	34	27	276	276	0.0
	Female	0	6	0	2	0	0	6	1	15	4	1	20	18	11.1
	Total	6	72	0	42	15	5	70	20	230	38	28	296	294	0.7
GEN	Male	26	658	16	368	162	32	531	171	1964	280	178	2422	2382	1.7
	Female	3	131	3	69	31	7	109	31	384	52	22	458	419	9.3
	Total	29	789	19	437	193	39	640	202	2348	332	200	2880	2801	2.8
NEU	Male	7	77	0	47	18	6	69	22	246	25	34	305	299	2.0
	Female	1	12	0	9	6	1	9	2	40	1	3	44	40	10.0
	Total	8	89	0	56	24	7	78	24	286	26	37	349	339	2.9
ORT	Male	19	481	3	336	130	27	338	148	1482	296	76	1854	1823	1.7
	Female	3	19	0	16	6	1	21	3	69	18	3	90	81	11.1
	Total	22	500	3	352	136	28	359	151	1551	314	79	1944	1904	2.1
OTO	Male	11	160	3	101	46	7	121	46	495	91	26	612	610	0.3
	Female	0	27	0	16	6	2	25	6	82	19	7	108	101	6.9
	Total	11	187	3	117	52	9	146	52	577	110	33	720	711	1.3
PAE	Male	4	31	0	16	4	2	25	7	89	17	22	128	136	-5.9
	Female	2	12	0	4	4	2	7	3	34	4	6	44	43	2.3
	Total	6	43	0	20	8	4	32	10	123	21	28	172	179	-3.9
PLA	Male	5	137	2	68	44	13	136	52	457	63	16	536	531	0.9
	Female	0	20	0	14	10	1	31	8	84	17	5	106	103	2.9
	Total	5	157	2	82	54	14	167	60	541	80	21	642	634	1.3
URO	Male	8	149	1	102	36	12	127	39	474	65	33	572	564	1.4
	Female	0	18	0	8	4	0	21	8	59	9	0	68	66	3.0
	Total	8	167	1	110	40	12	148	47	533	74	33	640	630	1.6
VAS	Male	4	73	1	38	19	4	64	20	223	20	5	248	248	0.0
	Female	1	8	0	7	3	1	8	1	29	1	0	30	27	11.1
	Total	5	81	1	45	22	5	72	21	252	21	5	278	275	1.1
Sub Total	Male	90	1832	26	1116	474	108	1475	524	5645	891	417	6953	6869	1.2
	Female	10	253	3	145	70	15	237	63	796	125	47	968	898	7.8
	Total	100	2085	29	1261	544	123	1712	587	6441	1016	464	7921	7767	2.0
OB & GYN	Male	0	4	0	1	0	0	13	0	18	0	1	19	21	-9.5
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
	Total	0	4	0	1	0	0	13	0	18	0	1	19	21	-9.5
OPH	Male	3	77	0	42	11	2	56	17	208	11	6	225	241	-6.6
	Female	0	13	1	2	2	0	11	1	30	2	0	32	33	-3.0
	Total	3	90	1	44	13	2	67	18	238	13	6	257	274	-6.2
Total	Male	93	1913	26	1159	485	110	1544	541	5871	902	424	7197	7131	0.9
	Female	10	266	4	147	72	15	248	64	826	127	47	1000	931	7.4
	Total	103	2179	30	1306	557	125	1792	605	6697	1029	471	8197	8062	1.7

