



# Census

of Tasmanian General Practitioners

October 2006

**2006 RESULTS**

Tasmanian General Practice Divisions Limited

# Table of Contents



## 2006 Census of Tasmanian General Practitioners

### Report of Preliminary Results

Executive Summary .....	1
Introduction.....	2
Section 1 GP Numbers .....	3
Section 2 Gender of Tasmania's GPs.....	5
Section 3 Age of Tasmania's GPs .....	6
Section 4 Place of Initial Medical Qualification .....	10
Section 5 Workforce Participation.....	14
Section 6 GPs by Vocational Registration.....	20
Section 7 GPs by RRMA Classification .....	21

### Figures

Figure 1 Number of Tasmanian General Practitioners by Region 2001, 2003 and 2005 .....	3
Figure 2 Proportion of Tasmanian GPs by General By Region 2005.....	5
Figure 3.1 Number of Tasmanian GPs by Age Range 2005 .....	7
Figure 3.2 Tasmanian GPs by Age and Gender 2005 .....	7
Figure 3.3 GPs in Southern Tasmania by Age and Gender 2005 .....	9
Figure 3.4 GPs in Northern Tasmania by Age and Gender 2005.....	9
Figure 3.5 GPs in North West Tasmania by Age and Gender 2005.....	9
Figure 4.1 Tasmanian General Practitioners by Place of Initial Medical Qualification .....	10
Figure 4.2 Southern Tasmanian General Practitioners by Place of Initial Medical Qualification .....	12
Figure 4.3 Northern Tasmanian General Practitioners by Place of Initial Medical Qualification .....	12
Figure 4.4 North West Tasmanian General Practitioners by Place of Initial Medical Qualification .....	12
Figure 4.5 Tasmanian Graduates by Age Range 2005.....	13
Figure 4.6 Proportion of Tasmanian Graduates by Age Group 2005 .....	13
Figure 5.1 Tasmanian GPs by Number of Sessions during Census Week 2005.....	15
Figure 5.2 Tasmanian GPs by Gender by Number of Sessions during Census Week 2005 .....	16
Figure 5.3 Proportion of GPs Working Full Time and Part Time by Region 2005.....	17
Figure 5.4 Average Number of Sessions by Week in Direct Patient Care by Age Range of GPs 2005 .....	18
Figure 7 Number of Tasmanian General Practitioners by RRMA Classification .....	21

### Tables

Table 1 Number of Tasmanian General Practitioners by Region .....	3
Table 2 Gender of Tasmanian General Practitioners by Region.....	5
Table 3.1 Tasmanian GPs by Age Range and Gender 2005 .....	6
Table 3.2 Tasmanian GPs by Age Range and Gender, Comparison of GP Census and AIHW Data.....	8
Table 4.1 Tasmanian GPs by Place of Initial Medical Qualification .....	10
Table 4.2 Place of Initial Medical Qualification .....	11
Table 4.3 Tasmanian Graduates by Age Range 2005.....	13
Table 5.1 Estimated Time GPs Spent Consulting with Patients 2005.....	14
Table 5.2 Estimated Time Spent Consulting with Patients by Gender 2005 .....	15
Table 5.3 Number and Proportion of GPs Working Full-time and Part-time by Region.....	16
Table 5.4 Estimated Time Spent Consulting with Patients by Age Range of GP – Tasmania 2005 .....	18
Table 5.5 Estimated Time Spent Consulting with Patients by Age Range of GP by Region 2005 .....	19
Table 6 GPs by Vocational Registration Status by Region 2005 .....	20
Table 7 Number of Tasmanian General Practitioners by RRMA Classification 2005.....	21

## Foreword

On 9 May 2005 the Tasmanian Divisions of General Practice launched the first statewide Census of the State's general practitioners. The census was conducted again in May 2006 and will continue to be run on an annual basis to allow the analysis of consistent trend data over time and for the expansion of the dataset to include additional fields of particular interest to the current policy and planning priorities.

The census provides more accurate information than has been possible in the past and will support future general practice workforce planning and needs assessments. The GP census data enables both an accurate reflection of the demographics and distribution of the current Tasmanian GP workforce as well as the time spent in direct patient care.

Every GP in Tasmania is asked to participate in the census either on-line (where an e-mail address was available) or via a printed form. Where information had been previously gathered, forms were pre-filled with information held by Divisions of General Practice so as to minimise the time required to complete the form as pre-filled fields required verification only.

This document presents the key characteristics of the Tasmanian GP workforce during 2006 including GP numbers, gender, age and workforce participation, place of qualification from the GP Census including, where appropriate, comparative data from the Census conducted in 2005.

For Further Information about the Census and these results please contact:

Tasmanian General Practice Divisions Ltd  
Telephone (03) 62241114  
Email: [smale@tgpd.com.au](mailto:smale@tgpd.com.au)  
[www.tgpd.com.au](http://www.tgpd.com.au)

## Executive Summary

### GP Numbers

- During Census week 2006 there were 541 practising General Practitioners in Tasmania representing an increase of 10 GPs in Tasmania in the 12 months since Census week 2005.

### Gender balance

- Of the 541 practising General Practitioners in Tasmania during census week 2006, 314 (57.9%) were male and 227 (42.1%) were female.
- In 12 months since Census 2005, 7 new male practicing General Practitioners joined the workforce and 8 left while 14 new female practicing General Practitioners joined the workforce and 2 left.
- Since 2001 there has been an increase in the number and proportion of female GPs and a very little change in the number of male GPs across the State.

### Age

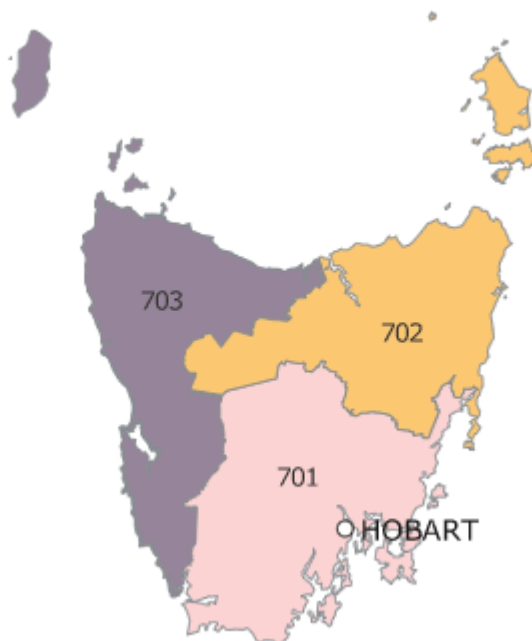
- The average age of Tasmanian GPs during Census week 2006 was 49.7 years compared with 49.2 years in 2005.
- There has been an increase in the numbers and proportion of GPs in the “55 to 64 Years” and “65 Years and over” age groups. This trend has been anticipated given the largest cohort of Tasmanian GPs is in the “45 to 54 Years” age group.
- The highest proportion of GPs remains in the 45 to 54 year age group.

### Place of Qualification

- 41.6% of Tasmania's practising GPs obtained their initial medical qualification in Tasmania with a further 23.1% from other Australian States. This represents an increase in the number and proportion of Tasmanian and other Australian graduates since 2005.
- There has also been a decrease in the number and proportion of GPs qualified from overseas from 149 or 28% in 2005 to 141 or 26.1% in 2006. The country of origin has changed during the period with a fall in the number of GPs originally qualified in UK and Ireland. However, there remain a high numbers of non-responders to this question (50) that makes these observations inconclusive.

## Workforce Participation

- The average number of 3.5 hour sessions worked by Tasmanian GPs in direct patient care during Census week 2006 was 6.8 compared with 7.1 sessions in 2005.
- The number of GPs working part-time has also increased from 193 or 36.3% in Census week 2005 to 242 or 44.7% in Census week 2006. This is in part as a result of the drop in the number of GPs on leave or otherwise absent from their usual practice.
- Despite the increase in numbers of GPs in the 12 month period, the estimate of full-time equivalent GPs in the State has remained almost constant at 357.3 FTEs compared with 357.0 FTEs in 2005. This estimate reflects a general reduction in workforce participation over the twelve-month period demonstrated both in the drop of average number of sessions and the increase in the proportion of the workforce working part-time.



## Summary of Results by Region

### Southern Region

This region covers the 701 map area from Dover in the South to Oatlands in the Southern Midlands.

- During Census week 2006 there were 310 practising General Practitioners in Southern Tasmania representing an increase of 14 GPs since Census week 2005.
- Of the 310 practising GPs in Southern Tasmania, 168 (54.2%) were male and 142 (45.8%) were female. Since Census 2005 there has been an increase in the number of and proportion of female GPs in the region (131 to 142) and a marginal increase in the number of male GPs (165 to 168). The Southern Region continues to have the highest proportion of female GPs compared with the other two regions of the State.
- The average age of Southern Tasmanian GPs in 2006 is 49.5 years increasing from 48.7 years in 2005. This is slightly below the statewide average age of 49.7 years. The highest proportion of GPs in the Southern Region remains in the 45 to 54 year age group although there has been quite a significant increase in the number of GPs in the 55 to 64 year age group since Census 2005.
- 166 or 53.5% of practising GPs in Southern Tasmania obtained their initial medical qualification in Tasmania with a further 21.9% from other Australian States. This represents the highest proportion of Tasmanian graduates in the State. The Southern region also continues to have the lowest proportion of graduates from overseas countries practicing in the region.
- The average number of 3.5 hour sessions worked by Southern Tasmanian GPs in direct patient care during Census week 2006 was 6.6, falling marginally from 6.7 sessions in 2005. GPs in the Southern region continue work, on average, slightly fewer sessions per week than the statewide average of 6.8 sessions and fewer sessions per week than GPs in the North and North West regions of the State.
- The number of GPs in the Southern region working full time remained almost constant from 140 in 2005 to 141 in 2006. During the period there was a significant increase in the number of GPs working part time in the region and a reduction in the numbers on leave or absent from their usual practice during Census week. This is likely to reflect that those re-entering the workforce did so on a part time basis.
- The estimate of full-time equivalent GPs in the Southern Region has increased from 186.3 FTEs in 2005 to 195.4 FTEs in 2006. This reflects a general increase in workforce participation over the twelve-month period despite the marginal drop in average number of sessions.

## Northern Region

This region covers the 702 map area from Ross in the Northern Midlands to Flinders Island.

- During Census week 2006 there were 135 practising General Practitioners in Northern Tasmania representing an increase of 1 GP since Census week 2005.
- Of the 135 practising GPs in Northern Tasmania, 84 (62.2%) were male and 51 (37.8%) were female. Since Census 2005 there has been an increase in the number of and proportion of male GPs in the region (80 to 84) and a decrease in the number of female GPs (54 to 51).
- The average age of Northern Tasmanian GPs in 2006 is 51.9 years increasing from 50.8 years in 2005. This continues to be above the statewide average age of 49.7 years. The highest proportion of GPs in the Northern Region remains in the 45 to 54 year age group.
- 44 or 32.4% of practising GPs in Northern Tasmania obtained their initial medical qualification in Tasmania with a further 30.9% from other Australian States. This represents a smaller proportion of Tasmanian graduates than the statewide total.
- The average number of 3.5-hour sessions worked by Northern Tasmanian GPs in direct patient care during Census week 2006 was 7.3 increasing marginally from 7.2 sessions in 2005. GPs in the Northern region continue work, on average, more sessions per week than the statewide average of 6.8. In comparison with Census 2005, Northern GPs are now working this highest average number of sessions per week.
- The number of GPs in the Northern region working full time increased from 79 in 2005 to 85 in 2006. During the period there was also a marginal increase in the number of GPs working part time in the region and a reduction in the numbers on leave or absent from their usual practice during Census week. In the Northern Region those re-entering the workforce did so predominantly on a full-time basis.
- The estimate of full-time equivalent GPs in the Northern Region has increased from 94.5 FTEs in 2005 to 97.3 FTEs in 2006. This reflects a general increase in workforce participation over the twelve-month period accompanying the increase in the average number of sessions.

