

Victorian rural Procedural GP Workforce and Age Statistics 04 –09

The RDAV triennial survey lists all practicing Proceduralists.



These doctors determine capacity of rural hospitals to provide services. Without them obstetrics and theatre close, and advanced emergency capacity is lost. 38 of 94 hospitals retain these services. Our figures suggest many of these are now under threat. There has been a big drop in dual proceduralists, halving of under 45's, and a jump in over 55s. Retirement has been less than expected. The actual figures conceal mal-distribution between locations, with a number of quite marginal locations. The crucial factor emerging is whether enough entrants will be obtained and whether enough proceduralists will remain to mentor entrants into full and independent practice. Training posts are inadequate.

Capacity and Manpower: Because a number of GPs perform both anaesthetics and obstetrics the total manpower numbers are less than the total of each specialty. There is a trend now discernible that GPs are discontinuing one or other of these two skills as they grow older. The current required length of training means that few new entrants have acquired both skills.

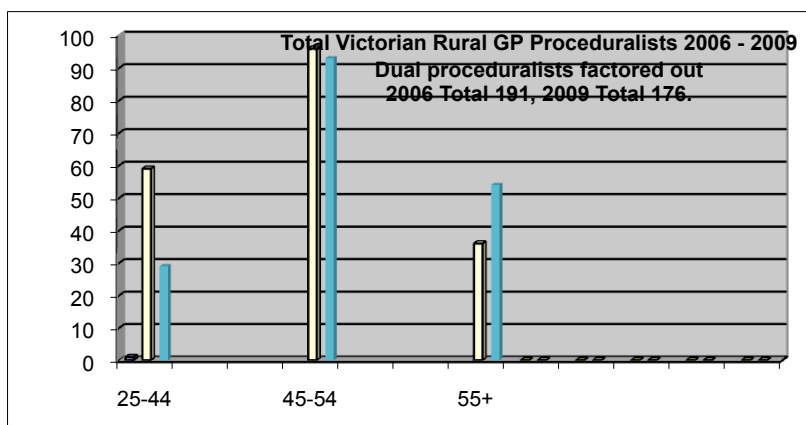
Capacity: GP Proceduralist Obstetricians and Anaesthetists 2004 – 2009

	'04	'06	'09	'04	'06	'09
Under 45y	45	28	19	64	45	25
45-54y	50	57	47	77	82	68
Over 55y	23	21	33	26	28	39
Total	118	106	99	167	155	132

Manpower: Rural GP Obstetricians and Anaesthetists 2004 – 2009 (Single or Dual)

	All Proceduralists	
	'06	'09
Under 45y	59	29
Age 45-54y	96	93
Over 55y	36	54
Total	191	176

(Dual 2006: 61, 2009: 45)