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 2020	TOTAL 2019	% Change 19/20
CAR	Male	5	54	0	35	11	4	55	15	179	24	16	219	222	-1.4
	Female	0	6	0	2	0	0	5	1	14	3	1	18	16	12.5
	Total	5	60	0	37	11	4	60	16	193	27	17	237	238	-0.4
GEN	Male	21	503	15	282	119	24	420	129	1513	208	123	1844	1822	1.2
	Female	3	129	3	68	30	7	108	31	379	50	21	450	411	9.5
	Total	24	632	18	350	149	31	528	160	1892	258	144	2294	2233	2.7
NEU	Male	7	71	0	42	12	4	65	18	219	21	26	266	260	2.3
	Female	1	12	0	9	6	1	9	2	40	1	3	44	40	10.0
	Total	8	83	0	51	18	5	74	20	259	22	29	310	300	3.3
ORT	Male	18	434	3	315	108	23	306	130	1337	261	52	1650	1639	0.7
	Female	3	19	0	16	6	1	21	3	69	17	3	89	80	11.3
	Total	21	453	3	331	114	24	327	133	1406	278	55	1739	1719	1.2
OTO	Male	7	128	3	84	39	6	100	39	406	80	20	506	509	-0.6
	Female	0	27	0	16	6	2	25	6	82	19	7	108	101	6.9
	Total	7	155	3	100	45	8	125	45	488	99	27	614	610	0.7
PAE	Male	3	22	0	12	4	2	16	6	65	15	9	89	96	-7.3
	Female	2	11	0	3	4	1	6	3	30	4	4	38	37	2.7
	Total	5	33	0	15	8	3	22	9	95	19	13	127	133	-4.5
PLA	Male	4	111	2	57	36	12	124	41	387	53	13	453	452	0.2
	Female	0	19	0	13	9	1	30	8	80	17	5	102	99	3.0
	Total	4	130	2	70	45	13	154	49	467	70	18	555	551	0.7
URO	Male	7	128	1	89	31	11	111	30	408	50	26	484	473	2.3
	Female	0	18	0	8	4	0	21	8	59	9	0	68	66	3.0
	Total	7	146	1	97	35	11	132	38	467	59	26	552	539	2.4
VAS	Male	4	65	1	33	16	3	50	16	188	18	3	209	209	0.0
	Female	1	8	0	7	3	1	8	1	29	1	0	30	27	11.1
	Total	5	73	1	40	19	4	58	17	217	19	3	239	236	1.3
Sub Total	Male	76	1516	25	949	376	89	1247	424	4702	730	288	5720	5682	0.7
	Female	10	249	3	142	68	14	233	63	782	121	44	947	877	8.0
	Total	86	1765	28	1091	444	103	1480	487	5484	851	332	6667	6559	1.6
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	-
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
OPH	Male	2	57	0	28	8	1	45	11	152	4	4	160	175	-8.6
	Female	0	10	0	1	2	0	11	1	25	2	0	27	31	-12.9
	Total	2	67	0	29	10	1	56	12	177	6	4	187	206	-9.2
Total	Male	78	1573	25	977	384	90	1292	435	4854	734	292	5880	5857	0.4
	Female	10	259	3	143	70	14	244	64	807	123	44	974	908	7.3
	Total	88	1832	28	1120	454	104	1536	499	5661	857	336	6854	6765	1.3

