



The Royal  
Australian &  
New Zealand  
College of  
Psychiatrists



# Psychiatry in Australia

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Royal College of Psychiatrists

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# AUSTRALIAN HEALTH SYSTEM



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- Complex as it is funded by all levels of government, NGO, private health insurers and out of pocket expenses
- It is jointly run by all levels of Australian government – federal, state and territory, and local
- Federal government oversees Medicare and Pharmaceutical Benefit Schemes
- State, territory and local government manages public hospitals and community mental health service funding

# About RANZCP



- The RANZCP has over **7300** members, including 1983 members who are training to qualify as psychiatrists
- In Australia, approximately 85% of practising psychiatrists are current RANZCP members
  - In New Zealand, more than 50% are members
- The RANZCP is responsible for training, educating and representing psychiatrists in Australia and New Zealand
- The RANZCP has increasingly strong ties with associations in the Asia and Pacific region and globally – many members trained, or have family links, overseas

# College members



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Total = 7344



Australia	
Fellows	4503
Trainees	1735
Affiliates (OTPs)	28

New Zealand	
Fellows	449
Trainees	248
Affiliates (OTPs)	226

# Stages of training



- Training is undertaken in three stages
- Stage 1: 12 months FTE
  - Adult psychiatry including a minimum of 6 months in an acute setting
- Stage 2: 24 months FTE
  - Child and adolescent psychiatry (6 months, mandatory rotation)
  - Consultation–liaison psychiatry (6 months, mandatory rotation)
- Stage 3: 24 months FTE
  - Advanced training equivalent in general or subspecialty

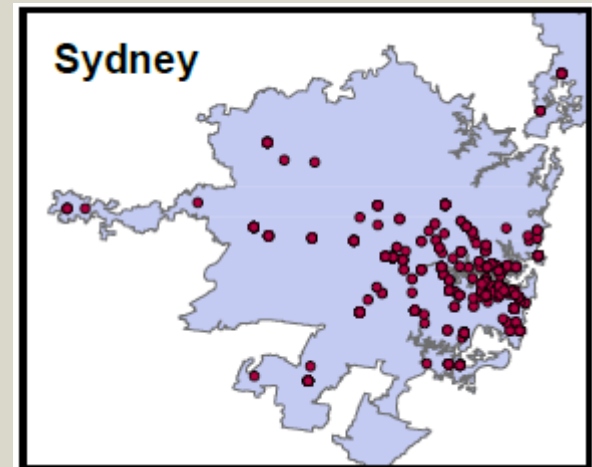
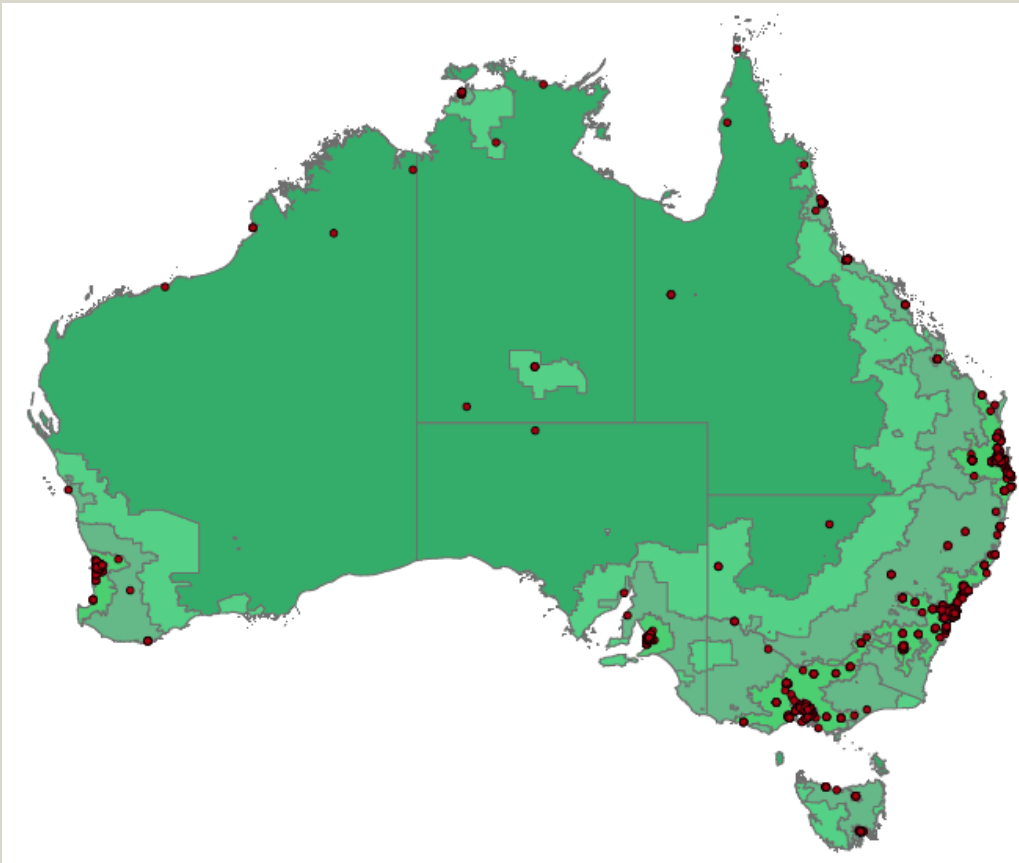
# Workforce shortage