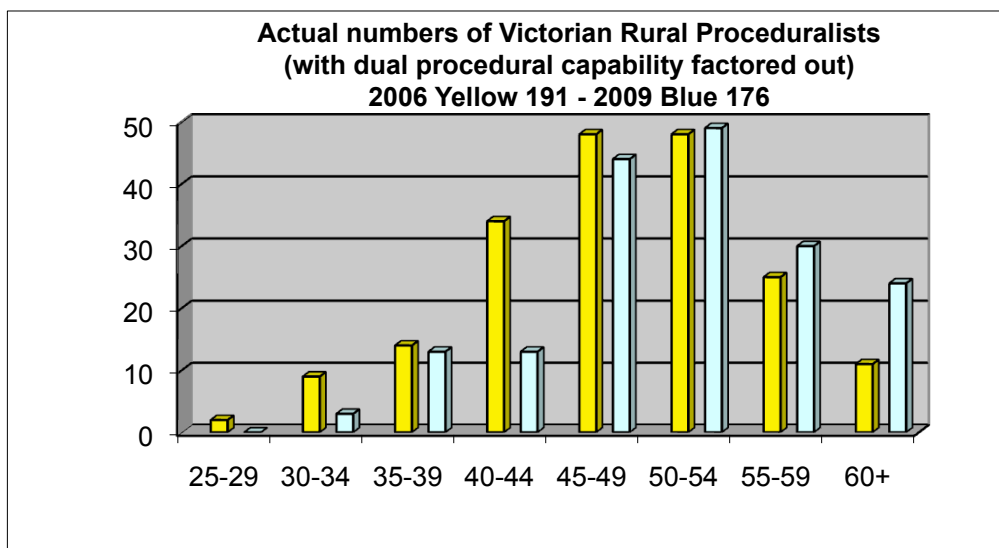


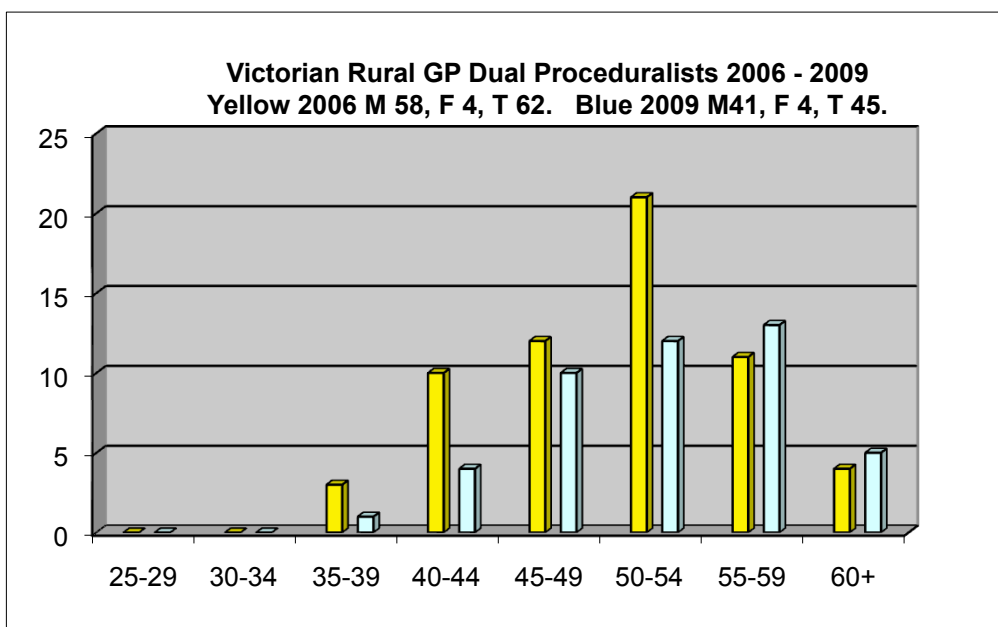
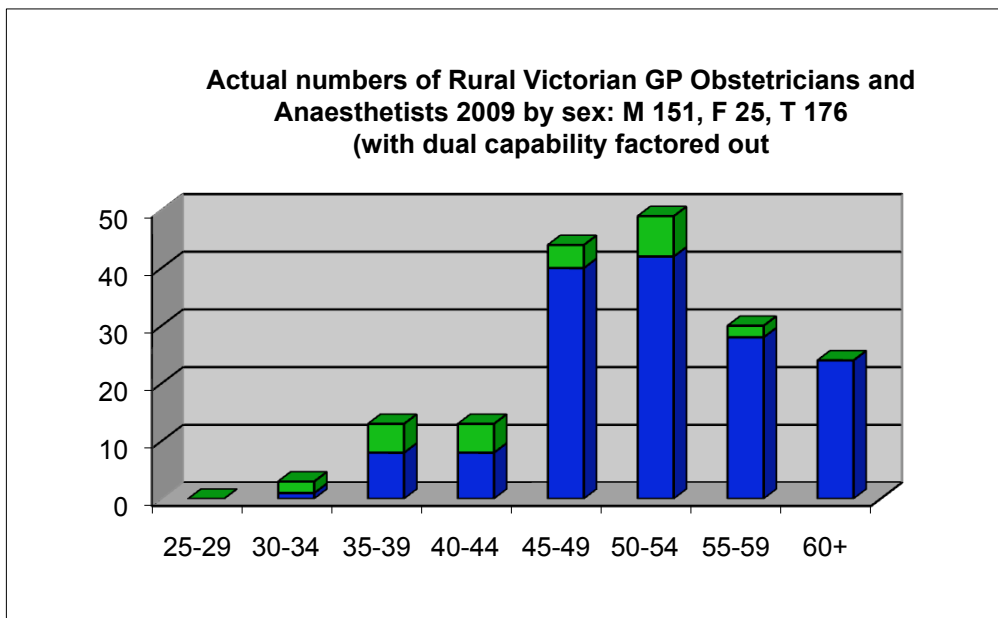
Actual GP proceduralists in Rural Victoria 2006 (allowing for dual) by Age and Sex.