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 2020	TOTAL 2019	% Change 19/20
←35	Male	1	19	0	9	5	1	21	3	59	8	3	70	78	-10.3
	Female	2	14	0	4	3	0	6	3	32	2	0	34	39	-12.8
	Total	3	33	0	13	8	1	27	6	91	10	3	104	117	-11.1
35-39	Male	6	130	2	78	35	8	125	45	429	78	37	544	536	1.5
	Female	0	58	1	28	9	3	64	13	176	26	11	213	197	8.1
	Total	6	188	3	106	44	11	189	58	605	104	48	757	733	3.3
40-44	Male	9	228	2	160	48	12	204	59	722	82	36	840	872	-3.7
	Female	1	60	2	47	18	1	53	12	194	29	10	233	222	5.0
	Total	10	288	4	207	66	13	257	71	916	111	46	1073	1094	-1.9
45-49	Male	11	248	5	167	63	13	208	82	797	105	37	939	921	2.0
	Female	2	52	0	28	12	4	37	15	150	26	9	185	168	10.1
	Total	13	300	5	195	75	17	245	97	947	131	46	1124	1089	3.2
50-54	Male	17	217	4	158	53	12	172	79	712	112	26	850	812	4.7
	Female	3	29	0	16	14	4	28	10	104	13	4	121	109	11.0
	Total	20	246	4	174	67	16	200	89	816	125	30	971	921	5.4
55-59	Male	8	192	4	135	52	11	137	49	588	112	34	734	744	-1.3
	Female	2	19	0	9	4	0	21	6	61	12	2	75	72	4.2
	Total	10	211	4	144	56	11	158	55	649	124	36	809	816	-0.9
60-64	Male	16	137	3	88	40	13	112	50	459	107	33	599	578	3.6
	Female	0	10	0	8	7	1	19	3	48	10	6	64	56	14.3
	Total	16	147	3	96	47	14	131	53	507	117	39	663	634	4.6
65-69	Male	4	108	3	64	30	9	87	34	339	71	24	434	435	-0.2
	Female	0	5	0	2	0	1	2	1	11	3	1	15	7	114.3
	Total	4	113	3	66	30	10	89	35	350	74	25	449	442	1.6
70+	Male	4	237	2	90	50	10	181	23	597	55	58	710	706	0.6
	Female	0	2	0	0	1	0	3	0	6	0	1	7	7	0.0
	Total	4	239	2	90	51	10	184	23	603	55	59	717	713	0.6
Total	Male	76	1516	25	949	376	89	1247	424	4702	730	288	5720	5682	0.7
	Female	10	249	3	142	68	14	233	63	782	121	44	947	877	8.0
	Total	86	1765	28	1091	444	103	1480	487	5484	851	332	6667	6559	1.6
% of active Fellows under 55 years															
%	Male	57.9	55.5	52.0	60.3	54.3	51.7	58.5	63.2	57.8	52.7	48.3	56.7	56.7	0.1
	Female	80.0	85.5	100.0	86.6	82.4	85.7	80.7	84.1	83.9	79.3	77.3	83.0	83.8	-1.0
	Total	60.5	59.8	57.1	63.7	58.6	56.3	62.0	65.9	61.5	56.5	52.1	60.4	60.3	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 2020	TOTAL 2019	% Change 19/20
←35	Male	2	27	2	14	0	0	4	5	5	59	66	-10.6
	Female	1	20	1	0	4	1	0	3	2	32	34	-5.9
	Total	3	47	3	14	4	1	4	8	7	91	100	-9.0
35-39	Male	11	168	10	121	36	1	27	31	24	429	437	-1.8
	Female	3	95	3	10	19	4	15	20	7	176	164	7.3
	Total	14	263	13	131	55	5	42	51	31	605	601	0.7
40-44	Male	15	232	32	220	52	5	60	78	28	722	748	-3.5
	Female	1	96	10	22	24	5	19	11	6	194	182	6.6
	Total	16	328	42	242	76	10	79	89	34	916	930	-1.5
45-49	Male	28	239	46	224	80	14	71	69	26	797	780	2.2
	Female	3	65	9	15	16	4	18	13	7	150	133	12.8
	Total	31	304	55	239	96	18	89	82	33	947	913	3.7
50-54	Male	32	188	40	212	65	8	63	73	31	712	669	6.4
	Female	2	52	9	6	10	4	11	7	3	104	96	8.3
	Total	34	240	49	218	75	12	74	80	34	816	765	6.7
55-59	Male	32	185	32	170	38	12	52	45	22	588	600	-2.0
	Female	0	25	5	8	4	8	6	5	0	61	56	8.9
	Total	32	210	37	178	42	20	58	50	22	649	656	-1.1
60-64	Male	23	131	17	144	39	6	41	41	17	459	431	6.5
	Female	3	19	2	7	5	3	6	0	3	48	44	9.1
	Total	26	150	19	151	44	9	47	41	20	507	475	6.7
65-69	Male	18	116	18	88	26	10	21	31	11	339	339	0.0
	Female	0	4	0	1	0	1	4	0	1	11	4	175.0
	Total	18	120	18	89	26	11	25	31	12	350	343	2.0
70+	Male	18	227	22	144	70	9	48	35	24	597	598	-0.2
	Female	1	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	6	6	0.0
	Total	19	230	23	144	70	9	49	35	24	603	604	-0.2
Total	Male	179	1513	219	1337	406	65	387	408	188	4702	4668	0.7
	Female	14	379	40	69	82	30	80	59	29	782	719	8.8
	Total	193	1892	259	1406	488	95	467	467	217	5484	5387	1.8
% Of Active Fellows under 55 years													
%	Male	49.2	56.4	59.4	59.2	57.4	43.1	58.1	62.7	60.6	57.8	57.8	0.0
	Female	71.4	86.5	80.0	76.8	89.0	60.0	78.8	91.5	86.2	83.9	84.7	-1.0
	Total	50.8	62.5	62.5	60.0	62.7	48.4	61.7	66.4	64.1	61.5	61.4	0.2

