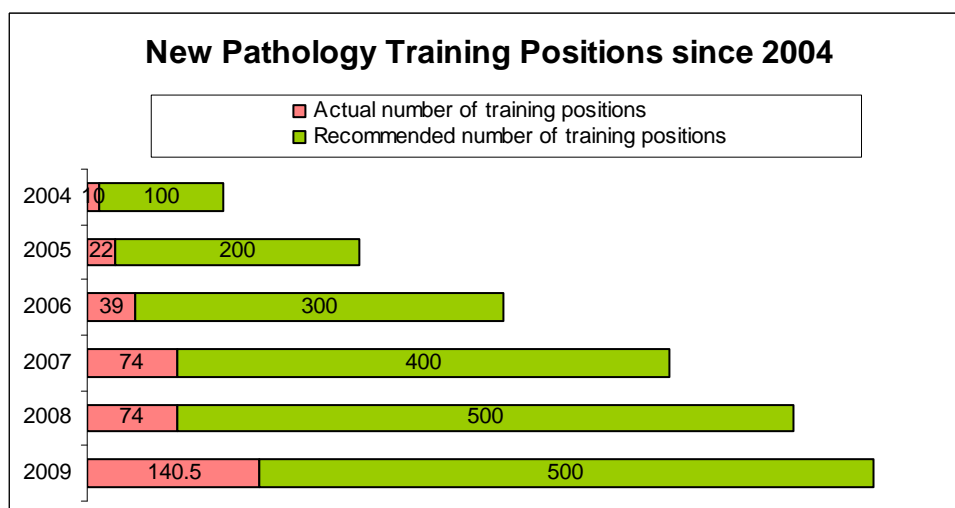


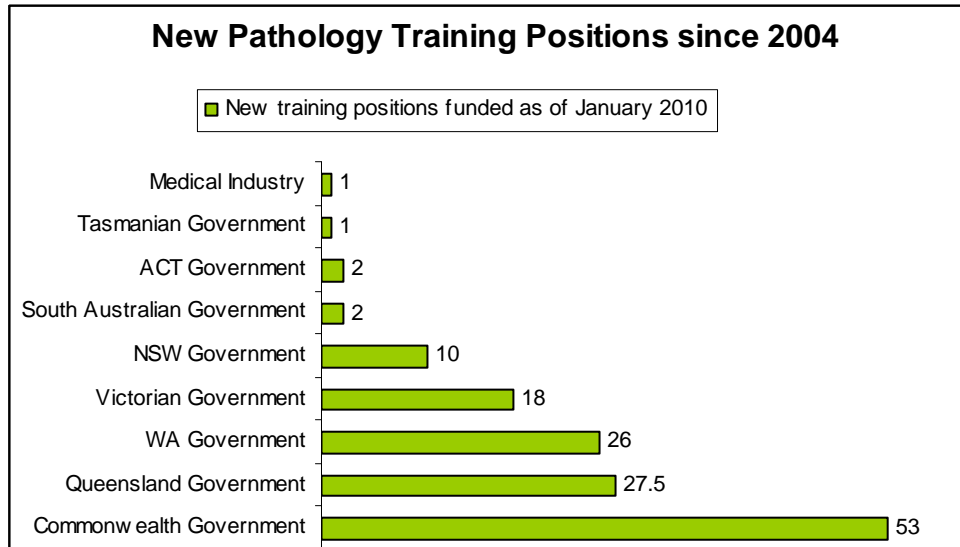
PATHOLOGY WORKFORCE – Short Version June 2010

- There are currently 1,536 pathologists in active practice in Australia.
- The ratio is one pathologist per 14,656 of population.
- In New Zealand, the ratio is even worse, approximately 1:20,550.
- More than 23% of practising pathologists across Australia and New Zealand are over 60 and 12% of them are over 65 years of age.
- It is estimated that 60% of Pathologists are in the Public Sector and 40% in Private.
- Pathology training is like a medical “apprenticeship” which takes a minimum of 13 years.
- There is also a shortage of scientists that needs to be addressed urgently.
- Workforce substitution for pathology work by scientists has already been done in Pathology unlike many other medical specialties.
- Automation has decreased the workload for pathologists and scientists for low complexity work, but is not able to replace the role of pathologists and scientists for the high complexity work that they undertake and this is increasing.
- In 2003, the Australian Medical Workforce Advisory Committee (AMWAC) recommended that an additional 100 registrar positions needed to be created each year for five years in order to address the shortfall of pathologists. In total 140.5 new positions have been created, far short of the extra 500 positions that should have been made available by now.





Government Support and Response to date



Please note the Commonwealth Government positions are in the private sector. In addition to these, there are a further 38 positions funded directly by the private sector.