



Fact File

The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia

**Australian Pathologist Workforce 2018
Northern Territory**

AUSTRALIAN PATHOLOGIST WORKFORCE – NORTHERN TERRITORY

Overview

The national ratio for the Australian Pathologist workforce is 78.5 headcount per million population. Northern Territory has 0.5% or ten headcount of the Australian Pathologist workforce, only half its population share of 1.0%. The Territory has a ratio per million population of 40.8 Pathologists in the workforce. This is the lowest ratio, nearly half the national ratio. As the workforce is the lowest in size, servicing a very small population of 245,000 in total, it was decided not to use the model to determine future supply and demand levels.

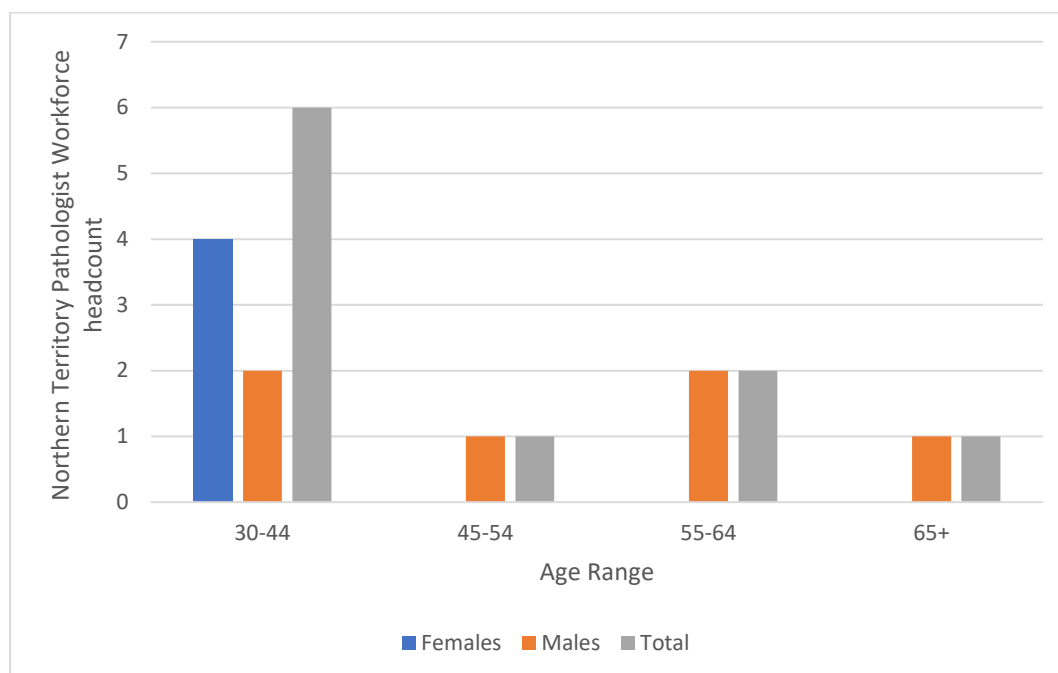
Workforce profile and trends

Table 1: Northern Territory Pathologist Workforce, 2016, Age and Sex Profile

Age Group	Headcount			Percentage	Percentage
	Female	Male	Total	by Age	Female by Age
30-44	4	2	6	60.0%	66.7%
45-54	0	1	1	10.0%	0.0%
55-64	0	2	2	20.0%	0.0%
65+	0	1	1	10.0%	0.0%
Total	4	6	10	100.0%	40.0%
55 years and older	0	3	3		
% 55 years and older	0.0%	50.0%	30.0%		

Source: RCPA data base, 2016

Figure 1: Northern Territory Pathologist Workforce, 2016, Age and Sex Profile



Source: RCPA data base, 2016

The only females in the Pathologist workforce in the Northern territory are in the younger age groups 30 to 44 years. All other age groups only include males. Males are sixty percent of the total workforce and females are forty percent. The challenge for the Territory is to increase the workforce size to increase the supply per head of population, while recognising that there may be constraints due to service limitations.

Trends in trainee numbers

Northern Territory trainees increased from one to three trainees over the period 2011 to 2016.

Workforce demand and supply

Table 2: Demand drivers for NT Pathologists

Indicator	2011	2016	ACGR
High Scenario: Workforce Size (Headcount)	6	10	10.7%
Low Scenario: NT MBS Pathology Service Items (including weighted AP items)	883,965	1,127,366	5.0%

Source: Retrieved from: http://medicarestatistics.humanservices.gov.au/statistics/mbs_item.jsp

Note: Annual Compound Growth Rate (ACGR)

Results of workforce analysis

There was no projection modelling undertaken as the workforce size is less than fifty in number. The workforce characteristics identified that 10% of the workforce were 65 years and older, resulting in one practitioner retiring within the next five to ten years. Clearly there has been high growth in MBS service items and workforce size which needs to continue over the projection period, particularly if there has been service development locally over that period which will continue in the projection period.