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 2020	TOTAL 2019	% Change 19/20
←35	Male	0	6	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	8	10	-20.0
	Female	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0.0
	Total	0	8	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	10	12	-16.7
35-39	Male	4	26	1	29	6	2	3	5	2	78	71	9.9
	Female	1	9	0	5	4	0	4	2	1	26	26	0.0
	Total	5	35	1	34	10	2	7	7	3	104	97	7.2
40-44	Male	2	22	2	35	7	0	5	7	2	82	87	-5.7
	Female	1	13	0	0	6	1	6	2	0	29	28	3.6
	Total	3	35	2	35	13	1	11	9	2	111	115	-3.5
45-49	Male	3	26	3	45	7	3	7	10	1	105	105	0.0
	Female	0	9	0	6	4	0	4	3	0	26	26	0.0
	Total	3	35	3	51	11	3	11	13	1	131	131	0.0
50-54	Male	4	27	6	42	13	0	13	5	2	112	115	-2.6
	Female	0	8	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	13	9	44.4
	Total	4	35	6	44	15	0	14	5	2	125	124	0.8
55-59	Male	2	32	3	35	15	6	7	9	3	112	110	1.8
	Female	1	6	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	12	12	0.0
	Total	3	38	4	36	15	6	8	11	3	124	122	1.6
60-64	Male	6	30	2	34	15	2	8	6	4	107	111	-3.6
	Female	0	3	0	2	2	2	1	0	0	10	9	11.1
	Total	6	33	2	36	17	4	9	6	4	117	120	-2.5
65-69	Male	3	20	2	21	9	1	5	7	3	71	69	2.9
	Female	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	3	2	50.0
	Total	3	20	2	22	10	2	5	7	3	74	71	4.2
70+	Male	0	19	2	19	7	1	5	1	1	55	56	-1.8
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
	Total	0	19	2	19	7	1	5	1	1	55	56	-1.8
Total	Male	24	208	21	261	80	15	53	50	18	730	734	-0.5
	Female	3	50	1	17	19	4	17	9	1	121	114	6.1
	Total	27	258	22	278	99	19	70	59	19	851	848	0.4
% Of Active Fellows under 55 years													
%	Male	54.2	51.4	57.1	58.2	42.5	33.3	52.8	54.0	38.9	52.7	52.9	-0.2
	Female	66.7	82.0	0.0	76.5	84.2	25.0	88.2	77.8	100.0	79.3	79.8	-0.6
	Total	55.6	57.4	54.5	59.4	50.5	31.6	61.4	57.6	42.1	56.5	56.5	0.1

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 2020	% In RA1 2020
CAR	184	4	4	1	0	193	95.3
GEN	1522	274	84	11	1	1892	80.4
NEU	248	7	3	1	0	259	95.8
ORT	1185	177	42	2	0	1406	84.3
OTO	425	52	11	0	0	488	87.1
PAE	85	6	4	0	0	95	89.5
PLA	429	27	11	0	0	467	91.9
URO	394	63	10	0	0	467	84.4
VAS	196	13	8	0	0	217	90.3
Total	4668	623	177	15	1	5484	85.1

Note: Data excludes OB&GYN and OPH. In 2019, RACS changed rural and remote categorisation from RRMA to ASGS-RA. See Appendix 1.

