

Gender, ethnicity and living arrangements in relation to the integration of overseas medical practitioners into New Zealand

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Outline

- Background
- Methods and data sources
- Key Findings
- Implications and Recommendations

Background

- Increased demand for health services
- Medical practitioner shortages
- Foreign doctors in New Zealand hospitals
- Feminisation of medical practitioners

Research questions

1. How is the increasing demand for health services in New Zealand being met through an increase in number of foreign born doctors working in New Zealand
2. How people of Asian ethnicity, both New Zealand and overseas born, are an important component of the medical workforce?
3. How living arrangements of doctors need to taken into account when considering migration decisions?
4. The 'feminisation' of migrant medical practitioners.

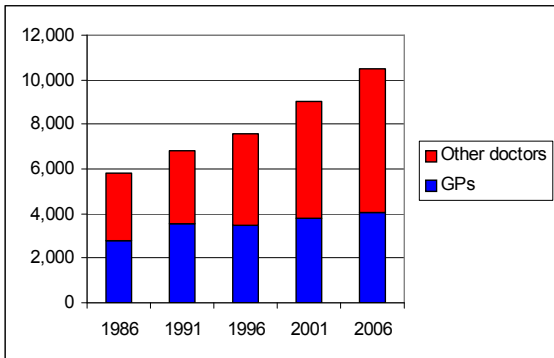
Data Sources

- Census data from 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001 and 2006
- Immigration data from the DoL Application Management System

Results

- Individuals
- Couples

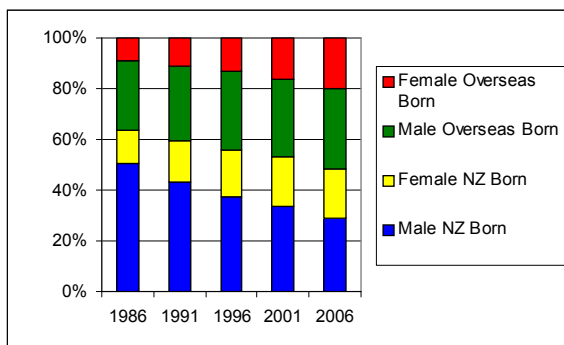
Number of GPs and other doctors



Who is a 'local' or 'foreign' doctor?

- New Zealand born domestic school-leavers who have trained in New Zealand medical schools
- overseas born domestic school-leavers who have trained in New Zealand
- international graduates who have then gained a New Zealand medical qualification,
- temporary resident overseas trained doctors, and
- permanent resident overseas trained doctors

Sex & country of birth changes for doctors



Women as a % of doctors

	1986	1991	1996	2001	2006
NZ born GPs	17	24	32	37	41
Overseas born GPs	24	27	33	37	40
NZ born other doctors	24	30	33	35	39
Overseas born other doctors	24	28	28	34	39
Total	22	27	32	35	40

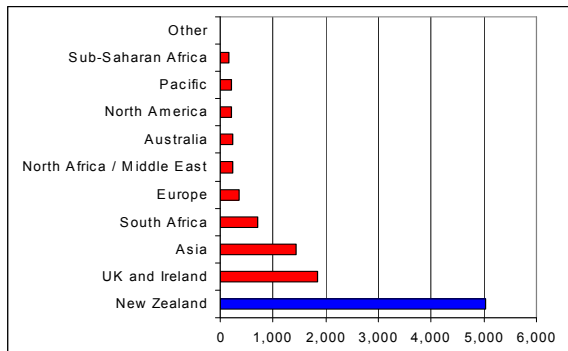
Doctor approvals – Skilled Business Stream

NZSC O unit group	NZSCO occupation	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Doctors	Anaesthetist	7	14	29	4	8
	General Practitioner	9	43	68	49	52
	Gynaecologist and Obstetrician	1	6	2	3	3
	Physician	16	29	58	31	46
	Radiologist, Radiation Oncologist	7	12	10	8	10
	Resident Medical Officer	23	51	130	112	122
	Surgeon	6	5	18	14	8
Total		69	160	315	221	249

Most doctors come in on temporary work permits

- overall around six times as many doctors applied to come into New Zealand over the 2002/3 to 2006/07 period as temporary migrants when compared with permanent migrants

Main birthplace of doctors



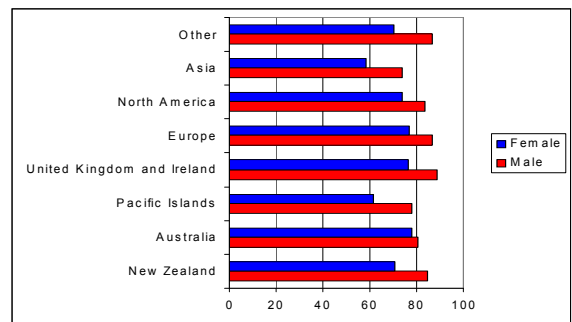
% of doctors born in each main area who recorded Asian ethnicity

Main Area	% Asian
Born in New Zealand	5
Australia	4
Pacific	49
UK and Ireland	3
Europe	1
Asia	94
North America	4
North Africa	4
South Africa	9
Sub-Saharan	19
Total	18
Total Asians n=	1,884

Proportion of male & female doctors who were partnered

	1986	2006
Proportion of male doctors partnered	82	84
Proportion of female doctors partnered	62	70

Partnering rates for men and women doctors by country of birth



% of medical doctors (independent & with secondary applicants) approved for residence

	Female Principal Applicant		Male Principal Applicant	
	n	%	n	%
Independent	208	52%	211	31%
With secondary applicants	194	48%	476	69%

Birthplace of both partners for doctor couples & all NZ couples

		Both doctors	%	All couples	%
Both New Zealand born		219	30	510,657	63
NZ Born male	OSB female	108	15	72,489	9
OS Born male	NZB female	69	10	72,327	9
Both overseas born		327	45	156,834	19

Lessons from our research

- Doctors are very mobile
- temporary migration is more important than permanent migration
- But the boundaries between 'local' and 'foreign' doctors, and between 'temporary' and 'permanent' migration are blurring
- There has been a 'feminisation' of doctors, including migrant doctors
- Asian doctors form an important part of New Zealand's medical workforce
- But many Asian doctors do not come from Asia, some are 'local' doctors, some come from other countries

- Most studies of doctors consider them as individuals
- However, for many 'family' matters
- Many doctors are part of couples where both are highly qualified and many are potentially 'dual career' couples
- We increasingly need to think about co-location decisions

The paper can be found at:

<http://ips.ac.nz>