



## Critical Care Activity and Resources Summary 2014/15

This report provides an overview of resources and activity as reported through the Critical Care Resources (CCR) Survey for the 2014/15 financial year.

In summary there was a 2.5% growth in available beds, 2.8% increase in admissions and 3.8% increase in patient days. Two new large hospitals opened resulting in rearrangements of ICU beds in WA and QLD. There were 31 units who expect to increase available beds next year. Staffing kept pace with activity changes and there was little variation in the resource clinical indicators.

### Contribution to the Survey

170 Intensive Care Units in Australia and New Zealand (80%) contributed to the 2014/15 CCR Survey including 87% of public units and 68% of private units. Sites that did not submit to the CCR Survey were contacted by phone and email to obtain bed numbers for the financial year. Bed analysis includes data from all units, whilst activity data only includes units that submitted to the survey.

### ICU Beds

- 2326 available beds and 2725 physical beds were available in Australia and New Zealand across 211 Intensive Care Units.
- This is a 2.5% increase in available beds and 3.8% increase in physical beds
  - 23 units increased the number of available beds (67 additional beds)
  - 19 units decreased the number of available beds (59 fewer beds)
  - 164 units had no change in available beds
  - 5 units opened (73 additional beds)
  - 2 units closed (24 fewer beds)
  - Overall increase of 57 available beds

### Regional differences in available beds

- NSW had the largest increase with 40 additional beds (5.2%), followed by VIC with 14 beds (3.3%), WA with 4 beds (2.6%), NZ with 5 beds (2.1%) and QLD with 4 beds (1%)
- SA had a decrease with 8 fewer beds (4.5%) and TAS with 2 fewer beds (4.3%)
- NT and ACT had no change in beds

### 2014/15 Health Service Changes

- In **QLD** two specialist children's hospitals merged into the new Lady Cilento Children's Hospital with no change in the number of ICU beds.
- In **WA** a new adult ICU opened (Fiona Stanley) with a reduction in ICU bed numbers at both Royal Perth Hospital and Fremantle Hospital. There were six additional ICU beds across the three hospitals.
- In **VIC** a new adult ICU opened at Sunshine Hospital resulting in a reduction in ICU beds at Footscray Hospital, and a net gain of two ICU beds across the two hospitals.
- In **NSW** two existing private hospitals started new ICU services with 13 new ICU beds

### Expected beds to be built/opened within the next financial year

A new question was added to the 2014/15 survey asking sites if they plan to build new physical beds or open existing available beds within the next financial year.

33 sites reported that they will open or build new beds in the 2015/16 financial year.

#### Expected Physical Beds

17 sites reported they plan to build new physical beds, resulting in an expected net gain of 63 new physical beds.

#### Expected Available Beds

31 sites reported they plan to open new available beds, resulting in a net gain of 79 available beds.

Of the 79 beds expected to open, the majority will open in tertiary units.

The overall expected growth rate for the next financial year is 3.4% with some variation between the hospital classifications.

#### Expected growth per hospital classification

- Tertiary units: 4.1%
- Metropolitan units: 2.6%
- Rural units: 3.7%
- Private units: 2.6%

### Admissions

172,167 admissions were reported from 165 units for 2014/15.

There was a 2.8% increase in admissions across 147 units that submitted over two years.

- 51 (35%) units had a negative change
- 96 (65%) units had a positive change

There was a 7.1% increase in private units, compared to 1.3% increase in public units.

### Patient Days

499,644 patient days were reported from 149 units for 2014/15.

There was a 3.8% increase in patient days across 131 units that submitted data over two years.

- 47 (36%) units had a negative change
- 84 (64%) units had a positive change

There was a 6.6% increase in private units, compared to a 3.2% in public units.

Regional and metropolitan units had less than 1% increase while there was a 4.4% increase in tertiary units.