## North West Region

This region covers the 703 map area from the West Coast to King Island.

- During Census week 2006 there were 96 practising General Practitioners in North West Tasmania representing a decrease of 5 GPs since Census week 2005.
- Of the 96 practising GPs in North West Tasmania, 62 (64.6%) were male and 34 (35.4%) were female. Since Census 2005 there has been an increase in the number of and proportion of female GPs practicing in the region (31 to 34) and a decrease in the number of male GPs (70 to 62). The North West Region continues to have the highest proportion of male GPs compared with the other two regions of the State.
- The average age of North West Tasmanian GPs in 2006 is 49.0 years increasing from 48.7 years in 2005. This is below the statewide average age of 49.7 years. The highest proportion of GPs in the North West Region remains in the 45 to 54 year age group.
- 15 or 15.6% of practising GPs in North West Tasmania obtained their initial medical qualification in Tasmania with a further 16.7% from other Australian States. This represents the lowest proportion of Tasmanian graduates across the State. The highest proportion of graduates from overseas remains in the North West region at 61.4% compared with 26.0% statewide. There were 59 GPs from overseas countries in the region in Census week 2006 falling from 65 in 2005.
- The average number of 3.5-hour sessions worked by North West Tasmanian GPs in direct patient care during Census week 2006 was 6.9 decreasing considerably from 7.7 sessions during 2005. GPs in the North West region continue work slightly more sessions per week than the statewide average of 6.8 but this gap has narrowed significantly since 2005 when North West GPs worked the highest number of sessions in the State. In comparison with Census 2005, Northern GPs are now working this highest average number of sessions per week.
- The number of GPs in the North West region working full time fell from 69 in 2005 to 56 in 2006. During the period there was a significant increase in the number of GPs working part time in the region from 25 to 38 reflecting in part a reduction in the numbers on leave or absent from their usual practice during Census week.
- The estimate of full-time equivalent GPs in the North West Region has decreased from 76.2 FTEs in 2005 to 64.6 FTEs in 2006. This reflects a general reduction in workforce participation over the twelve-month period in the region.

# 1. GP Numbers

During Census week there were 541 practising General Practitioners in Tasmania representing an increase of 10 practising General Practitioners during the past 12 months.<sup>1</sup>

In the five years 2001 to 2006 there has been a net increase of 31 GPs statewide: 15 in the South, 12 in the North and 4 in the North West.

In the past 12 months, 14 practising General Practitioners have joined the workforce in the South, 1 in the North with 5 leaving the workforce in the North West.

The regional distribution of GPs is shown in Figure 1 and Table 1 below.

Figure 1

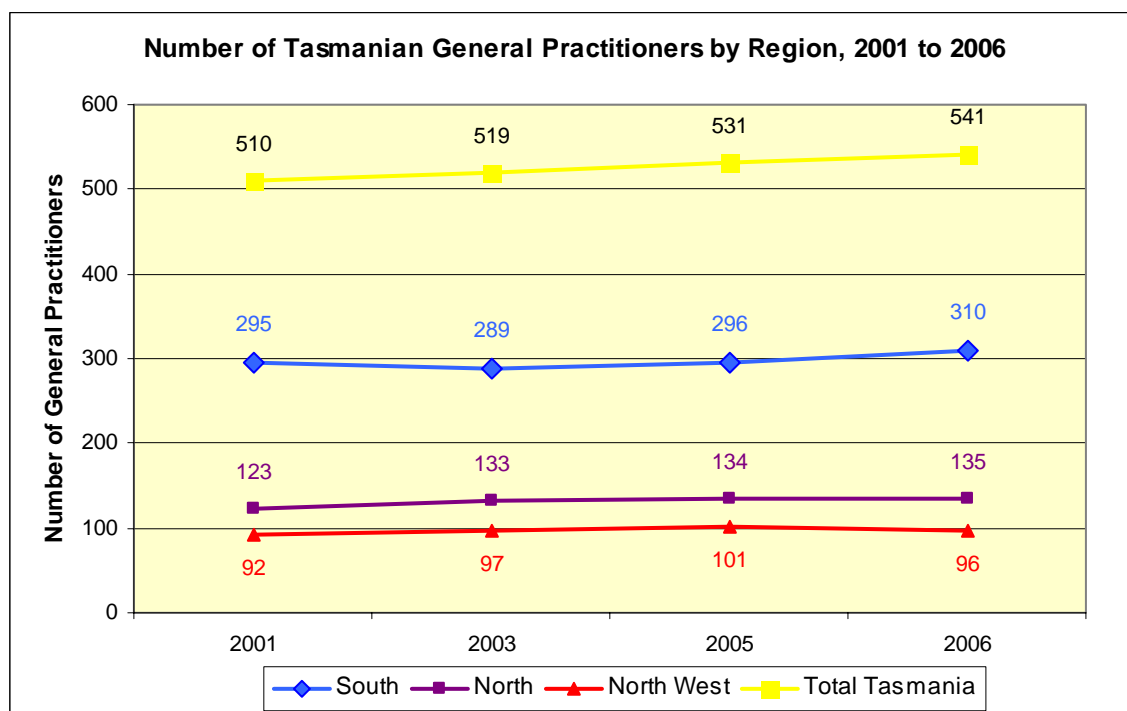


Table 1: Number of Tasmanian General Practitioners by Region

	2001	2003	2005	2006
South	295	289	296	310
North	123	133	134	135
North West	92	97	101	96
<b>Total Tasmania</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>541</b>

Source: Tasmanian GP Census 2005 and 2006, 2003 Tasmanian Divisions Statewide GP Database and 2001 Tasmanian Divisions Statewide Database

<sup>1</sup> There were a further 5 General Practitioners in the South of the State and 3 in the North who were “inactive” during the Census week meaning that they were not in practice at that time. These 8 inactive GPs have not been included in the workforce data because they are not part of the State’s GP workforce capacity in terms of the ability to service patient consultations.

## 2. Gender of Tasmania's GPs

Of the 541 practising General Practitioners in Tasmania in census week 2006, 314 (57.9%) were male and 227 (42.1%) were female.

Since 2001 there has been an increase in the number and proportion of female GPs and a very little change in the number of male GPs across the State.

Across the State in the 12 months since the 2005 Census, 7 new male practicing General Practitioners joined the workforce and 8 left while 14 new female practicing General Practitioners joined the workforce and 2 left.

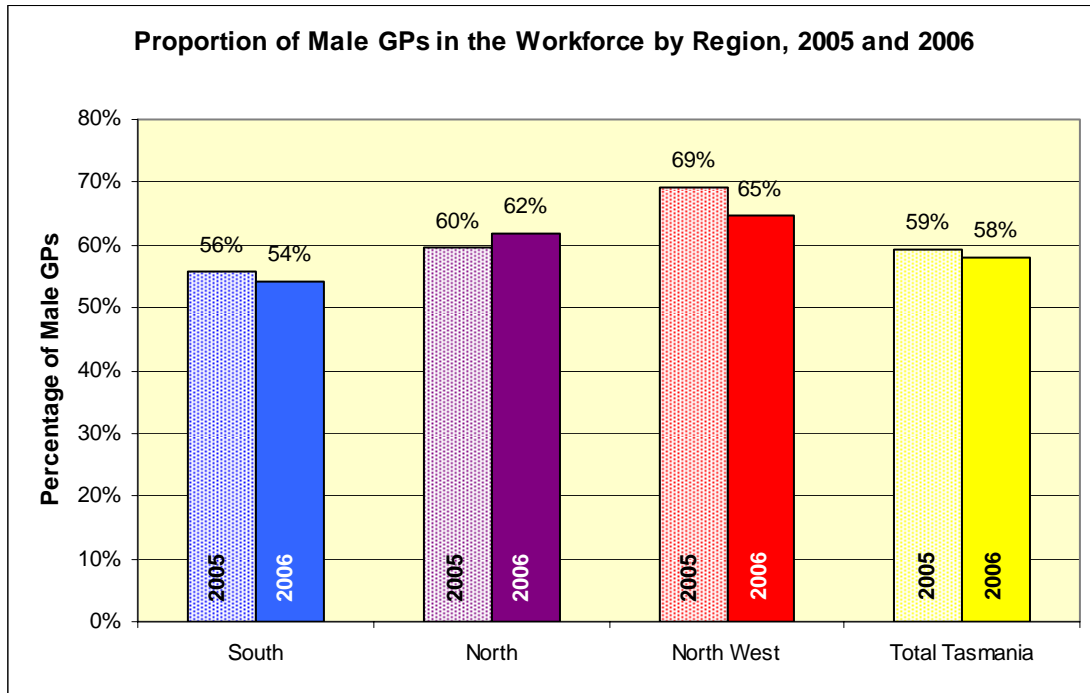
Changes in the three regions of the State have varied. In the South there was an increase in the proportion of female GPs and a reduction in the proportion of male GPs in the region. In contrast, in the North there was an increase in the proportion of males and a reduction in the proportion of female GPs in the region. In the North West, where there has been a reduction in GP numbers in the past 12 months, 8 male GPs have left the workforce and 3 female GPs have joined yielding a change in the gender balance in the North West region.

These trends and distributions are shown in Table 2 with the change in the proportion of males in each Region illustrated in Figure 2.

**Table 2: Gender of Tasmanian General Practitioners by Region**

		Male			Female		
Year:		2001	2005	2006	2001	2005	2006
<b>South</b>	No.	164	165	168	131	131	142
	%	55.6%	55.7%	54.2%	44.4%	44.3%	45.8%
<b>North</b>	No.	85	80	84	38	54	51
	%	69.1%	59.7%	62.2%	30.9%	40.3%	37.8%
<b>North West</b>	No.	65	70	62	27	31	34
	%	70.7%	69.3%	64.6%	29.3%	30.7%	35.4%
<b>Total Tasmania</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>227</b>
	%	61.6%	59.3%	57.9%	38.4%	40.7%	42.1%

Figure 2



### 3. Age of Tasmania’s GPs

The average age of Tasmanian GPs in 2006 was 49.7 years compared with 49.2 years in 2005.<sup>2</sup> In comparison to census week 2005, there was a drop in the numbers and proportion of GPs in the “less than 35 Years” and “45 to 54 Years” age groups with the “35 to 44 Years” age group remaining relatively stable. Accompanying this drop there has been a corresponding increase in the numbers of GPs in the “55 to 64 Years” and “65 Years and over” age groups. This trend has been anticipated given the largest cohort of Tasmanian GPs is in the “45 to 54 Years” age group.

Statewide the highest number of GPs remains in the “45 to 54 Years” age group. This is consistent across the Southern and Northern regions of the State but in the North West the proportion of GPs in the younger, 35 to 44 year age group is almost the same as the 45 to 54 year age group.

