

Thinking of Specialty Community Child Health?

The specialty of community child health involves an understanding of the complex interplay between physical, social and environmental factors, and human biology affecting the growth and development of all young people. Application of this knowledge advances the health and wellbeing of children, families and communities; whether well, ill, impaired or disabled.

Overview of Community Child Health

The increasing importance of the specialty is supported by the significant growth in demand for community child health clinical services. Community child health paediatricians are proactively responding to the increasing prevalence of infants, children and young people who are at risk of harm from various causes, including abuse or neglect, have developmental and behavioural problems, or have chronic and complex conditions and special needs.

There are four domains of learning in community child health – the craft of community child health (professional qualities specific to community child health), child protection, child development and behaviour, and child population health. The three latter domains overlap to a degree. While some practitioners choose to specialise in only one practice domain, all community paediatricians still require understanding and skills from training received in the other domains, including the craft of community child health.

Specialty training

Physician training is undertaken through the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) and consists of:

- a minimum of 36 months of Paediatric and Child Health Basic Training followed by
- a minimum of 36 months of Advanced Training in Community Child Health
- work-based learning and assessment requirements.

Trainees may apply to enter the Advanced Training program if they:

- have completed Paediatric and Child Health Basic Training programme
- have successfully completed the RACP Clinical and Written Examinations
- hold current medical registration and
- secured an accredited training position.

All advanced training occurs in supervised clinical placements within RACP accredited sites.

Over the course of the training program, all trainees must carry out a variety of teaching and learning activities, including work-based learning and assessment requirements, and other program requirements in consultation with their supervisors.

Once the training is satisfactorily completed, Fellowship of the RACP (FRACP) is awarded.

This training program can be completed in Australia and New Zealand and trainees may complete more than one advanced training program at a time.

It is likely that you need to complete placements in multiple DHBs whilst completing vocational training.

Personal qualities required to be a Community Child Health Physician

- an ability to work with and understand children and their families
- fostering of a patient-centred approach to health care
- maintenance of a balanced and broad perspective on health care delivery
- preparedness to learn and adopt new and validated approaches to diagnosis and management, despite logistical difficulties, and to change work practices when appropriate
- willingness to reflect on, and learn from, mistakes
- preparedness to change management plans
- tolerance of uncertainty
- ability to cope with unexpected disappointments, equanimity, resiliency and calmness in the face of challenging clinical demands
- desire to contribute to improvements in the health system
- desire to foster clinical practice, research and teaching in general internal medicine
- preparedness to acknowledge doubt and uncertainty in clinical practice.
- excellent communication skills including listening
- an ability to work as part of a multi-disciplinary team
- an ability to learn from your patients
- a sense of humour.

Specialty Training Programme Information

Medical College

[Royal Australasian College of Physicians \(RACP\)](#)

Fellowship/Qualification

Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (FRACP)

Application and Selection process

Application/selection [Basic training](#)

Application/selection [Advanced Training in Community Child Health](#)

Contact details in New Zealand: CommunityChildHealth@racp.edu.au

To find out more about physicians/paediatricians and other specialty areas, [click here](#). This also provides a useful Q&A section.

Further information can be obtained on [Royal Australasian College of Physicians \(RACP\)](#)

Resident Medical Officer (RMO) Information

Demand for vocational training posts is currently not available

RMO training registrar positions contracted

Northern*	Midland*	Central*	South Island*	Total*
148.7	42	103.6	80.5	374.8

(September 2016 RMO census)

*The number is not separately available but included in the total registered in Internal Medicine

Regions

Northern:

Northland, Waitemata, Auckland, Counties Manukau DHBs

Midland:

Lakes, Tairāwhiti, Bay of Plenty, Waikato, Taranaki DHBs

Central:

Hawke's Bay, Wanganui, MidCentral, Wairarapa, Capital and Coast, Hutt Valley DHBs

South Island:

Nelson Marlborough, Canterbury, South Canterbury, Southern, West Coast DHBs

Senior Medical Officer (SMO) Information

Year	Number of NZ New Fellows
2015	*
2014	*

Average Age of SMOs*	Number registered with the Medical Council *	% of international medical graduates in the workforce*
51	1024	42

Number by Region (September 2016 SMO census)

Northern		Midland		Central		South Island		Total	
FTE*	Headcount*	FTE*	Headcount*	FTE*	Headcount*	FTE*	Headcount*	FTE*	Headcount*
159.1	188	50.5	52	47.2	57	83.3	116	340	413

*The number is not separately available but included in the total registered in Internal Medicine.