Age	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-70	Total	Grand
M/F	0/2	5/4	11/3	29/5	40/8	44/4	24/1	11/0	164/27	190

Actual GP proceduralists in Rural Victoria 2009 (allowing for dual) by Age and Sex.

Age	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-70	Total	Grand
M/F	0/0	1/2	8/5	8/5	40/4	42/7	28/2	24/0	151/25	176





Obstetrics In the under 44 age group there has been a little entry from the Advanced rural skills training program but a number of female GPs have shown interest in this specialty as opposed to anaesthetics. Not all have been retained within the State workforce. The largest cohort will soon be 50-54, with some support from delayed retirement. The situation remains very precarious.

GP Obstetricians in Rural Victoria 2004 and 2009 compared to show attrition

Age	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-70	Total
04/09	2/2	8/2	15/8	39/15	42/33	35/35	17/23	9/16	167/132

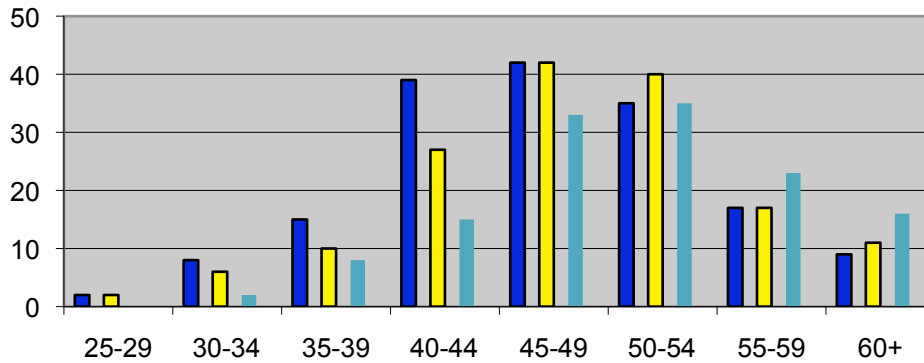
GP Obstetricians in Rural Victoria 2006 by Age and Sex

Age	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-70	Total	Grand
M/F	0/2	3/3	7/3	20/3	36/6	37/3	17/1	11/0	131/21	152

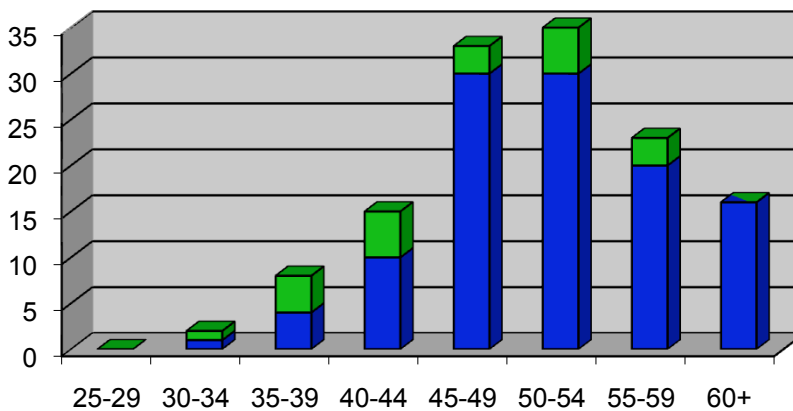
GP Obstetricians in Rural Victoria 2009 by Age and Sex

Age	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-70	Total	Grand
M/F	0/0	1/1	4/4	10/5	30/3	30/5	20/3	16/0	111/21	132

Rural Victorian GP Obstetricians
2004 Blue 167 - 2006 Yellow 155 - 2009 Light Blue 132
Includes dual proceduralists



Rural Victorian GP Obstetricians 2009 Total 132
Blue = male 111, Green = female 21.



Anaesthetists Whilst there are signs that the ARSP program is picking up, under-45 numbers have dropped right off. Unfortunately some trained doctors have moved interstate. As yet there is no recent interest from female GPs in this speciality. The largest cohort remains 50-54. The situation is increasingly precarious.