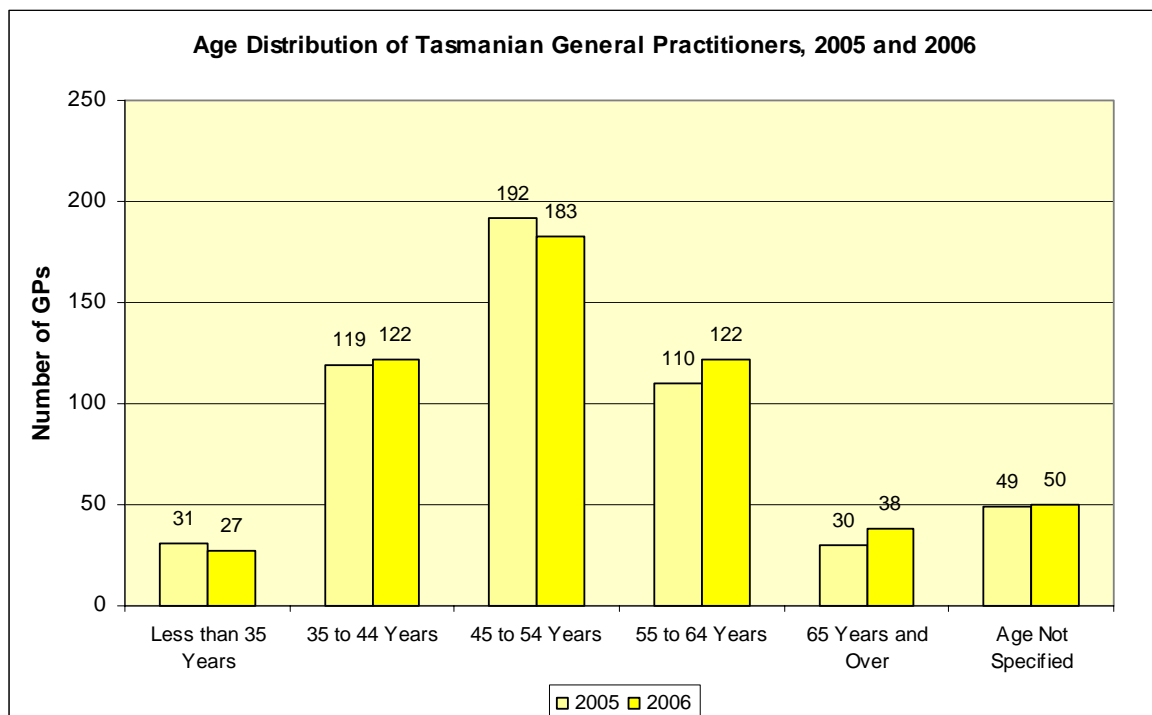
Of the GPs who responded to the question about their age, 38 (or 7%) indicated that they were aged 65 years and over which is beyond what is traditionally considered to be retirement age. This compares to 30 (or 5.6%) indicating they were aged 65 years and over in 2005.

Statewide there are higher proportions of female GPs in the two younger age groups and higher proportions of male GPs in the older age groups.

These higher proportions are consistent in the Southern and Northern regions of the State. In the North West, however, where there is a higher proportion of male GPs than the other two regions, across all age groups the proportion of males is higher than the proportion of females although national trends with GP registrar intakes suggest that this may reverse over time.

The distribution of Tasmanian GPs among the various age ranges is shown in Figure 3.1 and Table 3.1 with the variations across the State’s three regions provided in Figures 3.2 to 3.5.

Figure 3.1



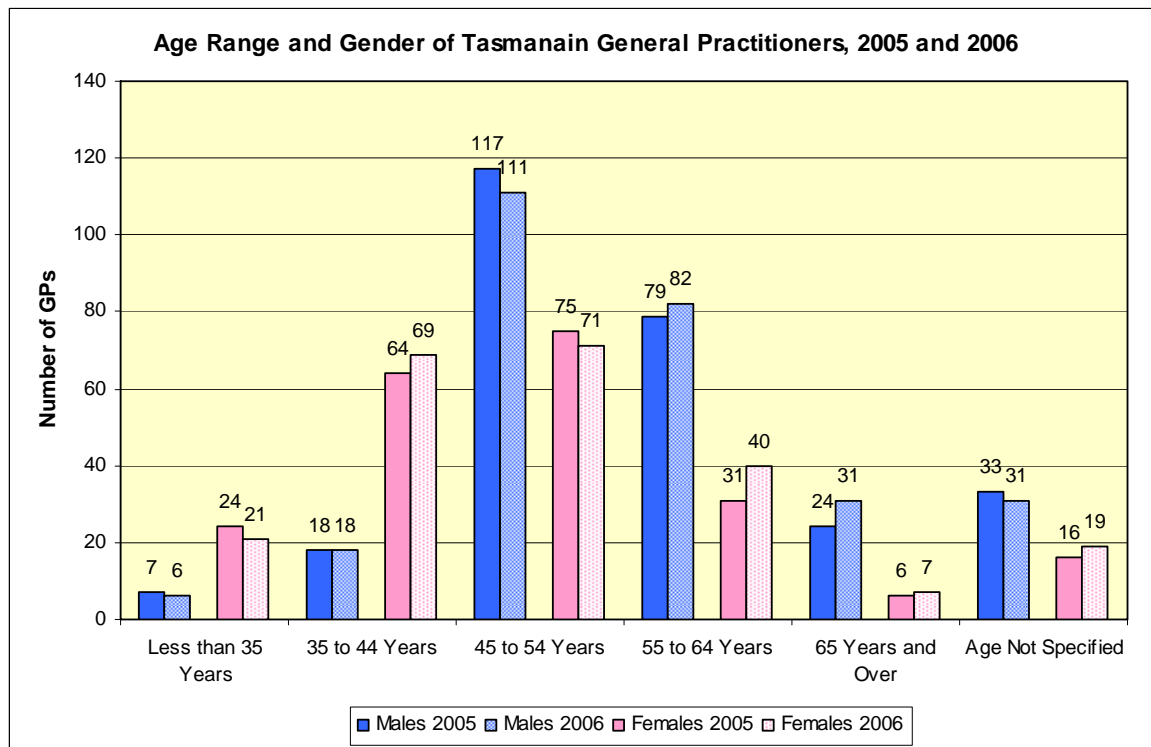
<sup>2</sup> This average age calculation does not include the 50 GPs (or 9.2%) who declined to provide their age.

**Table 3.1: Tasmanian GPs by Age Range and Gender 2005 and 2006**

	Male	Female	Total 2006	%	Total 2005	Change No. 2005 to 2006
Less than 35 Years	6	21	27	5.0%	31	-4
35 to 44 Years	53	69	122	22.5%	119	+3
45 to 54 Years	111	71	182	33.8%	192	-10
55 to 64 Years	82	40	122	22.5%	110	+12
65 Years and Over	31	7	38	7.0%	30	+8
Age Not Specified	31	19	50	9.2%	49	+1
<b>Total Statewide</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>+10</b>
<b>Average Age (Statewide)</b>			<b>49.7 years</b>		<b>49.2 years</b>	<b>-0.5 years</b>

Source: Tasmanian GP Census 2005 and 2006

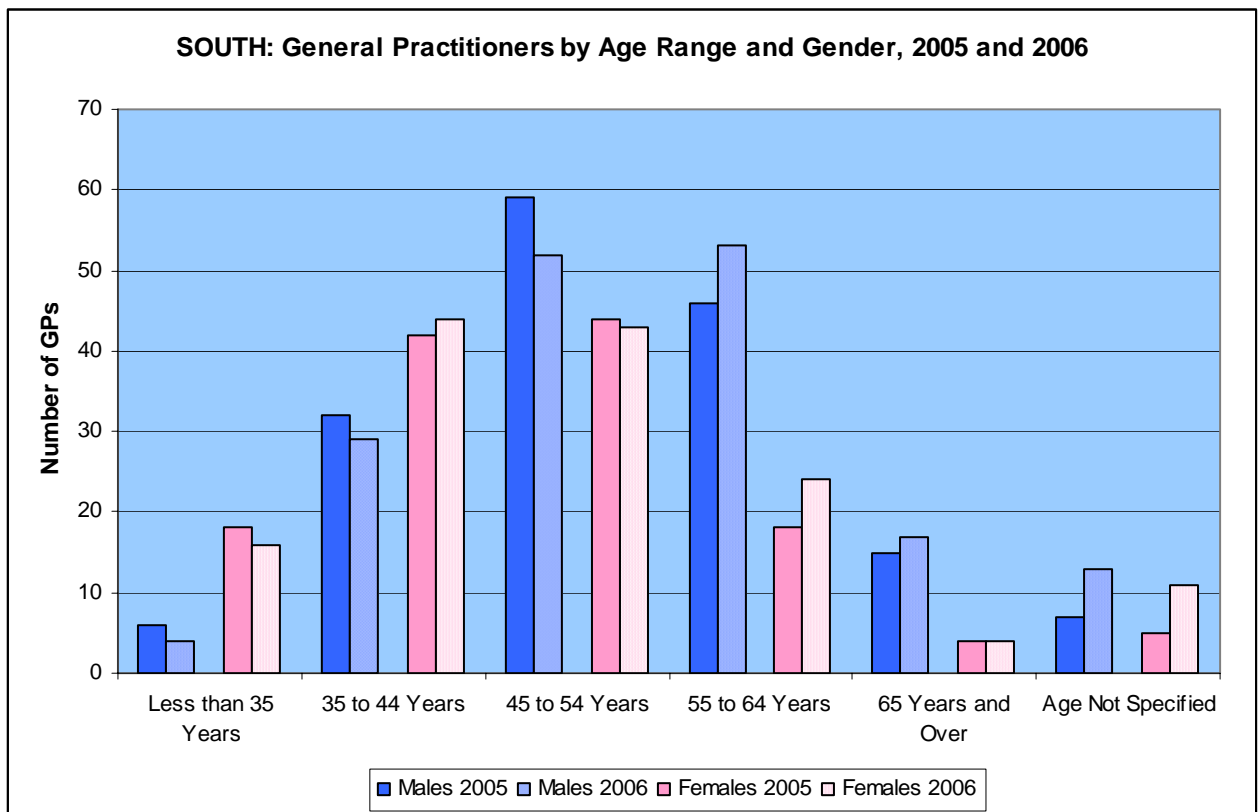
**Figure 3.2**



**Table 3.2: Southern GPs by Age Range and Gender 2005 and 2006**

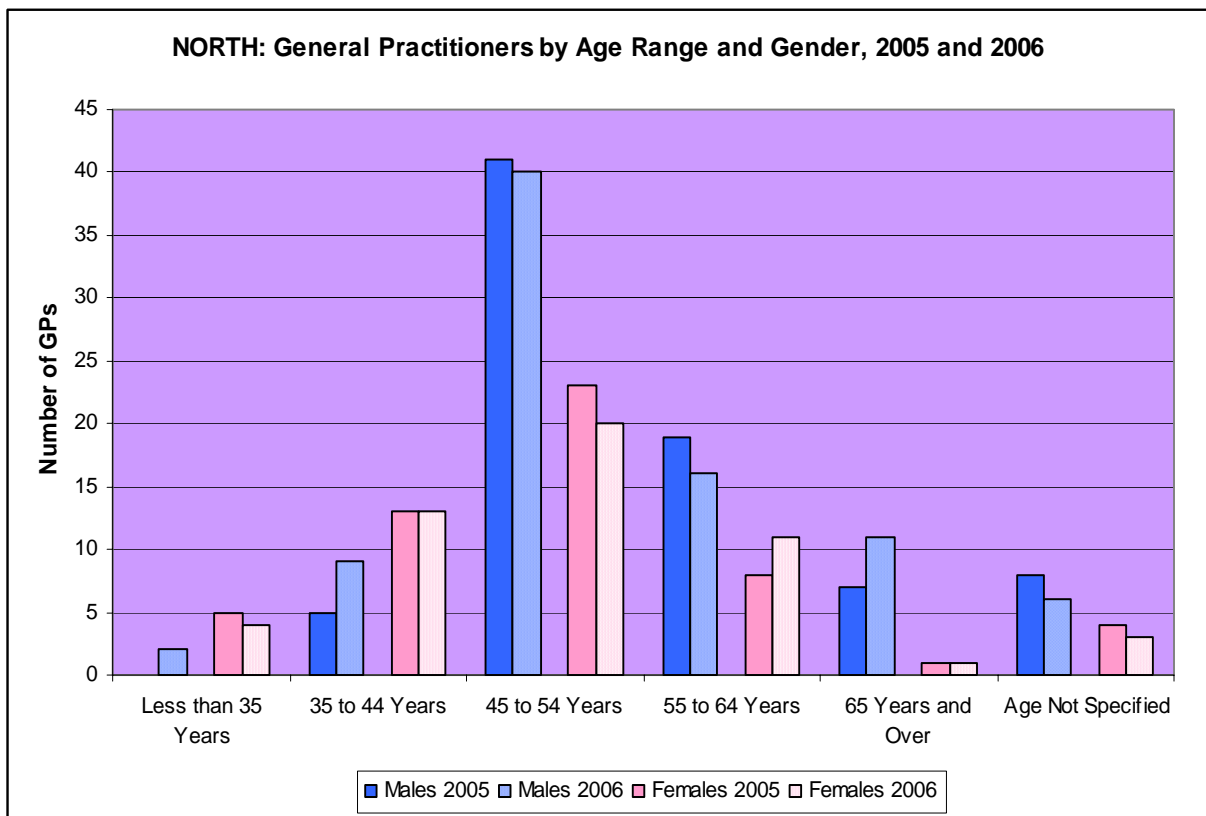
	Male	Female	Total 2006	%	Total 2005	Change No. 2005 to 2006
Less than 35 Years	4	16	20	6.5%	24	-4
35 to 44 Years	29	44	73	23.5%	74	-1
45 to 54 Years	52	43	95	30.6%	103	-8
55 to 64 Years	53	24	77	24.8%	64	+13
65 Years and Over	17	4	21	6.8%	19	+2
Age Not Specified	13	11	24	7.7%	12	+12
<b>Total South</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>+14</b>
<b>Average Age (South):</b>			<b>49.5 years</b>		<b>48.7 years</b>	<b>+0.8 years</b>