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 2020	% In RA1 2020
ACT	86	0	0	0	0	86	100.0
NSW	1525	227	13	0	1	1766	86.4
NT	0	0	25	2	0	27	0.0
QLD	853	140	96	2	0	1091	78.2
SA	425	13	5	1	0	444	95.7
TAS	0	83	11	9	0	103	0.0
VIC	1321	142	17	0	0	1480	89.3
WA	458	18	10	1	0	487	94.0
Total	4668	623	177	15	1	5484	85.1

Note: Data excludes OB&GYN and OPH.

TABLE WFD.8 – Active Australian RACS Fellows by ASGS-RA and age group

Australian Active Fellows by ASGS-RA & Age	RA 1	RA 2	RA 3	RA 4	RA 5	TOTAL 2020	% In RA1 2020
≤35	89	1	1	-	-	91	97.8
35-39	539	53	13	-	-	605	89.1
40-44	798	87	31	-	-	916	87.1
45-49	826	91	30	-	-	947	87.2
50-54	698	86	29	3	-	816	85.5
55-59	517	108	20	4	-	649	79.7
60-64	418	70	18	1	-	507	82.4
65-69	280	47	18	4	1	350	80.0
70+	504	79	17	3	-	603	83.6
Total	4669	622	177	15	1	5484	85.1

Note: Data excludes OB&GYN and OPH.

TABLE WFD.9 – Active RACS SET Trainees obtaining RACS Fellowship in 2020 by location of residence and specialty

