Sonography
Workforce modelling factsheet

Sonographers are highly trained medical imaging practitioners that perform specialised diagnostic investigations using an ultrasound machine (Australasian Sonographers Association, 2018). Ultrasound tests are used to diagnose and guide management of medical conditions. Sonographers capture and record sonographic images while tailoring the examination based on the anatomical and physiological characteristics of a patient. They are responsible for patient care, assessment, communication to the patient/family and subsequent actions based on the examination. Sonographers also assist the radiologist by generating a written interim report exploring diagnoses for the radiologist's reference. Sonography training pathways can be as dual qualified radiographers or sonographer qualifications only.

Workforce characteristics for NSW Health sonography workforce in 2040

994	**69.5%**	**29.5**	**45.1**	**11.6%**	**3.4%**
Headcount	Female	Work hours per week	Years average age	Future 60+	Aboriginal workforce target

Demand is expected to grow **2.8%** (low demand scenario) to **3.4%** (high demand scenario).

Workforce modelling indicates the need to grow the NSW sonography workforce by around **14** to **21** new professionals per annum to meet community need in 2040 across both demand scenarios.

SIGNIFICANT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Notes

- Data included is limited to the workforce employed under the relevant health professional award.
- Specialty health networks are not displayed geographically in the workforce distribution maps.
- LHD/SHN may engage in sessional arrangements in selected circumstances.
- Workforce that cannot be aligned to a physical location have been attributed to a pre-determined facility within each LHD/N. This may impact on Headcount shown at these facilities within the distribution map.
- NSW Health does not make any representations or warranties whether expressed or implied with respect to the accuracy and completeness of the information contained in the fact sheet.

Projected FTE growth for NSW Health sonography workforce to 2040
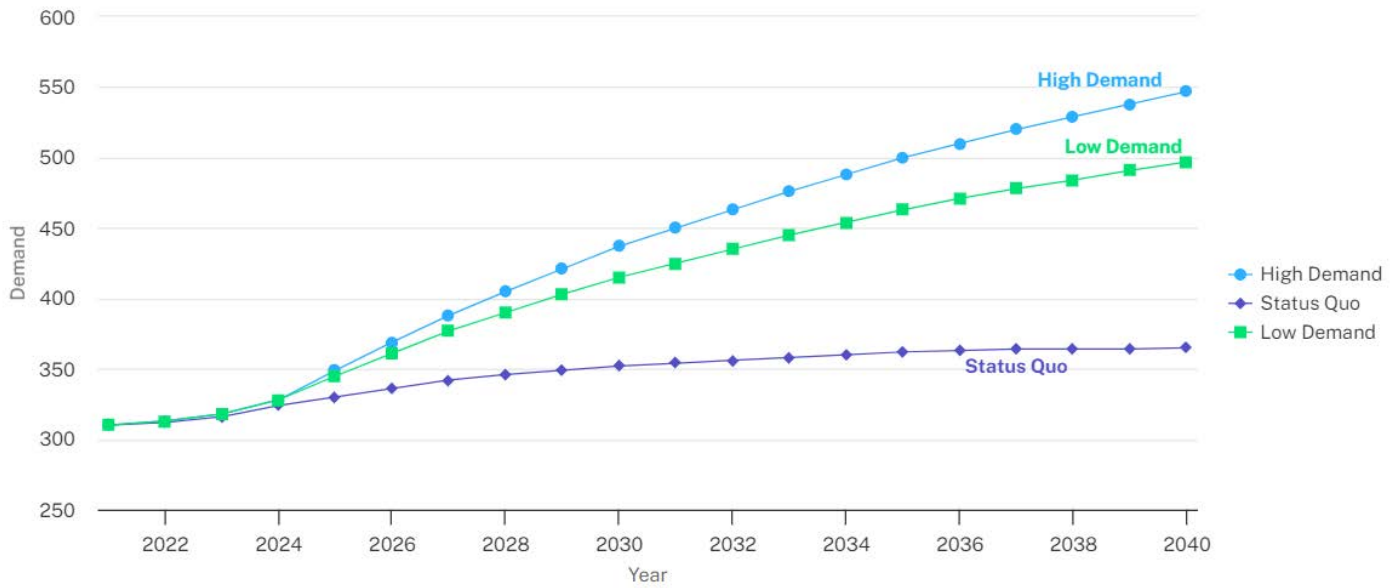
Workforce characteristics for NSW Health sonography workforce in 2021

540 Headcount	**22.0** Work hours per week	**43.8** Years average age	**77.0%** Female	**2.9%** Aged 60+	**0.7%** Aboriginal