**Figure 3.3**



**Table 3.3: Northern GPs by Age Range and Gender 2005 and 2006**

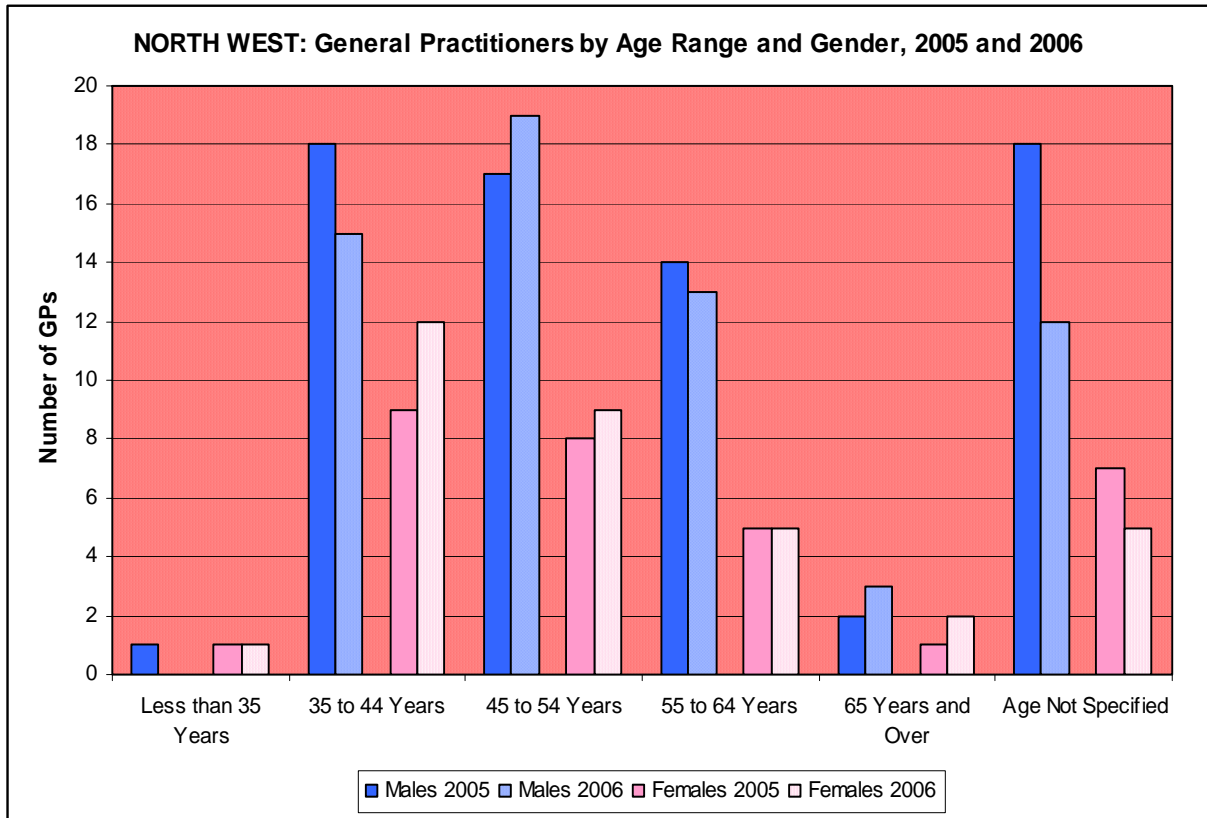
	Male	Female	Total 2006	%	Total 2005	Change No. 2005 to 2006
Less than 35 Years	2	4	6	4.4%	5	-1
35 to 44 Years	9	13	22	16.3%	18	+4
45 to 54 Years	40	20	59	43.7%	64	-5
55 to 64 Years	16	11	27	20.0%	27	0
65 Years and Over	11	1	12	8.9%	8	+4
Age Not Specified	6	3	9	6.7%	12	-3
<b>Total North</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>+1</b>
<b>Average Age (North):</b>			<b>51.9 years</b>		<b>50.8 years</b>	<b>+1.1 years</b>



**Table 3.4: North West GPs by Age Range and Gender 2005 and 2006**

	Male	Female	Total 2006	%	Total 2005	Change No. 2005 to 2006
Less than 35 Years	0	1	1	1.0%	2	-1
35 to 44 Years	15	12	27	28.1%	27	0
45 to 54 Years	19	9	28	29.2%	25	+3
55 to 64 Years	13	5	18	18.8%	19	-1
65 Years and Over	3	2	5	5.2%	3	+2
Age Not Specified	12	5	17	17.7%	25	-8
<b>Total North West</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>-5</b>
<b>Average Age (North West):</b>	<b>49.0 years</b>				<b>48.7 years</b>	<b>+0.3 years</b>

**Figure 3.5**



## 4. Place of Initial Medical Qualification

Table 4.1 and Figure 4.1 below show the place of initial qualification of Tasmania's 541 practising GPs. The highest proportion, 225 or 41.6%, obtained their initial medical qualification in Tasmania with a further 23.1% from other Australian States.

In the past 12 months there has been an increase in the number and proportion of Tasmanian and other Australian graduates entering the general practice workforce in the State with 18 additional Tasmanian graduates and 16 new graduates from other Australian States. However these observations may be at least in part as a result of the increase in the number of responders to this question (an additional 16 GPs recorded their place of initial medical qualification in comparison to 2005).

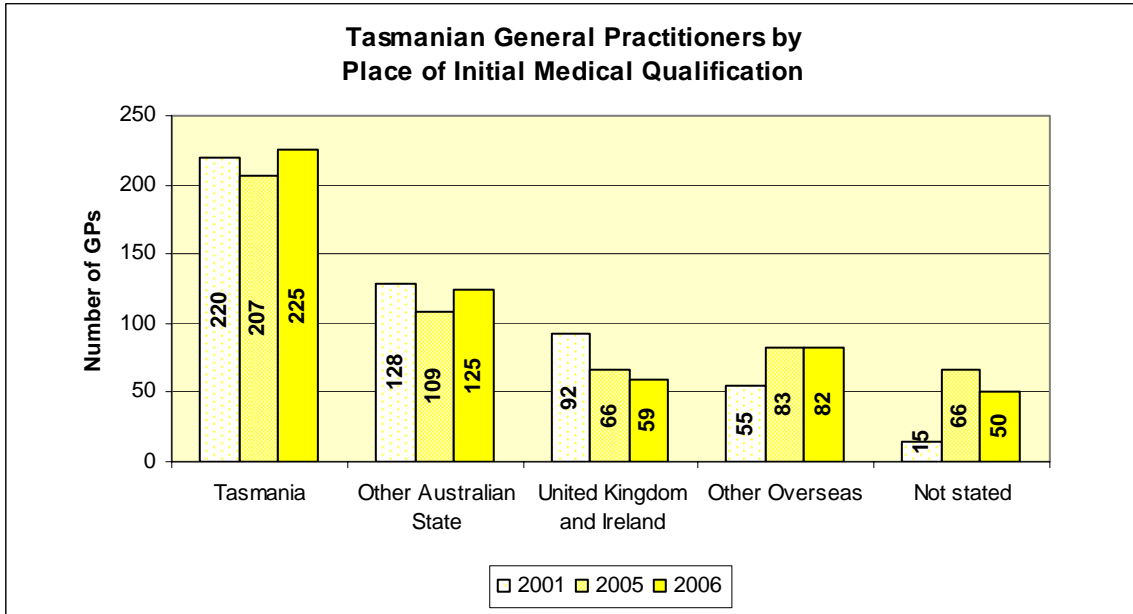
There has also been a slight decrease in the number and proportion of GPs qualified from overseas (the combined total of "UK/Ireland" and "Other Overseas") from 147 or 28.8% in 2001 to 141 or 26% in 2006. The country of origin has changed during the period with a fall in the number of GPs originally qualified in UK and Ireland. However, the high numbers of non-responders for this question (50) makes these observations inconclusive.

**Table 4.1: Tasmanian GPs by Place of Initial Medical Qualification**

Place of Initial Qualification	2001		2005		2006		2005 to 2006
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	Change (No.)
Tasmania	220	43.1%	207	39.0%	225	41.6%	+18
Other Australian State	128	25.1%	109	20.5%	125	23.1%	+16
United Kingdom and Ireland	92	18.0%	66	12.4%	59	10.9%	-7
Other Overseas	55	10.8%	83	15.6%	82	15.2%	-1
Not stated	15	2.9%	66	12.4%	50	9.2%	-16
<b>Total</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>+10</b>

Source: Tasmanian GP Census 2005 and 2006 and 2001 Tasmanian Divisions Statewide GP Database

Figure 4.1



Figures 4.2 to 4.4 show the comparisons of the place of initial medical qualification among the State's three regions. Both the Southern and the Northern regions continue to have the highest proportion of GPs who obtained their initial medical qualification in Tasmania. In the North West, however, the highest proportion obtained their initial medical qualification from overseas with this proportion having increased significantly since 2001.