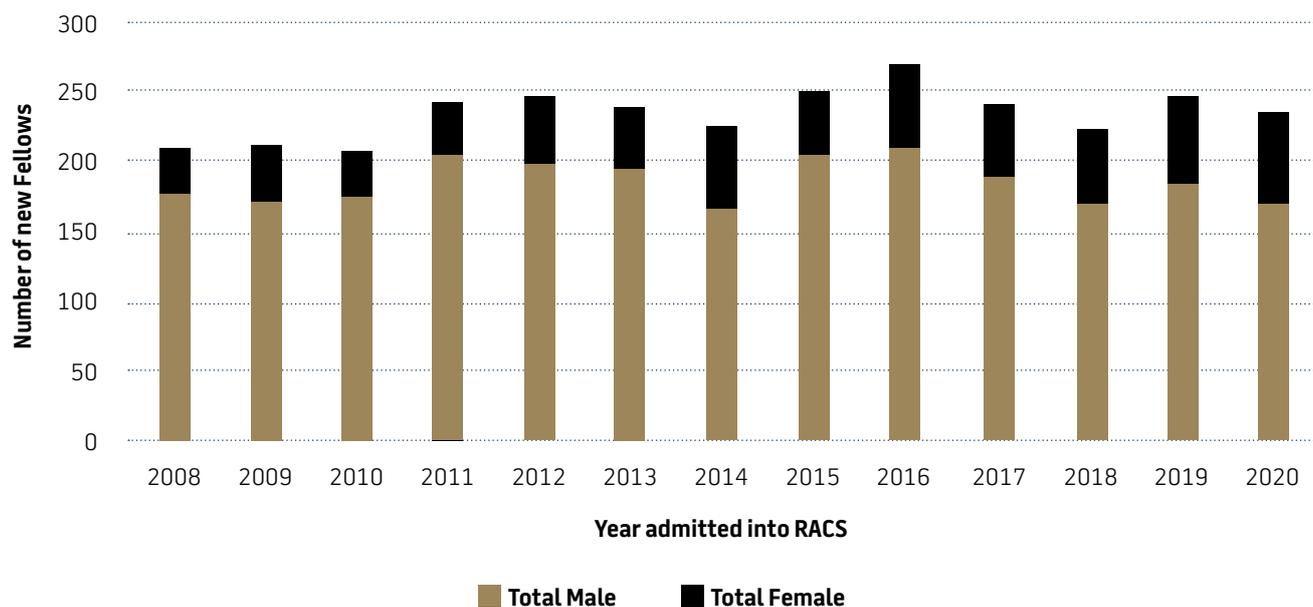
Location & Specialty		ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S	TOTAL 2020
CAR	Male	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	3
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	3
	Total	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	6	0	0	6
GEN	Male	1	15	1	9	2	2	20	6	56	4	0	60
	Female	0	16	1	4	3	1	6	2	33	3	0	36
	Total	1	31	2	13	5	3	26	8	89	7	0	96
NEU	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	3	7
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	3
	Total	0	1	0	0	0	0	5	0	6	0	4	10
ORT	Male	1	17	0	9	2	0	10	5	44	4	4	52
	Female	0	3	0	1	0	1	1	0	6	2	0	8
	Total	1	20	0	10	2	1	11	5	50	6	4	60
OTO	Male	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	4	2	0	6
	Female	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	5
	Total	0	3	0	4	0	0	1	1	9	2	0	11
PAE	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Total	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
PLA	Male	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	2	7	1	2	10
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	3
	Total	0	2	0	0	1	0	5	2	10	1	2	13
URO	Male	0	1	0	2	0	1	2	1	7	0	2	9
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	3
	Total	0	2	0	2	0	1	4	1	10	0	2	12
VAS	Male	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	3
	Female	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	3
	Total	0	1	0	2	1	0	2	0	6	0	0	6
Total	Male	2	38	1	22	5	3	42	15	128	12	11	151
	Female	0	26	1	9	4	2	15	2	59	5	1	65
	Total	2	64	2	31	9	5	57	17	187	17	12	216

TABLE WFD.10 – Active Specialist International Medical Graduates obtaining RACS Fellowship in 2020 by location of residence and specialty

Location & Specialty		ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	AUS	NZ	O/S	TOTAL 2020
CAR	Male	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
	Total	0	0	0	0								
GEN	Male	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	4	0	1	5
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Total	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	5	0	1	6
NEU	Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
	Total	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	3
ORT	Male	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	3	1	0	4
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
	Total	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	4	1	0	5
OTO	Male	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	3
	Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Total	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	4
PAE	Male	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
	Total	0	0	0	0								
PLA	Male	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
URO	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
VAS	Male	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
	Total	0	0	0	0								
Total	Male	0	2	1	6	2	0	1	1	13	3	1	17
	Female	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	4	0	0	4
	Total	0	3	1	7	2	0	2	2	17	3	1	21

TABLE WFD.11 – Total number of SET Trainees and Specialist International Medical Graduates obtaining RACS Fellowship by specialty (2008 – 2020)

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

FIGURE WFD.1 – Total annual number of SET Trainees and Specialist International Medical Graduates obtaining RACS Fellowship (2008–2020).**TABLE WFD.12 – Ratio of active Australian and New Zealand RACS Fellows per population by location**

Location & Specialty	No Surgeons	Ratio of surgeons per 10,000 population	Population
ACT	86	2.0	431,100
NSW	1765	2.2	8,164,100
NT	28	1.1	246,000
QLD	1091	2.1	5,174,400
SA	444	2.5	1,769,300
TAS	103	1.9	540,600
VIC	1480	2.2	6,694,900
WA	487	1.8	2,661,900
AUS	5484	2.1	25,682,300
NZ	851	1.7	5,042,000

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 2020 (Aust) and December 2019 (NZ). Data excludes Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Ophthalmology Fellows.

