Paediatrician

Summary Of Occupation

Paediatricians provide care for children from birth to early adulthood across the health of infants, children, and teenagers. They specialise in diagnosing and treating a range of ailments including day-to-day illnesses, minor injuries and infectious diseases.

A paediatrician's day may involve emergency work dealing with life threatening conditions such as cystic fibrosis to simply comforting worried parents who have brought their child to hospital about a minor ailment.

There are approximately 79 paediatricians currently practising in Western Australia. The majority are spread across the metropolitan area however there are several located in larger regional centres.
Knowledge Skills and Attributes

A paediatrician needs:

- in depth knowledge of physiology, pathology, pharmacology and paediatric medicine and surgery
- knowledge to diagnose and treat childhood injuries, diseases and illnesses
- a desire to serve children (and parents) and a compassion towards others
- to be able to engage children and gain their trust
- to be able to handle the pressures and long hours of medical practice
- an excellent bedside manner
- exceptional communication skills
- emotional stability and the self confidence to make decisions in emergencies
- a willingness to continue to keep up with medical advances
- to be an astute observer of the entire gamut of biopsychosocial issues affecting the children in their care

Working Conditions

Most paediatricians practice in private or public settings or in a combination of the two. They usually work at least 50 hours a week with on-call responsibilities.

Salary Details

On average, paediatricians can expect to earn between $3,574 and $3,941 per week ($185,895 and $204,950 per year), depending on the organisation they work for, and their level of experience.

Tools and Technologies

Paediatricians need to be familiar with a variety of medical tools including:

- forceps and clamps
- laryngoscopes (infant)
- medical oxygen masks (neonate, infant, child)

Technologies include databases and medical software.
**Education and Training Entrance Requirements**

To become a paediatrician, you must first become a qualified medical practitioner and then specialise in paediatrics.

To become a medical practitioner, you need to study a degree in medicine. Alternatively, you can study a degree in any discipline followed by a postgraduate degree in medicine.

Some universities in Western Australia offer relevant courses. Contact the universities you are interested in for more information. [Learn more about your study options.](#)

To then specialise in paediatrics, doctors can apply to the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) to undertake further training and ultimately receive fellowship.

To be eligible for this specialist training, on completion of your medical degree, you must work in the public hospital system for a minimum of two years (internship and residency).

To work as a paediatrician in Western Australia, you will need to obtain registration from the [Medical Board of Australia](#). You will also need to obtain a Working with Children Check (WWCC) from the [Department of Communities](#) and obtain a National Police Certificate.