**Table 4.2: Place of Initial Medical Qualification by Region**

Place of Initial Medical Qualification		2001		2005		2006	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>South</b>	Tasmania	155	52.5%	151	51.0%	166	53.5%
	Other Australian State	72	24.4%	55	18.6%	68	21.9%
	United Kingdom/Ireland	43	14.6%	28	9.5%	28	9.0%
	Other Overseas	22	7.5%	24	8.1%	21	6.8%
	Not stated	3	1.0%	38	12.8%	27	8.7%
<b>Total South</b>		<b>295</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>North</b>	Tasmania	50	40.7%	41	30.6%	44	32.4%
	Other Australian State	31	25.2%	36	26.9%	42	30.9%
	United Kingdom/Ireland	20	16.3%	15	11.2%	11	8.1%
	Other Overseas	14	11.4%	17	12.7%	22	16.2%
	Not stated	8	6.5%	25	18.7%	17	12.5%
<b>Total North</b>		<b>123</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>North West</b>	Tasmania	15	16.3%	15	14.9%	15	15.6%
	Other Australian State	25	27.2%	18	17.8%	16	16.7%
	United Kingdom/Ireland	29	31.5%	23	22.8%	20	20.8%
	Other Overseas	19	20.7%	42	41.6%	39	40.6%
	Not stated	4	4.3%	3	3.0%	6	6.3%
<b>Total North West</b>		<b>92</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Statewide</b>	Tasmania	220	43.1%	207	39.0%	225	41.5%
	Other Australian State	128	25.1%	109	20.5%	126	23.2%
	United Kingdom/Ireland	92	18.0%	66	12.4%	59	10.9%
	Other Overseas	55	10.8%	83	15.6%	82	15.1%
	Not stated	15	2.9%	66	12.4%	50	9.2%
<b>Total Tasmania</b>		<b>510</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Tasmanian GP Census 2005, 2006 and 2001 Tasmanian Divisions Statewide GP Database

Figures 4.2 to 4.4

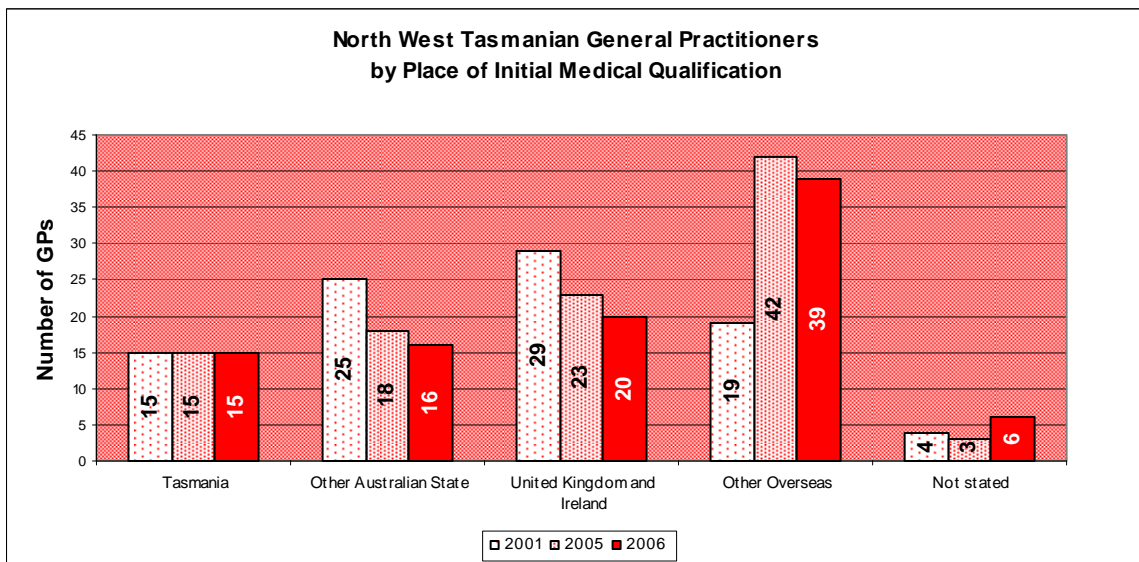
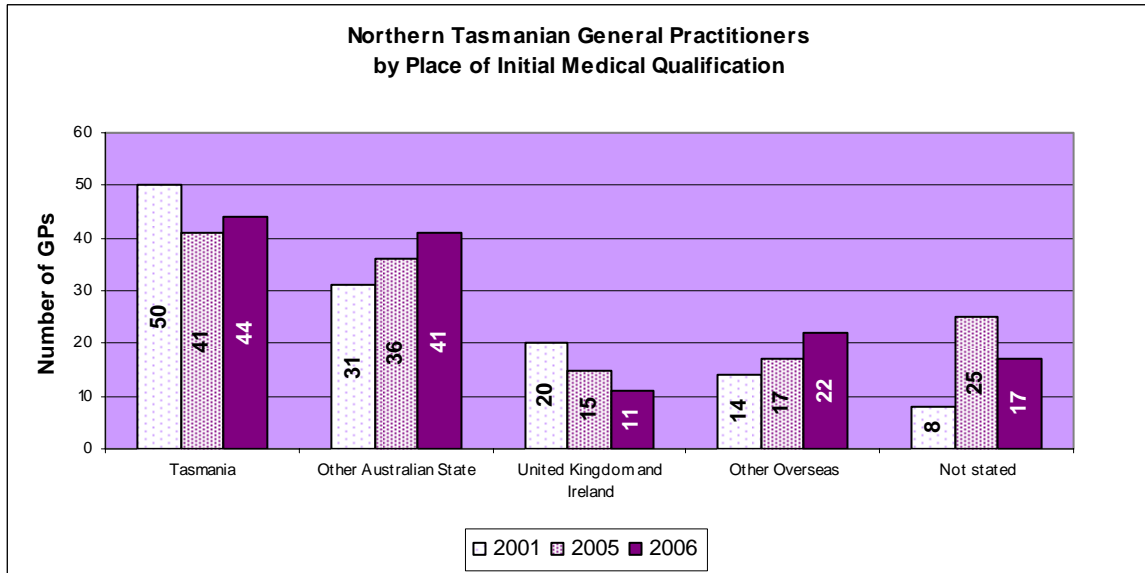
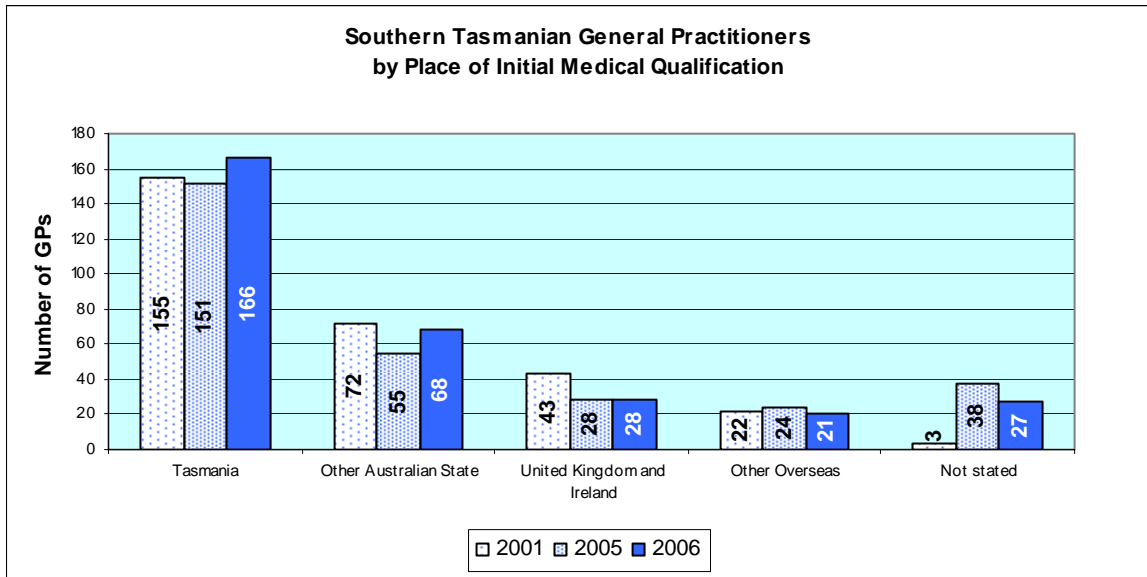


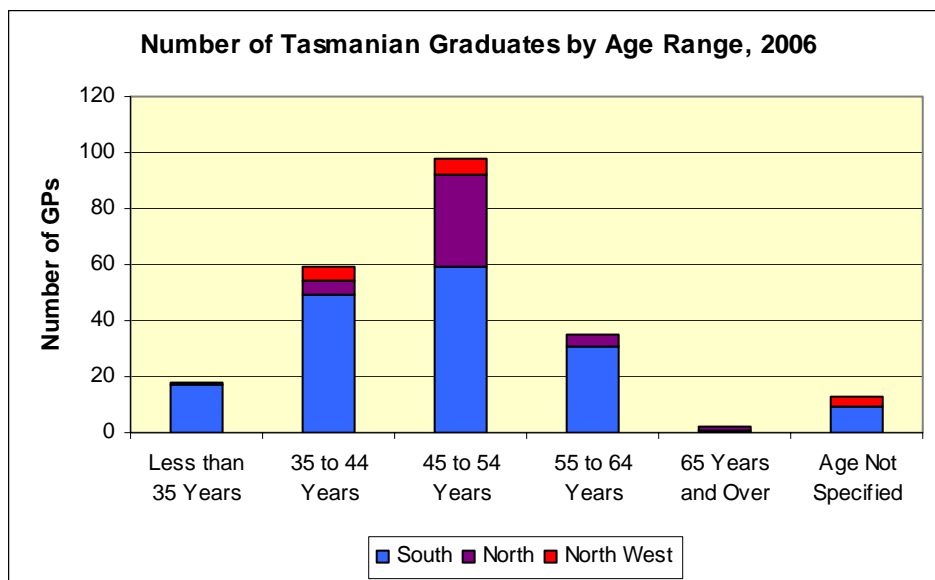
Table 4.3 below shows the age ranges of the 225 GPs who obtained their initial medical qualification in Tasmania. The highest numbers of Tasmanian graduates continues to be in the in 45 to 54 years age range but as a proportion of the total number of GPs in the age range, the highest representation is in the youngest age range. This is illustrated in Figures 4.5 and 4.6.

**Table 4.3: Tasmanian Graduates by Age Range 2006**

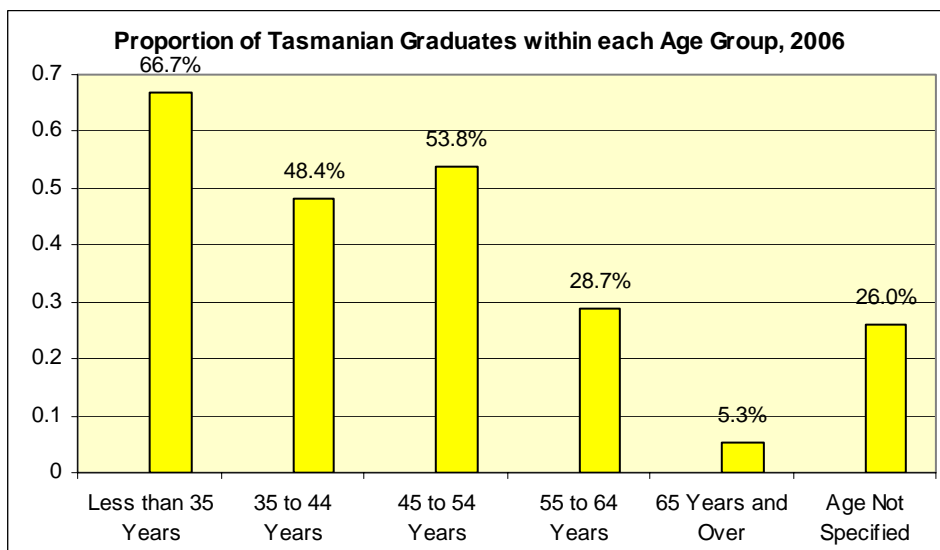
	South	North	North West	Total	As % of Total Number of GPs in Age Group
Less than 35 Years	17	1	0	<b>19</b>	61.3%
35 to 44 Years	49	5	5	<b>56</b>	47.1%
45 to 54 Years	59	33	6	<b>98</b>	51.0%
55 to 64 Years	31	4	0	<b>28</b>	25.5%
65 Years and Over	1	1	0	<b>0</b>	0.0%
Age Not Specified	9	0	4	<b>6</b>	12.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>39.0%</b>

Source: Tasmanian GP Census 2006

**Figure 4.5**



**Figure 4.6**



## 5. Workforce Participation

The following information relates to the number of 3.5-hour sessions that GPs indicated that they spent consulting with patients (including patient notes, referrals, home visits and hospital work) during the Census week in 2005 and 2006.

