

Thinking of General Practice?

General practice is the range of values, knowledge, skills, and practices required to provide first level medical services in both community practice and hospital settings. General practice includes the provision of both first contact and continuing care, for all ages and both sexes, that is comprehensive, person-centred, and takes into account the roles of family, whanau, community and equity in achieving health gains.

Career Prospects in General Practice

- **Prospects are particularly good for general practice, especially in rural areas**, as New Zealand's population grows and ages. There were 76.9 FTE GPs per 100,000 New Zealanders in 2014, but **more are needed**. There were 183 GPs in training in December 2016, compared to 125 in 2013.
- The increasing role of community care, with rising numbers of people living with long-term conditions and co-morbidities, means **a growing need for GPs**.
- The nature of the GP role has changed. Primary care is becoming more integrated, and new models of care are emerging that **bridge the traditional divides between primary care, community services and hospitals**.
- Working arrangements have also changed. In the past GPs owned their own practices and provided 24 hour cover. Now most GPs work as contractors or employees often working in general practice full- or part-time¹ whilst also pursuing a portfolio-style career² (for example this might involve a combination of general practice, special interest practice and referrals, clinical governance and teaching).
- This makes **general practice a desirable career for autonomy, diversity of work and work/life balance**.
- General practice is also a desirable career for those who are entrepreneurial and like to be involved in the business side of their work and working environment.

General Practice Training

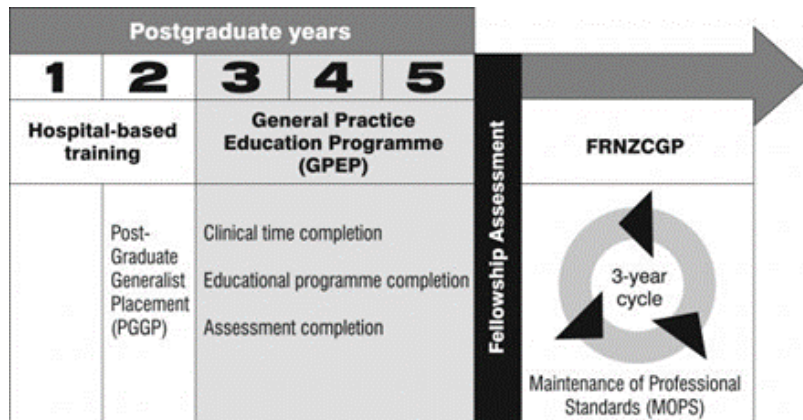
GP training involves 2 years of prevocational training before an application can be made to the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners.

After admission to the General Practice Training Programme (GPEP) there are 3 years of clinical training and assessment. In GPEP 2 and 3 there is a requirement to be working at least four-tenths in clinical practice. After the satisfactory completion of the GPEP programme you will be elected to Fellow of the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (FRNZCGP).

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

¹Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners. 2014 Workforce Survey.

²Dwan K, Douglas K, Forrest L. Are "part-time" general practitioners workforce idlers or committed professionals? BMC Family Practice. 2014, 15:154. 19 September 2014.



Personal qualities required to be a GP

- An open, enquiring mind
- Appreciative of the value of teamwork
- An enjoyment of challenge and diagnostic variety
- Good interpersonal skills and enjoy working with people
- An entrepreneurial spirit
- A commitment to keeping up with developments in practice and improving one's own performance
- A willingness to teach others, and to acquire the teaching skills necessary for this
- Organisational ability
- Empathetic

Specialty Training Programme Information

Medical College

[Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners \(RNZCGP\)](#)

Fellowship/Qualification

Fellow of Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (FRNZCGP)

Recognition of Prior Learning

If you have previous general practice experience this may be recognised and therefore shorten your time in the programme [Recognition of Prior Learning](#)

Entry requirement

You need to have done runs in eight of the following:

- Dermatology
- Emergency Medicine
- ENT
- General Medicine
- General Surgery

- Geriatrics
- GP rotation
- Musculoskeletal
- Obstetrics & Gynaecology
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopaedics
- Paediatrics
- Palliative Care
- Psychiatry
- Rehabilitation
- Rheumatology
- Rural General Practice

Application process

1. Candidates make and complete an application when applications are open.
2. Applications are assessed against eligibility criteria.
3. All eligible candidates are interviewed within the training region to which they have applied.
4. Successful applicants are offered a place in training region.

Selection criteria

Minimum admission requirements:

- New Zealand or Australian Citizenship or New Zealand Permanent Residence
- Registration with MCNZ which allows work in general practice in the general scope of practice
- Two years postgrad experience- usually expected that a year of this time be undertaken in New Zealand
- Three satisfactory referee reports of recent medical experience

Favourable factors taken into account include:

- Firm intention and readiness for general practice training
- Valuable mix of RMO experience
- Demonstrated commitment to general practice and to addressing Maori, Pacific Island and rural health needs
- Commitment to teaching medical students and colleagues

Examination requirements

The GPEP Clinical and Written Examinations at the end of GPEP Year 1, and then undergo the Fellowship assessment on the completion of GPEP [First year examination](#)

Transferability of registration to other countries/across training sites

[Recognition of prior learning or training](#)

Additional information regarding GP training can be found at the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners website - [Train with us](#)

Resident Medical Officer (RMO) Information

Demand for vocational Training Posts

Year	Number of applications for training year	Number of applicants for training year selected
2017	251	194
2016	241	183
2015	213	178
2014	184	141
2013	164	141
2012	197	162
2011	176	145
2010	177	156
2009	156	136

RMO training registrar positions contracted

Northern	Midland	Central	South Island	Total
Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available

(September 2016 RMO census)

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
2016	Not available
2015	Not available
2014	Not available
2013	Not available
2012	Not available
2011	Not available
2010	Not available
2009	Not available

Average Age of SMOs	Number registered with the Medical Council	% of international medical graduates in the workforce
53	3517	41

Number by Region (September 2016 SMO census)

Northern		Midland		Central		South Island		Total	
FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount
26.8	48	11.9	17	3.9	9	13.1	23	55.7	97

GP Information

There are 4,592 doctors working in general practice (based on annual practising certificates as of 30 June 2015).

There were 84 doctors (76.9 FTEs) working as GPs per 100,000 New Zealanders in 2014. Auckland and Capital & Coast DHB geographical areas had the highest number of GPs per 100,000, while West Coast, MidCentral and Counties Manukau had the lowest. This data refers to all doctors working as GPs across New Zealand, including doctors who may work in general practice but who do not have vocational registration in general practice.

The median age of GPs is 53 and the trend is for GPs to work shorter hours. MCNZ's 2014 workforce survey (providing the latest survey data) showed that GPs worked on average 36.8 hours a week (0.92 FTE based on a 40-hour week), down from 38.1 in 2009. The average across all other specialties was 45 hours a week, down from 45.5 in 2009.

In 2009 vocationally registered GPs made up 37.5% of the total medical workforce, and this proportion has remained steady at 37.7% in 2015. However, in 2015 169 doctors entered general practice training, an increase of 45 on 2014.

The number of specialists (excluding general practice) went up from 4176 to 5362 between mid-2009 and mid-2015, a 28.4% increase.

MCNZ workforce survey 2014, and Statistics New Zealand population projection based on the 2013 Census.
MCNZ registration by specialty for annual practising certificates mid-2009 to mid-2015. Note: this information relates to the number of doctors.