Metropolitan Sydney

306 Headcount	**23.1** Work hours per week	**42.8** Years average age	**2.9%** Aged 60+

Non-Metropolitan Sydney

232 Headcount	**21.0** Work hours per week	**45.0** Years average age	**2.6%** Aged 60+

Sonography junior entrant positions into NSW Health

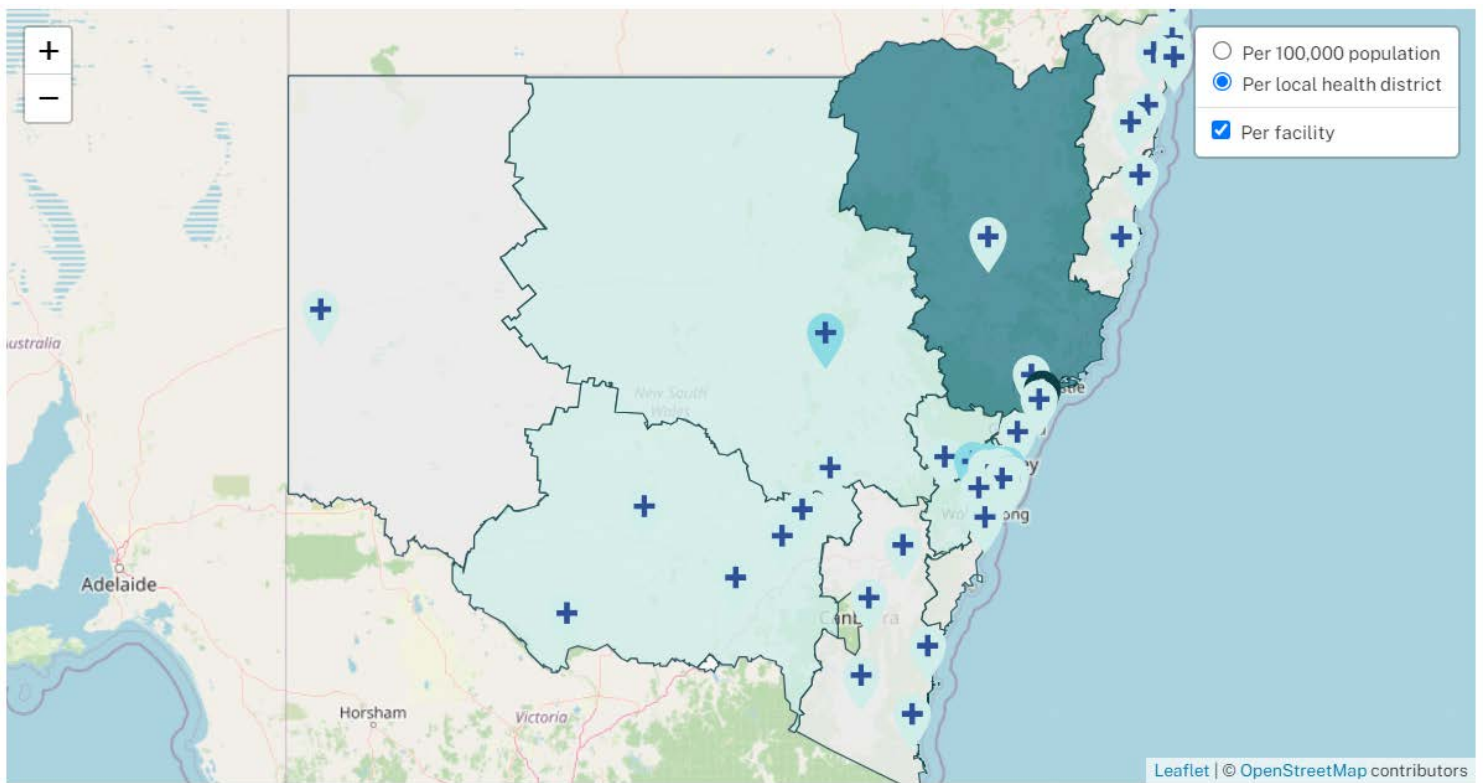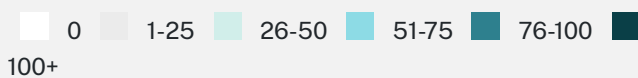|	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
	NA	12	NA	NA	34

Workforce distribution for NSW Health sonography workforce in 2021

The geographic distribution of the public workforce by local health district/network, by facility and per 100,000 population.
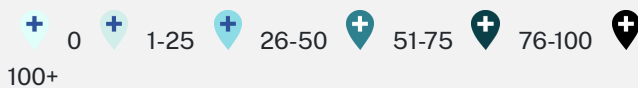

Legends

Per local health district

	0		1-25		26-50		51-75		76-100	

100+

Per 100,000 population

	0		1-5		6-10		11-15		16-20		20+

Per facility

+	0	+	1-25	+	26-50	+	51-75	+	76-100	+

100+

Other networks

- Sydney Children's Hospitals: 10 to 20 | 2 per 100,000
- Enable NSW: 0 | 0 per 100,000
- Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health: 0 | 0 per 100,000

Workforce considerations

- Population demographics and increasing incidence of complex and chronic disease may increase demand for sonography services.
- Sonographers in NSW Health are classified depending on the training pathway and level of qualification.
- The availability and quality of training and clinical placements for student sonographers is a significant driver affecting the supply of workforce.
- Allied health educator roles and continuing professional development opportunities may improve the experience and retention of the sonography workforce.
- Attracting and retaining talent in rural and remote areas is dependent on rural university training and clinical placement pathways.