Anaesthetics GP Anaesthetists in Rural Victoria 2006 by Age and Sex

Age	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-70	Total	Grand
M/F	0/0	2/0	8/1	16/1	22/4	30/1	12/1	8/0	98/8	106

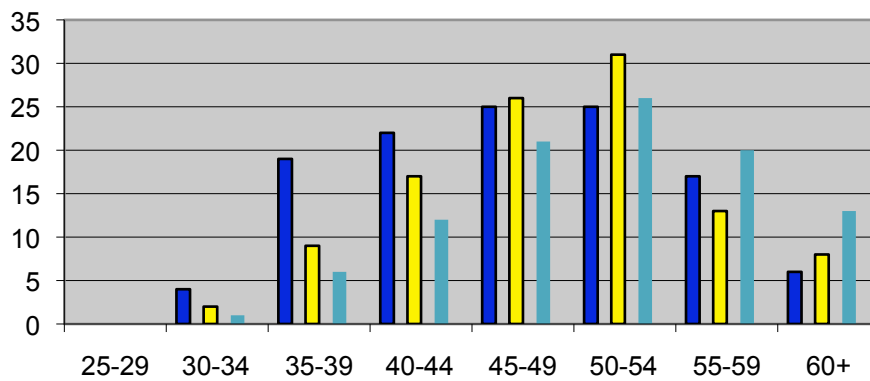
GP Anaesthetists in Rural Victoria 2009 by Age and Sex

Age	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-70	Total	Grand
M/F	0/0	1/0	5/1	11/1	20/1	23/3	19/1	13/0	92/7	99

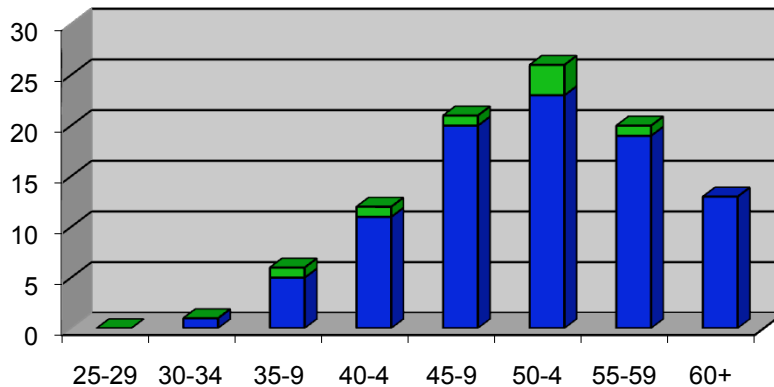
GP Anaesthetists in Rural Victoria 2004 and 2009 Compared to show attrition

Age	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-70	Total
04/06	0/0	4/1	19/6	22/12	25/21	25/26	17/20	6/13	118/99

Rural Victorian GP Anaesthetists
2004 Blue 109 - 2006 Yellow 106 - 2009 Light Blue 99
Includes dual proceduralists



Rural Victorian GP Anaesthetists 2009 Total 99
Blue = male 92, Green = female 7.



Further Comments

Entry to date from the ARSP training program has been too small to boost numbers significantly. Graduates so far have been going to better established groups more able to mentor and support graduates. Other locations have been struggling to maintain rosters.

- Locations closing obstetrics and theatre this triennium have been Nhill, Edenhope, Alexandra, Daylesford, Timboon. Seymour has reopened but will need more proceduralists before long to continue. Portland and Orbost are closed intermittently for obstetrics. Obviously a growing number of locations are under threat.
- A select number of locations are interdependent on each other for support. Sharing rosters are Stawell/Ararat and the Alpine group. Wonthaggi receives support from Foster and is looking to Leongatha. Sale receives support from Maffra and Traralgon, and is extremely short of GP proceduralists. Traralgon had 7 visiting GP anaesthetists from around Gippsland in 2008 but is actively recruiting specialists from overseas to diminish this reliability. Orbost receives help from Bairnsdale, Cohuna from Kerang.
- Horsham, Hamilton and Swan Hill have been lucky to recruit procedural GPs, from South Africa, which has a vigorous training program. Of worry is the loss in Portland Sale and Horsham, for a variety of reasons, of GP groups committed to recruiting proceduralists.
- Safe working hours are not being observed in some locations.
- **The State needs much better policy for use of rural Generalist Proceduralists.**
- **Training positions need to be at least doubled.**