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

Location & Specialty	No Surgeons	Ratio of surgeons per 1,000 population >=65 years	Population Over the Age of 65
ACT	81	1.4	57,562
NSW	1732	1.3	1,364,413
NT	28	1.3	20,940
QLD	1076	1.3	831,161
SA	436	1.3	338,458
TAS	100	0.9	110,751
VIC	1458	1.4	1,054,741
WA	478	1.2	406,828
AUS	5389	1.3	4,184,854
NZ	832	1.1	734,900

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 2020 (Aust) and December 2019 (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 2019 CPD participation data are reported in Tables CPD.1 to CPD.5. In 2019 there were 6379 Fellows participating in the College CPD or other CPD approved program. Ophthalmologists who held RACS Fellowship have been included.

RACS also offers the Maintenance of Professional Standards (MOPS) program to enable doctors not trained by RACS to demonstrate their maintenance of appropriate professional standards of knowledge and performance. Participation in the MOPS program is reported in Table CPD.5.

DATA HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019, 95.1% of Fellows complied with the RACS CPD program. Failure to comply constitutes a breach of the College's Code of Conduct and is managed via the RACS Sanctions Policy.

During 2020, the Professional Development Department delivered activities via face to face, webinars and online learning to a total of 2727 participants (1540 Fellows, 430 Trainees, 164 SIMGs and 593 non-members). The COVID-19 restrictions impacted the face to face delivery of courses with 175 attendees at 13 courses, however we were able to increase the delivery of online programs with 119 attendees over 12 online courses, and 2,433 attending 24 webinars.

As part of the RACS' Building Respect, Improving Patient Safety Action Plan, two Foundation Skills for Surgical Educator (FSSE) courses were delivered in 2020. As of 30 November 2020, 98% of the mandatory group had completed the FSSE. The mandatory group made up 60% of the attendees in 2020. We were able to deliver six Operating with Respect (OWR) courses across Australia and New Zealand in 2020 to 81 participants. As of 30 November 2020, 88% of the mandatory group have completed the OWR course. The mandatory group made up 41% of the attendees in 2020.

In 2020, 196 participants completed the "Operating with Respect" e-learning module (6 Fellows, 41 Trainees, 30 SIMGs and 119 pre-vocational doctors).

TABLE CPD.1 – Participation in RACS CPD program 2017 - 2019 by specialty

Specialty	2017			2018			2019		
	Total required to participate	Total compliant	% compliant	Total required to participate	Total compliant	% compliant	Total required to participate	Total compliant	% compliant
CAR	231	223	96.5	229	229	100.0	226	215	95.1
GEN	2050	1970	96.1	2095	2095	100.0	2170	2055	94.7
NEU	290	279	96.2	292	292	100.0	297	272	91.6
ORT	541	523	96.7	550	550	100.0	557	521	93.5
OTO	570	563	98.8	579	579	100.0	600	585	97.5
PAE	132	127	96.2	128	128	100.0	125	115	92.0
PLA	515	505	98.1	527	527	100.0	537	518	96.5
URO	503	491	97.6	511	511	100.0	535	515	96.3
VAS	222	222	100.0	228	228	100.0	236	227	96.2
Sub Total	5054	4903	97.0	5139	5139	99.9	5283	5023	95.1
OB & GYN and OPH	5	4	80.0	5	5	100.0	5	4	80.0
Total	5059	4907	97.0	5144	5144	100.0	5288	5027	95.1

