

... diagnose and treat physical and mental illnesses, disorders and injuries, recommend preventative action and refer patients to specialist Medical Practitioners, other health care workers, and social, welfare and support workers.

Note: Only 253111 General Medical Practitioner is included on the Skilled Occupations List (SOL).

Indicative Skill Level

Occupations in this unit group have a level of skill commensurate with a Bachelor degree or higher qualification (ANZSCO Skill Level 1).

Skilled Occupation Criteria

Long-lead time

Generalist Medical Practitioners meet the criteria for long lead time, as entry to this occupation requires a substantial training commitment.

- ▶ Employment as a Generalist Medical Practitioner generally requires the completion of a university qualification of at least five years study (full-time equivalent), such as a Bachelor of Medicine, followed by a one year internship as a salaried junior resident medical officer in a teaching hospital. After the internship year, graduates may select a specialisation. Most specialties, including General Practice, require at least four years further training in the hospital system, and additional studies and examinations.

High use

Generalist Medical Practitioners meet the criteria for high use, showing that the skills which people have acquired through education and training are being deployed for the uses intended.

- ▶ Based on advice from Universities Australia, university courses in medicine have a strong degree of match with eventual employment as Medical Practitioners.
- ▶ 92 per cent of new graduates employed as Generalist Medical Practitioners had studied in a related field, such as medical studies or public health (*Australian Graduate Survey, 2009*).
- ▶ As professionals, Generalist Medical Practitioners are expected to have a level of skill commensurate with a Bachelor degree or higher qualification. Of those employed as Generalist Medical Practitioners, 95% were found to possess this level of skill (*ABS Survey of Education and Work, 2010*).¹

High risk

Generalist Medical Practitioners also meet the criteria for high risk/high disruption. This indicates that the occupation is important for the effective operation of an enterprise and/or the broader economy.

- ▶ Generalist Medical Practitioners are required to register with the Medical Board in their state or territory in order to gain professional recognition and be licensed to practise.

¹ Analysis for the Skilled Occupations List (SOL) was conducted using the latest available data, including the 2010 ABS Survey of Education and Work (SEW). Percentages may therefore differ from those cited in the 'Occupation Trends' analysis (over the page), which uses alternative sources in some instances (e.g. the 2008 ABS Survey of Education and Work). Small sample sizes for some occupations may also result in fluctuations in the SEW data between 2008 and 2010. The specific data sources used for the Occupation Trends analysis can be found on the Skills Australia website: <http://www.skillsaustralia.gov.au/SOLsummarysheets.shtml>.

- ▶ Generalist Medical Practitioners are important to meet government policy priorities at both the Commonwealth and state level. These include meeting the recommendations of the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission, the Clinical Training Funding Initiative, and the Clinical Supervision Support Program, Closing the Gap on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and responding to the health needs of Australia's ageing population.
- ▶ Generalist Medical Practitioners are essential to the operation of Australia's healthcare system, and their absence would mean that doctor's surgeries, health care centres and hospitals could not operate legally.

253112 Resident Medical Officer has not been included on the Skilled Occupations List (SOL).

- ▶ Resident Medical Officers [i.e. Medical Interns] nominating this occupation are not able to get a skills assessment for general skilled migration (GSM) purposes because they have not achieved full medical registration, and therefore cannot be granted a visa under GSM arrangements.
- ▶ Resident Medical Officers (interns) may be included on the SOL in future subject to the ability of the assessing authority, the Australian Medical Council, to undertake skills assessments for this occupation.

Occupation trends

ANZSCO: 2531

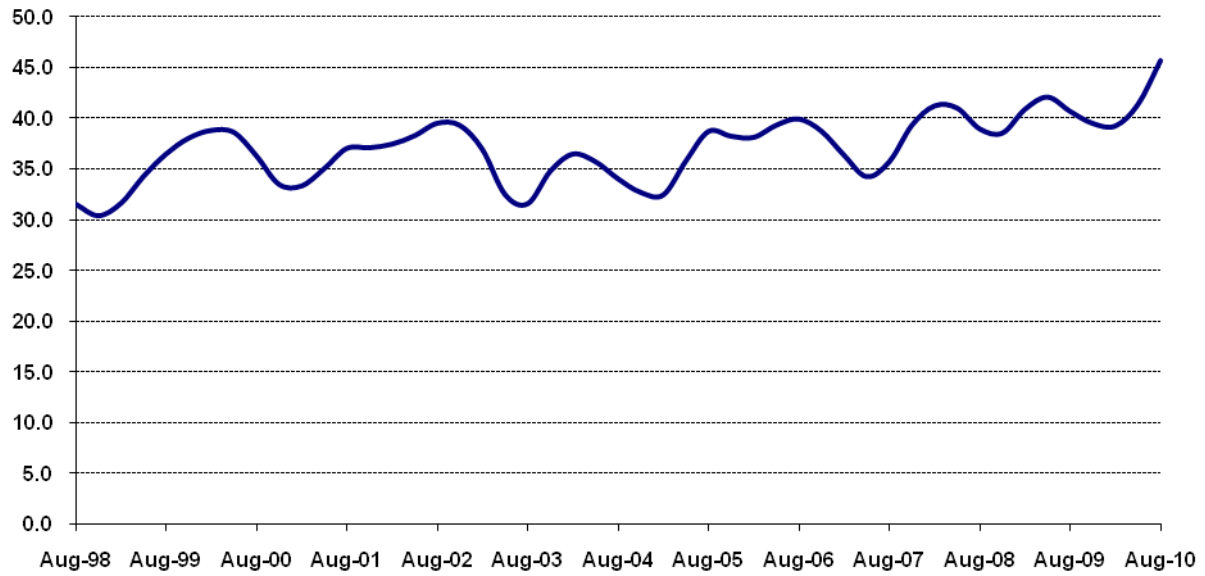
Generalist Medical Practitioners

Employment level	45,700 A high proportion of workers (79.7%) are employed full-time.
6 digit employment (2006 Census)	253111 General Medical Practitioner 29,920 253112 Resident Medical Officer 5500
Employment growth	Over the five years to August 2010, employment increased by 18.1% (compared with growth of 12.1% for all occupations). Employment is expected to rise by 15.9% over the next five years (compared with projected growth of 9.5% for all occupations).
Unemployment rate	There is almost no unemployment for this occupation.
Educational profile	Around 94.1% have a Bachelor degree or higher qualification.
Vacancies	The Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) rose by 8.9% over the 12 months to September 2010 to 202.4 (March 2006=100). Vacancies for all occupations increased by 19.4%.
Gender	Around 45.6% of workers are female (compared with 45.4% for all occupations).
Labour turnover	Around 6.4% of workers leave this occupation in a year compared with 13.1% for all occupations.
Age profile	The median age is 41.8 years and 45.6% are aged 45 years and over (compared with 38.5% for all occupations).
Earnings	Median full-time weekly earnings (before tax) are high (\$1800).
Graduate outcomes	Graduate Careers Australia data show 94% of Bachelor degree graduates in medicine seeking full-time work were working four months after graduation, 95% of whom were employed as Health Professionals.
Skill shortages	Not assessed through DEEWR research.
Labour market	Not assessed

Summary

The workforce is ageing and employment growth is expected to be stronger than the growth rate for all occupations suggesting strong ongoing demand.

Generalist Medical Practitioners
Employed Persons ('000s) Aug 1998 to Aug 2010



Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) - 3 Monthly Average - Nov 2006 - Sept 2010
Generalist Medical Practitioners (March 2006 = 100)

