

# CASE STUDY: PUBLIC HEALTH PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE

<b>Sector</b>	Health
<b>Case Type</b>	Workforce Planning

Our long-term study of the public health physician workforce commenced in 2010 with a landmark report on the [Unique contribution to public health work](#) of public health physicians (PHP).

Developed for the [Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine](#), the report clarified the current expectations of the role of the PHP within the population health system.

The report also described the expectations of the PHPs expressed through job positions and descriptions. It identified new areas where PHPs could contribute as well as identifying their unique inputs to public health work.

This landmark project was followed up with AFPHM in 2016/17, resulting in the [Public Health Physician Workforce Study](#). The return project investigated the adequacy of supply to meet future demands and applied innovative methods that had never been used before to quantify estimates of current and projected demand for public health physicians in Australia.

The study follows on from previous work undertaken in The Unique Contribution of Public Health Physicians to the Public Health Workforce study conducted in 2010 and a subsequent scoping study in 2013 (recommended by the earlier report) that identified appropriate

methodology to investigate the current and future demand for and supply of the Public Health Physician workforce and the adequacy of supply to meet future demands.

## THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THIS STUDY WERE:

1. To obtain a more accurate quantitative estimate of the current public health physician workforce in Australian and measure the true contribution to public health work
2. To develop estimates of the projected supply of public health physicians in Australia up to 2025, with some sensitivity analysis around workforce wastage rates and training program enrolments
3. To develop quantitative estimates of current demand for public health physicians in Australia that have high face validity and estimates of projected demand up to 2025
4. To undertake analysis of the public health physician labour market (supply and demand) from 2015 to 2025
5. To consider appropriate labour market policy options (training enrolments, employment practices, Faculty membership, etc.) in response to labour market analysis findings. Information for the study will be obtained through a range of data collections methods including a workforce survey, workshops, focus groups and secondary data analysis. It is anticipated that the study will conclude by April 2016.