**Table 5.1: Estimated Time GPs Spent Consulting with Patients 2005, 2006**

Number of 3.5 hour Sessions Per Week (1)	2005		2006		Change	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>10 or more</b>	117	22.0%	97	17.9%	<b>-20</b>	<b>-4.1%</b>
<b>9</b>	83	15.6%	91	16.8%	8	1.2%
<b>8</b>	88	16.6%	93	17.2%	5	0.6%
<b>7</b>	33	6.2%	38	7.0%	5	0.8%
<b>6</b>	47	8.9%	50	9.2%	3	0.3%
<b>5</b>	40	7.5%	42	7.8%	2	0.2%
<b>4</b>	35	6.6%	35	6.5%	0	0.0%
<b>3</b>	22	4.1%	22	4.1%	0	0.0%
<b>2</b>	14	2.6%	28	5.2%	14	2.6%
<b>1</b>	2	0.4%	5	0.9%	3	0.5%
<b>0</b>	25	4.7%	23	4.3%	<b>-2</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>
<b>Not Applicable</b> (2)	25	4.7%	17	3.1%	<b>-8</b>	<b>-1.6%</b>
	<b>531</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	11	
<b>Average Number of Sessions*</b>	<b>7.1</b>		<b>6.8</b>		<b>-0.3 sessions</b>	

(1) This is the GP's own estimate of the amount of time spent in consulting with patients during the Census Week

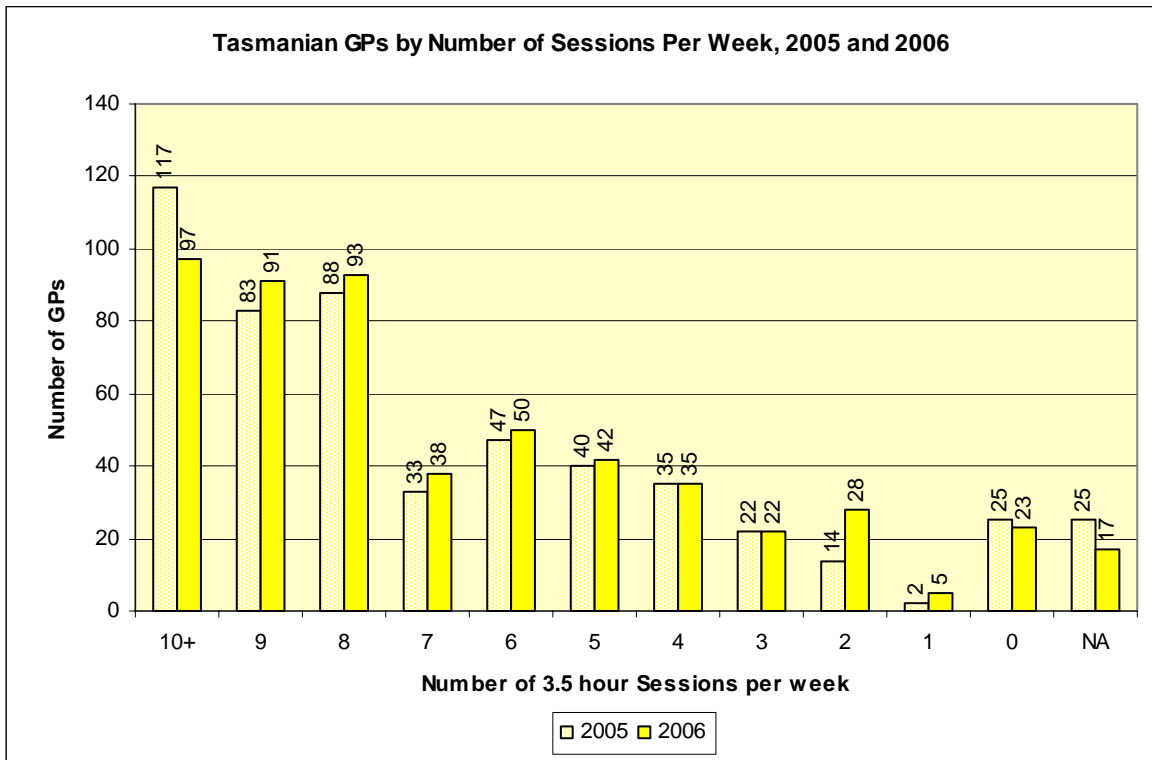
(2) Not Applicable includes those GPs who were either on leave or not performing a patient consultation role during the census week

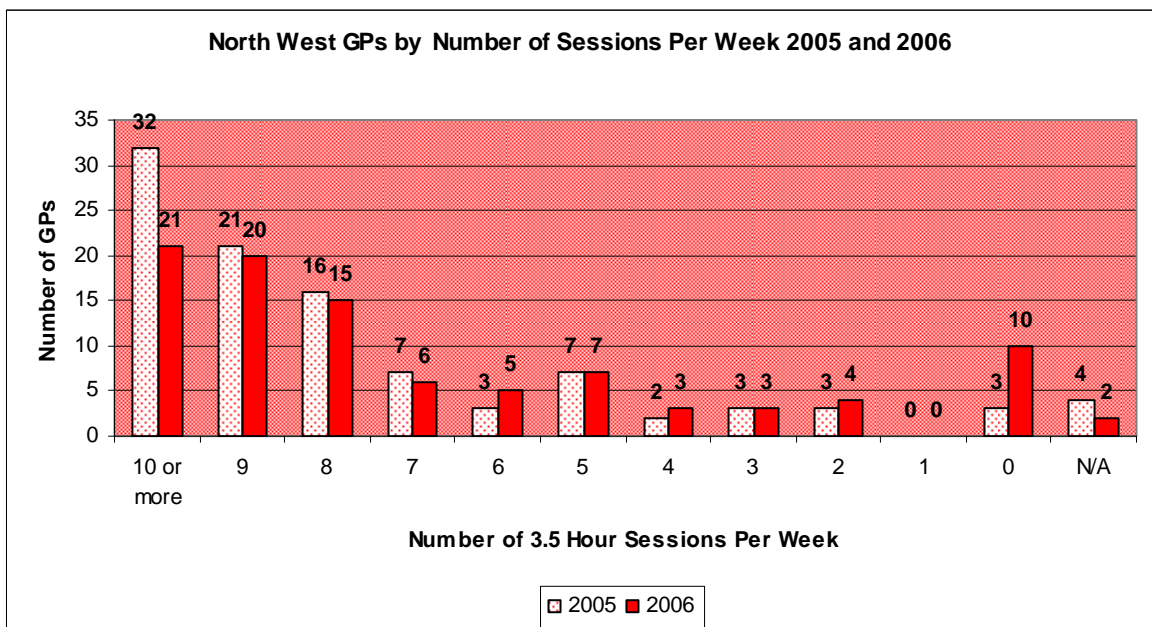
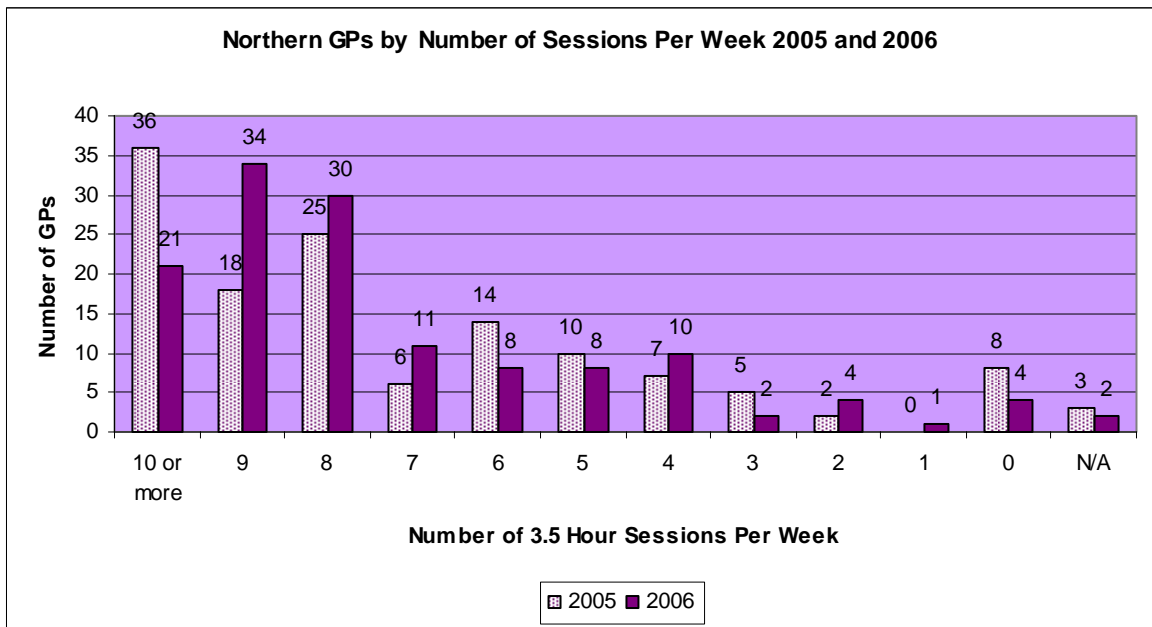
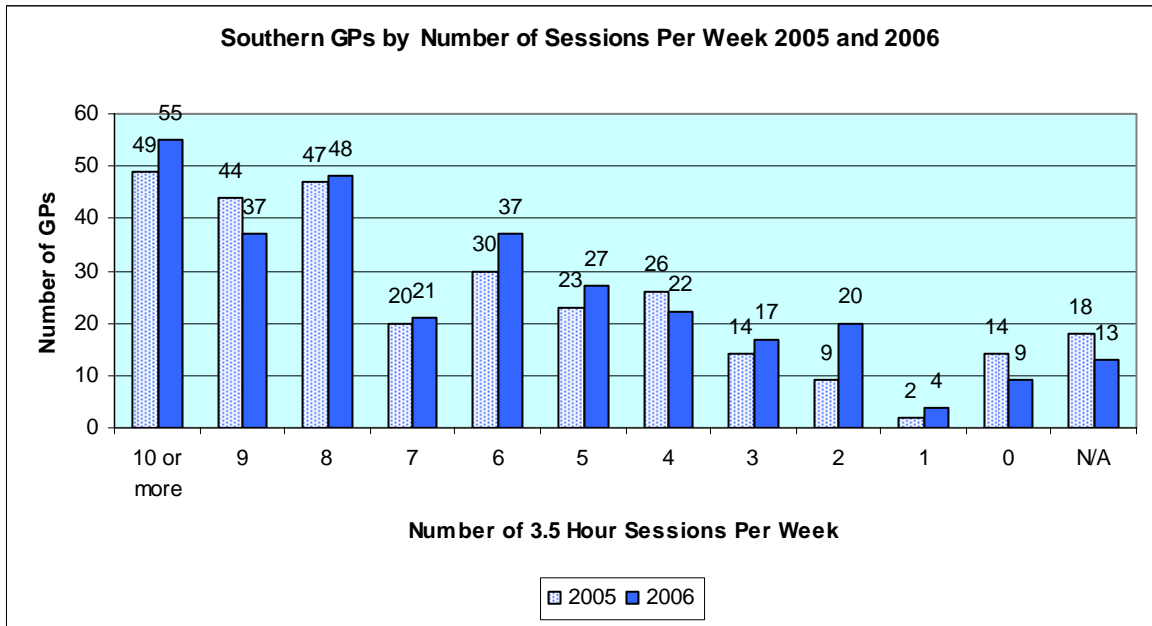
\* average number of sessions is calculated excluding those GPs on leave or not performing a patient consultation role during Census week

Source: Tasmanian GP Census 2005, 2006

The average number of sessions statewide during Census week was 6.8 compared with 7.1 during 2005. This drop has resulted from a reduction in the number of GPs working 10 or more sessions per week that has not been offset by the increase in workforce participation among other groups.

Figure 5.1





The average number of sessions per week by region is shown in Table 5.2.