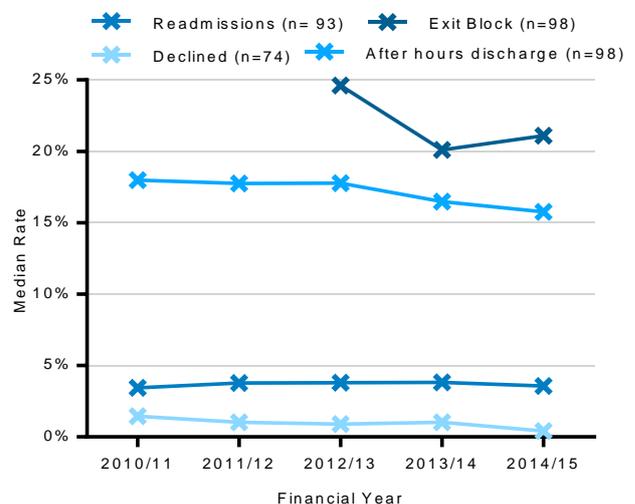
### Ventilation

The rate of invasive ventilation continues to decline. The ventilation rate for 2014/15 was 37.5%, down from 38.4% in 2013/14.

### Clinical Indicators

Figure 1 shows the median rate each year for the following clinical indicators: readmissions, declined admissions, exit block and after hours discharge. Exit block has been collected for 3 years, however during this period there has been an absolute reduction of 3.5% in the median rate. There has been a downward trend in the percentage of after-hours discharge since 2013, with a median rate of 15.8% for 2014/15.

**Figure 1: Clinical Indicators over 5 years**



## Senior Medical Workforce

154 units reported Senior Medical Officer (SMO) data for 2014/15 with a total of 740 full time equivalent (FTE).

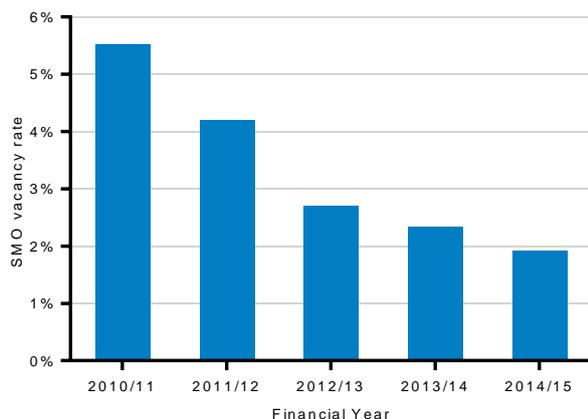
There was a 4.3% increase in SMO FTE across 141 units that submitted data over two years.

- 4.5% increase in public units (n=101)
- 3.5% increase in private units (n=40)

The SMO FTE per 1000 patient days has remained consistent suggesting that the growth in senior medical workforce is consistent with the growth in patient days.

Figure 2 shows a continuing decline in total vacancy rates for SMOs, with a 1.9% vacancy rate in 2014/15. The actual number of vacant positions in 2014/15 was 14 compared to 17 last year and 33 in 2010/11.

**Figure 2: Senior Medical Officer Vacancies**



## Nursing Workforce

168 units reported registered nurse (RN) data for 2014/15 with a total 9868 FTE.

There was a 3.3% increase in RN FTE across 152 units that submitted data over two years.

- 3.2% increase in public units (n=110)
- 4.0% increase in private units (n=42)

The RN FTE per 1000 patient days remains consistent suggesting that the growth in nursing workforce is consistent with the growth in patient days.

The total vacancy rate for 2014/15 was 5.5%, slightly higher than previously (4.4-4.6 % for the past 3 years).

*Dr Peter Hicks*  
Director CCR Registry

*Jane Parker*  
Project Support Officer

## Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society Centre for Outcome and Resource Evaluation

ABN: 81 057 619 986 ACN: 057 619 986 ISBN: 978-0-646-92870-8

Level 3, 10 levers Terrace, Carlton VIC 3053, Australia.

Tel +61(0)393403427 Fax +61(0)393403499

Email [anzics@anzics.com.au](mailto:anzics@anzics.com.au) Website [www.anzics.com.au](http://www.anzics.com.au)

Critical Care Activity and Resources in Australia and New Zealand – Summary Report 2014/15

### Disclaimer

The information contained in this document is intended for general commentary only. None of the information is, or should be regarded as, medical or professional advice. While ANZICS has endeavoured to ensure that the information in this document is accurate and current at time of publication, ANZICS and its officers, employees and agents do not accept responsibility for any person who acts or relies in anyway on the information without first obtaining independent advice specific to their circumstances.