- There is a shortage of psychiatrists in Australia
  - Forecast to increase to a shortage of **350** by 2030
- 24% of members work in both public and private practice
  - **30%** of members work entirely in private practice
  - **34%** work entirely in the public sector
- Less than **5%** of psychiatrists work in rural and remote areas (MM4–7)
- **87%** of RANZCP Fellows are over the age of 40

# Workforce maldistribution

- Psychiatrists are poorly distributed in Australia and New Zealand



# Opportunities for building the psychiatry workforce



- Create interest among medical students/junior doctors → Increased recruitment
- 1. Provide positive experience at medical school**
    - In most medical school curricula, students are exposed to single terms of psychiatry
    - This lack of exposure reduces opportunities to build professional relationships and identify relevant role models
  - 2. RANZCP Psychiatry Interest Forum**
    - An effective introductory program specifically designed to address the current and projected undersupply of trained psychiatrists



# Other opportunities



- The RANZCP is acutely aware of the current and projected psychiatry workforce shortage
  - Pleased to be involved with the National Medical Workforce Strategy
- Rural Scoping Project
  - Created a blueprint for sustainable regional, rural and remote psychiatry training pathways and to develop recommendations for Government, planning authorities and health services
- RANZCP Diploma of Psychiatry
  - Developing a Diploma that will work towards ensuring doctors with greater mental health skills can support patients, communities and support the psychiatry workforce

# FACULTIES



- Faculty of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry –1992.
- Faculty of Psychiatry of Old Age –1998.
- Faculty of Forensic Psychiatry –2011.
- Faculty of Consultation Liaison Psychiatry –2015
- Faculty of Addiction Psychiatry – established in May 2015.
- Faculty of Psychotherapy – established in May 2015.
- Faculty of Adult Psychiatry – established in 2018

# ADULT PSYCHIATRY



- Adult Psychiatry is a specialised field which has had little attention as a speciality.
- Considered the largest practicing sub speciality of Psychiatry
- Well accepted that specialised core skills are essential
- Certificate of Advanced Training in Adult Psychiatry
- Important to have representation due to increasing subspecialisation

- Promote the objectives of the College relating to Adult psychiatry. The Adult Faculty supports a body of expertise and knowledge that the College could draw on for Position Statements, submissions to a variety of bodies including government and non-government organisations, and advocacy for our adult patients.
- Contribute to and promote a high standard of clinical practice, training and research pertaining to the practice of psychiatry with adults.
- Advise on training in Adult psychiatry through the Subcommittee for Advanced Training in Adult Psychiatry (SATAP). This committee currently supports the Certificate of Adult Psychiatry
- Advance and disseminate research in Adult psychiatry. The majority of research performed and published by College Fellows and trainees is with an adult population.

# CHALLENGES



- No precedents, previous Faculties has been stepped up from sections
- Volunteering time
- Changing staff
- Undue delays in college ..
- Protracted time required..trainee rep got Fellowship over this period!!

- Improving engagements, networking via jurisdictional channels and local activities
- Influence training curriculum for advanced training in Adult Psychiatry
- Sustainable international and national partnership
- Set up ADHD Network to work through knowledge and jurisdictional gaps

# CURRENT PROJECTS



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- Expanding the training opportunities in Adult Psychiatry
- Set up sub committees in each state/territory
- Increase influence with Medical Schools
- Collaborate with UK/Canada for exchange and rotation of trainees
- Establishing endorsement for specialised expertise eg: rehabilitation psychiatry, ED Mental Health, Neuropsychiatry
- Collaborate with Federal and regional governments to advocate for resources..Federal budget submission, Workforce shortage, access to service



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# RANZCP International Corresponding Membership

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# International Corresponding Membership



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- Available to qualified psychiatrists who are in good standing with their relevant registering body and professional association
- Discounted rates for the RANZCP Congress and other conferences
- Online access to the RANZCP journals
- Access to RANZCP e-learning modules
- Fees adjusted as per World Bank country listing
- Enquiries: [membership@ranzcp.org](mailto:membership@ranzcp.org)