**Table 5.2: Average Number of Sessions Per Week by Region**

	2005	2006	Change
South	6.7	6.6	-0.1
North	7.2	7.3	+0.1
North West	7.7	6.9	-0.8
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>-0.3</b>

Source: Tasmanian GP Census 2005 and 2006

The average number of 3.5-hour sessions per week dropped statewide between 2005 and 2006. At a regional level, in 2006 GPs in the North worked on average 0.5 more sessions than the statewide average, in the North West 0.1 sessions more than the statewide average and in the South 0.2 sessions less than the statewide average. This compares with 2005 data that showed GPs in the North West worked on average 0.6 more sessions than the statewide average, in the North 0.1 sessions more than the statewide average and in the South 0.4 sessions less than the statewide average.

The most significant change in 2006 being the drop in the average number of sessions for GPs in the North West from 7.7 per week to 6.9 per week. The average number of sessions in the South and North changed marginally decreasing by 0.1 per week in the South and increasing by 0.1 per week in the North.

Table 5.2 and Figure 5.2 below provides the number of sessions by gender and shows that, among the 281 GPs working 8 sessions or more per week (51.9% of the workforce), 202 are male and 69 are female. The average number of sessions per week for female GPs in Tasmania is 5.9 compared with the average for males of 7.5.

**Table 5.2: Estimated Time Spent Consulting with Patients by Gender 2006**

Number of 3.5 hour Sessions Per Week <sup>(1)</sup>	No. of Male GPs	No. of Female GPs	Total
<b>10 or more</b>	77	20	<b>97</b>
<b>9</b>	67	24	<b>91</b>
<b>8</b>	58	35	<b>93</b>
<b>7</b>	19	19	<b>38</b>
<b>6</b>	18	32	<b>50</b>
<b>5</b>	16	26	<b>42</b>
<b>4</b>	13	22	<b>35</b>
<b>3</b>	4	18	<b>22</b>
<b>2</b>	14	14	<b>28</b>
<b>1</b>	1	4	<b>5</b>
<b>0</b>	13	10	<b>23</b>
<b>Not Applicable <sup>(2)</sup></b>	14	3	<b>19</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>541</b>
<b>Average Number of Sessions *</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>6.8</b>

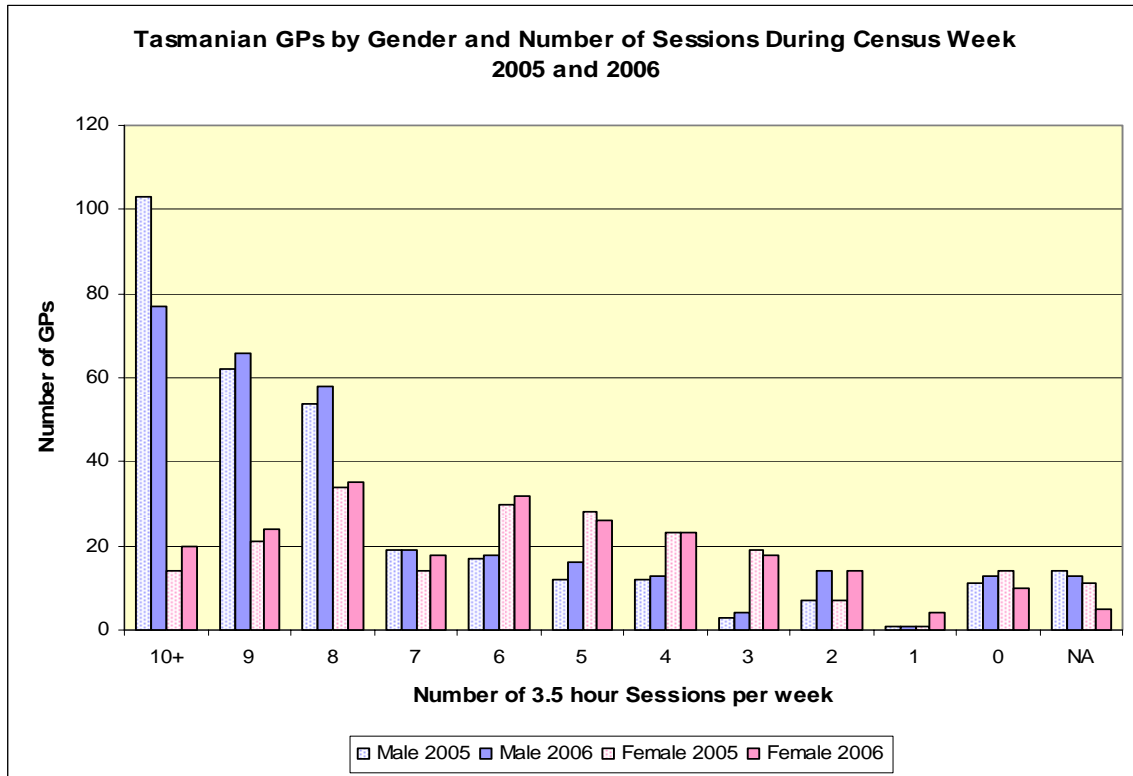
<sup>(1)</sup> This is the GP's own estimate of the amount of time spent in consulting with patients during the Census Week

<sup>(2)</sup> Not Applicable includes those GPs who were either on leave or not performing a patient consultation role during the census week

\* The average number of sessions is calculated excluding those GPs on leave or not performing a patient consultation role during the census week

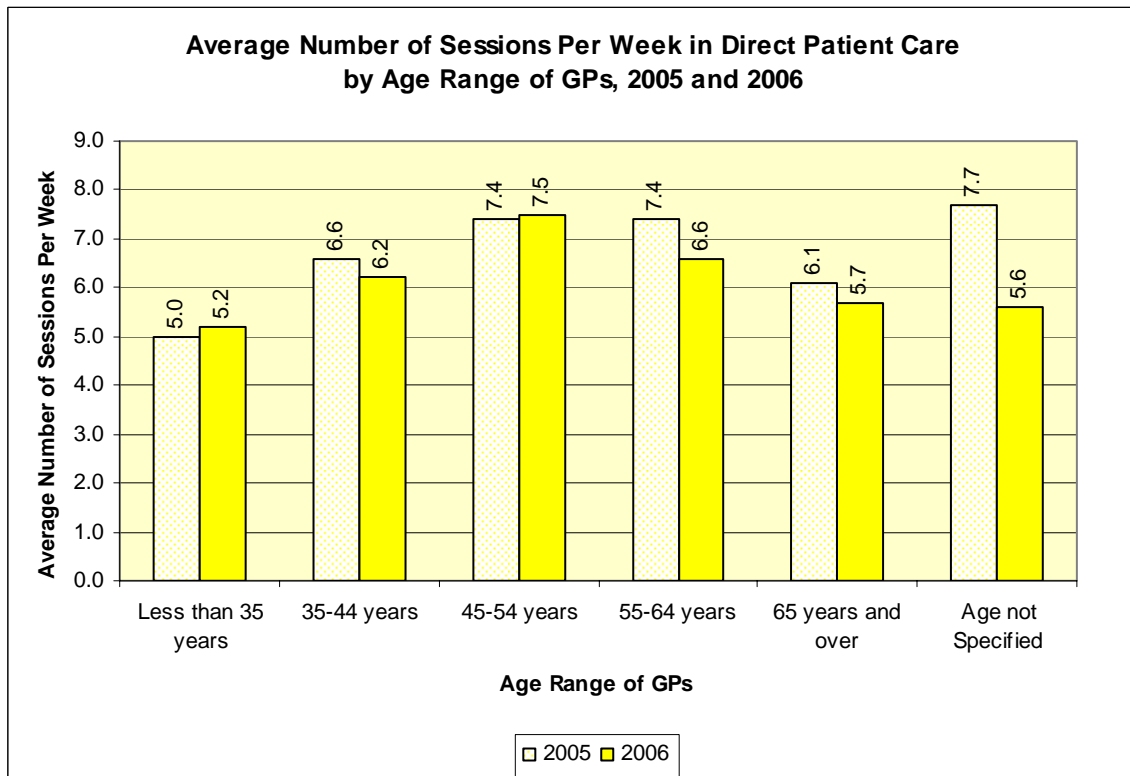
Source: Tasmanian GP Census 2006

Figure 5.2



The average number of sessions by age range of GPs is shown in Figure 5.3 with the highest workforce participation being among the 45-54 and 55-64 years age ranges.

Figure 5.3



Applying the rule that GPs undertaking 8 or more sessions per week are full time yields the results shown in Table 5.3 and Figure 5.3. On this basis 52.1% of Tasmania's practising GPs were full time and 44.7% were part time during Census week 2006. This represents an increase in the proportion of GPs that reported they were working part-time since Census week 2005.

**Table 5.3: Number and Proportion of GPs working Full-time and Part-time by Region 2006**

		Full-Time <sup>(1)</sup>		Part-Time <sup>(2)</sup>		Other <sup>(3)</sup>		Total	
		2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
<b>South</b>	No.	140	141	124	156	32	13	<b>296</b>	<b>310</b>
	%	47.3%	45.5%	41.9%	50.3%	10.8%	4.2%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>North</b>	No.	79	85	44	48	11	2	<b>134</b>	<b>135</b>
	%	59.0%	63.0%	32.8%	35.6%	8.2%	1.5%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>North West</b>	No.	69	56	25	38	7	2	<b>101</b>	<b>96</b>
	%	68.3%	58.3%	24.8%	39.6%	6.9%	2.1%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>Statewide</b>	No.	<b>288</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>541</b>
	%	<b>54.2%</b>	<b>52.1%</b>	<b>36.3%</b>	<b>44.7%</b>	<b>9.4%</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

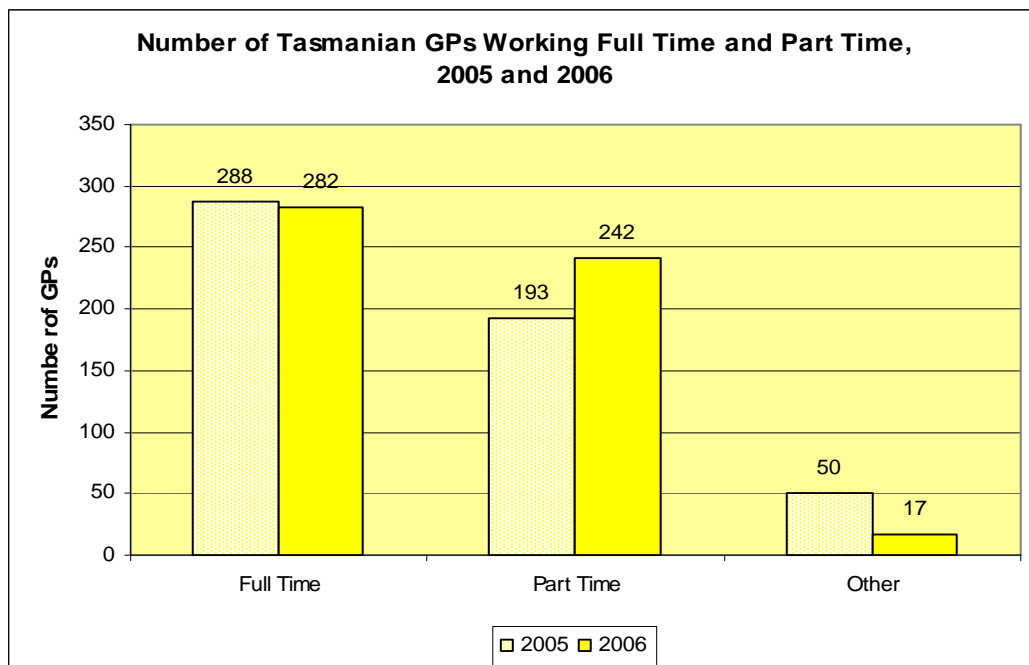
<sup>(1)</sup> includes those GPs who indicated they worked 8 or more 3.5 hour sessions in direct patient care during the Census Week

<sup>(2)</sup> includes those GPs who indicated they worked less than 8, 3.5 hour sessions in direct patient care during the Census Week