TABLE CPD.2 – Participation in RACS CPD program 2017 - 2019 by region

Location	2017			2018			2019		
	Total required to participate	Total compliant	% compliant	Total required to participate	Total compliant	% compliant	Total required to participate	Total compliant	% compliant
ACT	62	62	100.0	65	65	100.0	69	64	92.8
NSW	1327	1325	99.8	1345	1345	100.0	1387	1364	98.3
NT	26	26	100.0	26	26	100.0	24	23	95.8
SA	364	364	100.0	364	364	100.0	362	353	97.5
QLD	824	824	100.0	854	854	100.0	880	875	99.4
TAS	84	84	100.0	83	83	100.0	85	82	96.5
VIC	1130	1130	100.0	1164	1164	100.0	1208	1178	97.5
WA	373	373	100.0	381	381	100.0	388	380	97.9
AUS Total	4190	4188	100.0	4282	4282	100.0	4403	4319	98.1
NZ	560	560	100.0	555	555	100.0	575	569	99.0
O/S	309	159	51.5	307	307	100.0	310	139	44.8
Total	5059	4907	97.0	5144	5144	100.0	5288	5027	95.1

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. In 2018 there were 6249 Fellows participating in the College CPD or other CPD approved program. Ophthalmologists who held RACS Fellowship have been included.

TABLE CPD.3 – Fellow participation in RACS and other CPD programs in 2019

College CPD Programs	Number of participating Fellows	% of participating Fellows
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons	5288	82.9
Australian Orthopaedic Association	836	13.1
New Zealand Orthopaedic Association	249	3.9
Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists	5	0.1
Other	1	0.0
Total	6379	100.0

TABLE CPD.4 – Participation in RACS CPD program in 2019 by program category and specialty

CPD category	Fellows' specialty										Total	% Total
	CAR	GEN	NEU	OPH	ORT	OTO	PAE	PLA	URO	VAS		
Operative practice in hospitals or day surgery units	201	1933	263	4	518	543	115	502	514	219	4812	91.0
Operative procedures in rooms only	0	8	0	1	1	1	0	5	1	1	18	0.3
Operative Practice as a locum only	1	28	1	0	6	8	1	0	1	1	47	0.9
Clinical consulting practice only	5	34	19	0	19	33	0	9	4	4	127	2.4
Other practice type	19	167	14	0	13	15	9	21	15	11	284	5.4
Total	226	2170	297	5	557	600	125	537	535	236	5288	100.0

TABLE CPD.5 – Registrations in RACS MOPS program in 2019

	AUS	NZ	O/S	Total registrations
Persons	6	0	0	6
SIMGs	0	79	0	79
Total	6	79	0	85

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 2020	Total 2019	% change 19/20
ACT	29	4	9	6	48	21	128.6
NSW	435	143	19	127	724	269	169.1
NT	11	4	10	6	31	1	3000.0
QLD	232	43	15	89	379	198	91.4
SA	111	25	19	35	190	66	187.9
TAS	33	1	2	3	39	30	30.0
VIC	473	106	32	261	872	267	226.6
WA	45	21	24	8	98	71	38.0
AUS Total	1369	347	130	535	2381	923	158.0
NZ	142	83	28	51	304	203	49.8
O/S	29	0	6	7	42	12	250.0
*Total	1540	430	164	593	2727	1138	139.6

In 2019, includes face-to-face activities managed by the Professional Development department only (not including eLearning)

In 2020, includes face to face and online activities managed by the Professional Development only (not including eLearning).

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

Specialty	2020	Total 2019	% Change 19/20
CAR	32	35	-8.6
GEN	603	289	108.7
NEU	73	51	43.1
ORT	254	113	124.8
OTO	227	88	158.0
PAE	76	23	230.4
PLA	75	76	-1.3
URO	136	64	112.5
VAS	44	24	83.3
Sub Total	1520	763	99.2
OPH	20	5	300.0
SET	430	95	352.6
IMG	164	52	215.4
non-RACS	593	223	165.9
*Total	2727	1138	139.6

In 2019 face-to-face activities only; not including eLearning

In 2020, Includes face to face and online activities; not including eLearning

Note: difference of 20 in tables 6 and 7 for Fellows 1540 vs 1520 is based on OPH inclusion as Fellows in the top table.

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.)