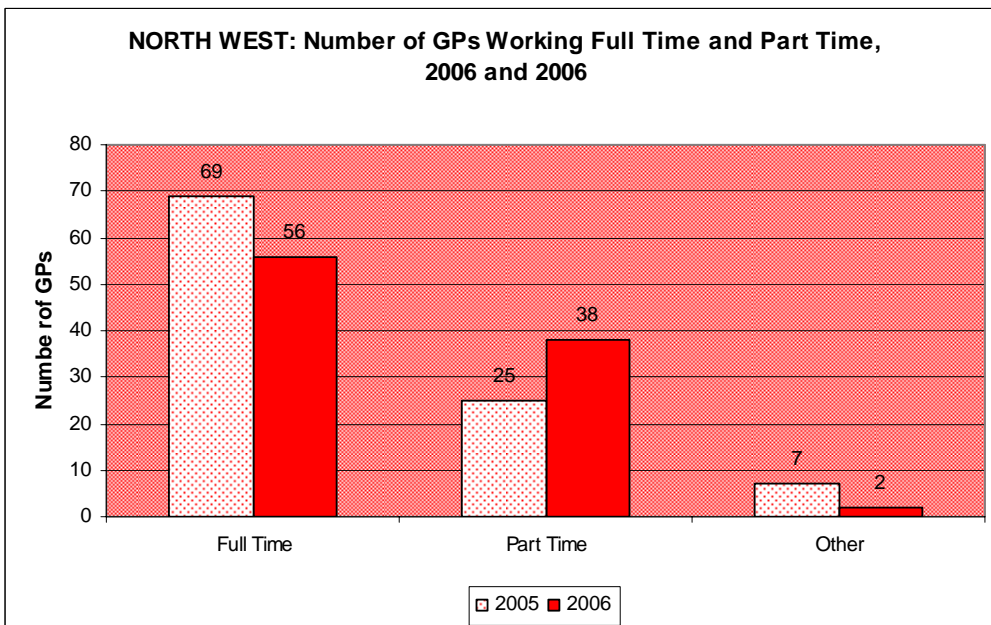
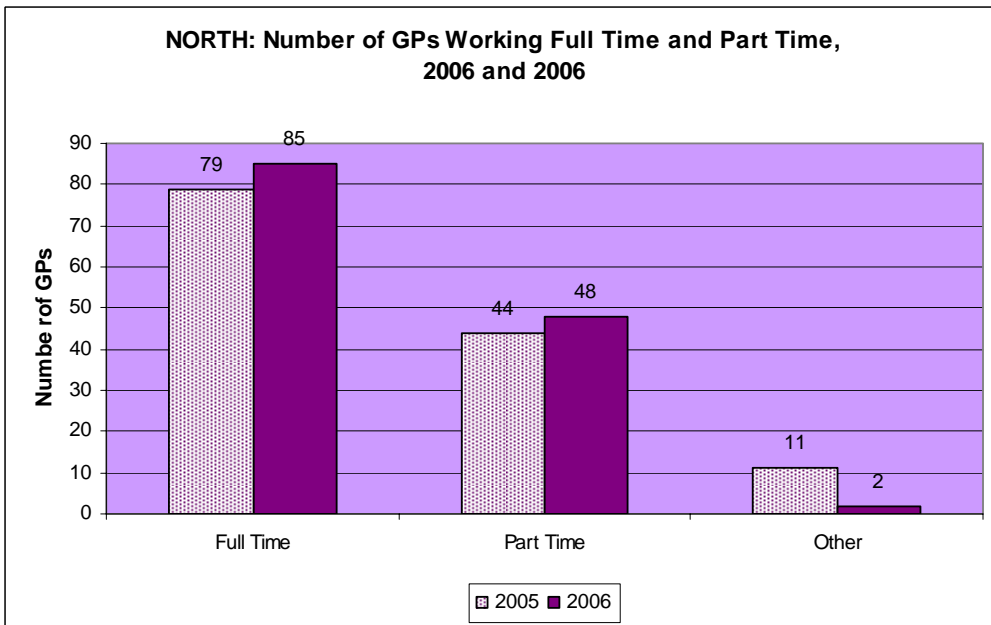
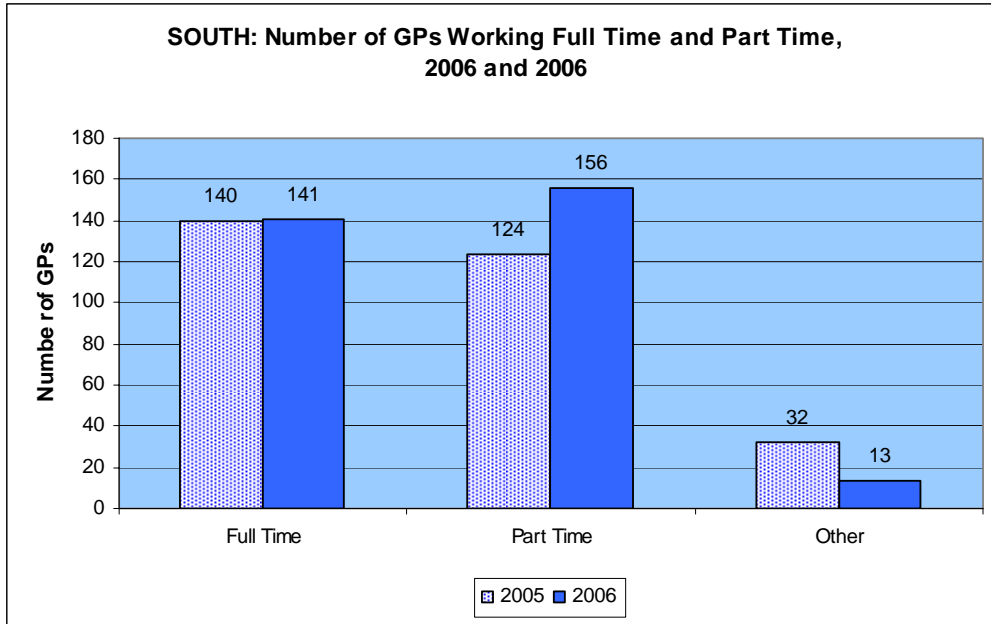
<sup>(3)</sup> 'Other' includes GPs on leave or otherwise absent from their usual practice during the Census week

Source: 2006 Tasmanian GP Census

**Figure 5.4**



Regional comparisons shown in the following Figures 5.5 to 5.7 indicate that a greater proportion of GPs are working full time in the North and North West than the South of the State. This is consistent with the gender distribution in these regions.



## 6. Full-Time Equivalent GPs

Table 6 shows the number (headcount) of GPs in each region of the State compared with the Full-Time Equivalent number of GPs in each region. FTE GPs are calculated on the basis of the number of sessions they reported to have worked during Census week. 10 or more sessions per week is assumed to be 1.0 FTE and lower numbers of sessions are assumed to be a fraction of the full-time equivalent (ie 9 sessions 0.9 FTE, 8 sessions 0.8 FTE and so on).

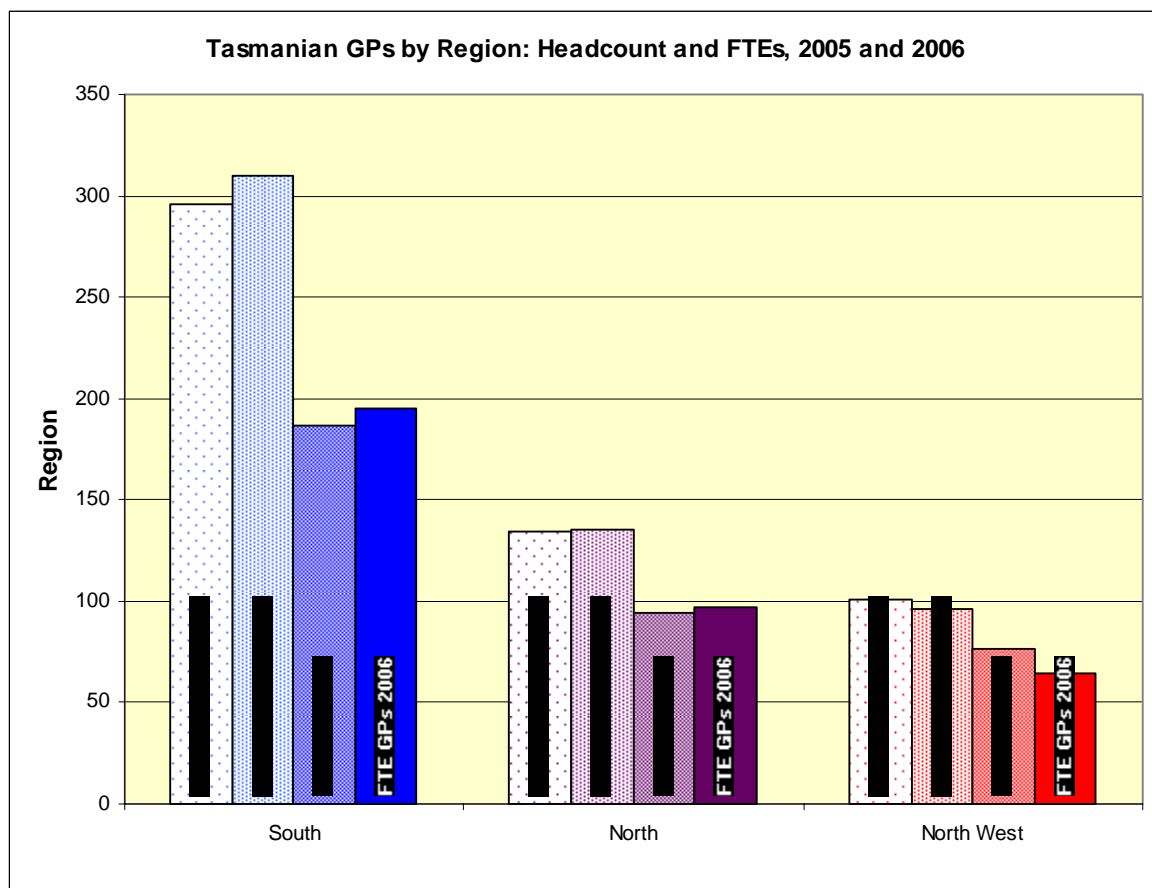
Between Census 2005 and Census 2006 despite an increase in the numbers of GPs the number of full-time equivalent GPs has stayed almost constant on a statewide basis although the change has varied between regions. This reflects the reduction in the average number of sessions during the 12 month period.

**Table: 6 Tasmanian GP Numbers: Headcount and Full-Time Equivalent GPs, 2005 and 2006**

	Number of GPs 2005	Number of GPs 2006	FTE GPs <sup>(1)</sup> 2005	FTE GPs <sup>(1)</sup> 2006
South	296	310	186.3	195.4
North	134	135	94.5	97.3
North West	101	96	76.2	64.6
<b>Total Tasmania</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>357.0</b>	<b>357.3</b>

(1) FTE GPs are calculated on the basis of the number of sessions they reported to have worked in Census week. 10 or more sessions is assumed to be 1.0 FTE and lower numbers of sessions at a fraction of the full-time equivalent (ie 9 sessions 0.9 FTE, 8 sessions 0.8 FTE and so on)

**Figure 6**



## 7. GPs by RRMA Classification

The distribution of GPs by Rural and Remote Area (RRMA) Classification is shown in Table 7 and Figure 7.

**Table 7: Number of Tasmanian General Practitioners by RRMA Classification 2005**

RRMA Classification	2005	2006
1	265	274
2	0	0
3	80	78
4	50	49
5	132	138
6	0	0
7	3	2
Not Applicable *	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>541</b>

\*Not applicable relates to one GP who, during census week, was a locum and not attached to a practice.

Source: Tasmanian GP Census 2005 and 2006

**Figure 7**

