

Orthotics and prosthetics

Workforce modelling factsheet

Prostheses and orthoses are externally applied devices worn on the body to either replace a body segment (prosthesis) or support a body segment (orthosis). The prosthetist/orthotist is a highly skilled and specialised professional who is involved in the assessment, prescription, manufacture, fitting and maintenance of these devices. They are an integral part of the multi-disciplinary healthcare team and play a vital role in helping to prevent or correct deformity, prevent injury and keeping the patient as mobile as possible to ensure they can live life to their fullest potential.



Workforce characteristics for NSW Health orthotics and prosthetics workforce in 2040



73
Headcount



27.6
Work hours per week



36.1
Years average age



3.4%
Aboriginal workforce target



Demand is expected to grow **1.5%** (low demand scenario) to **1.7%** (high demand scenario).

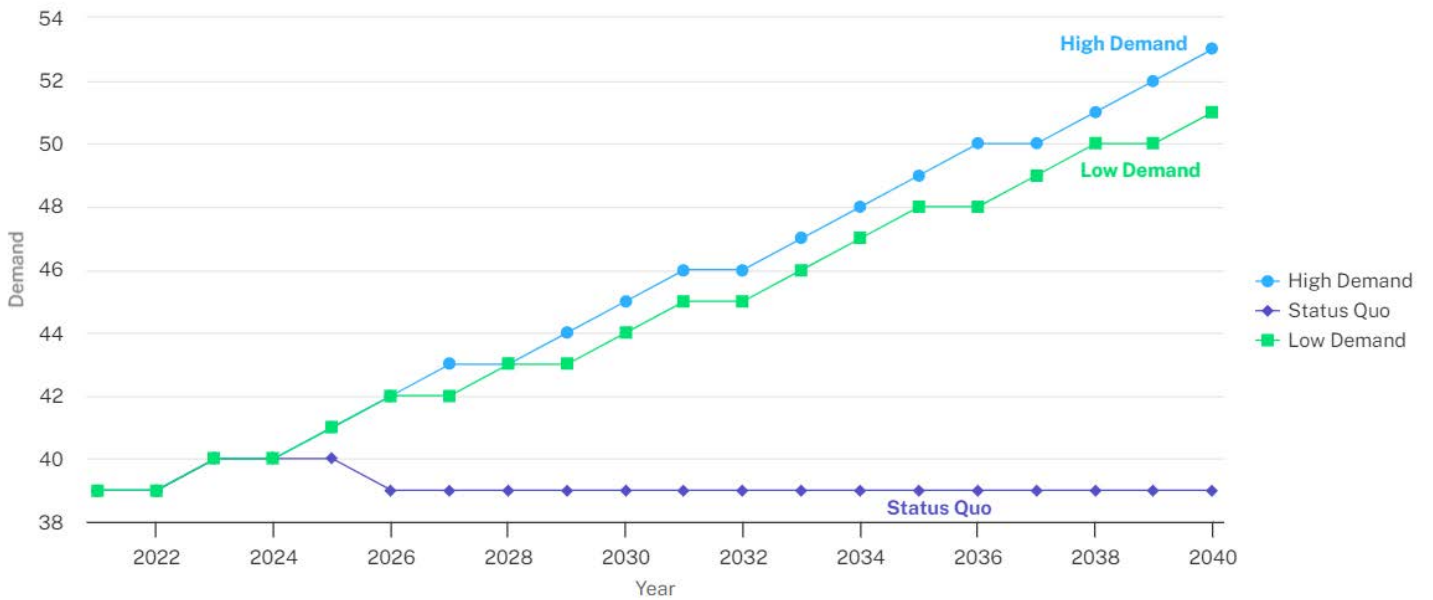
Workforce modelling indicates the need to grow the NSW orthotics and prosthetics workforce by around **6** new professionals per annum to meet community need in 2040 across both demand scenarios.



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 orthotics and prosthetics workforce to 2040



Workforce characteristics for NSW Health orthotics and prosthetics workforce in 2021



43
Headcount



27.3
Work hours per week



40
Years average age



46.5%
Female



9.6%
Aged 60+



0%
Aboriginal

Metropolitan Sydney



38
Headcount



24.2
Work hours per week



41.7
Years average age



7.7%
Aged 60+

Non-Metropolitan Sydney



0
Headcount



0
Work hours per week



0
Years average age



0%
Aged 60+

Orthotics and prosthetics junior entrant positions into NSW Health



2017
2

2018
6

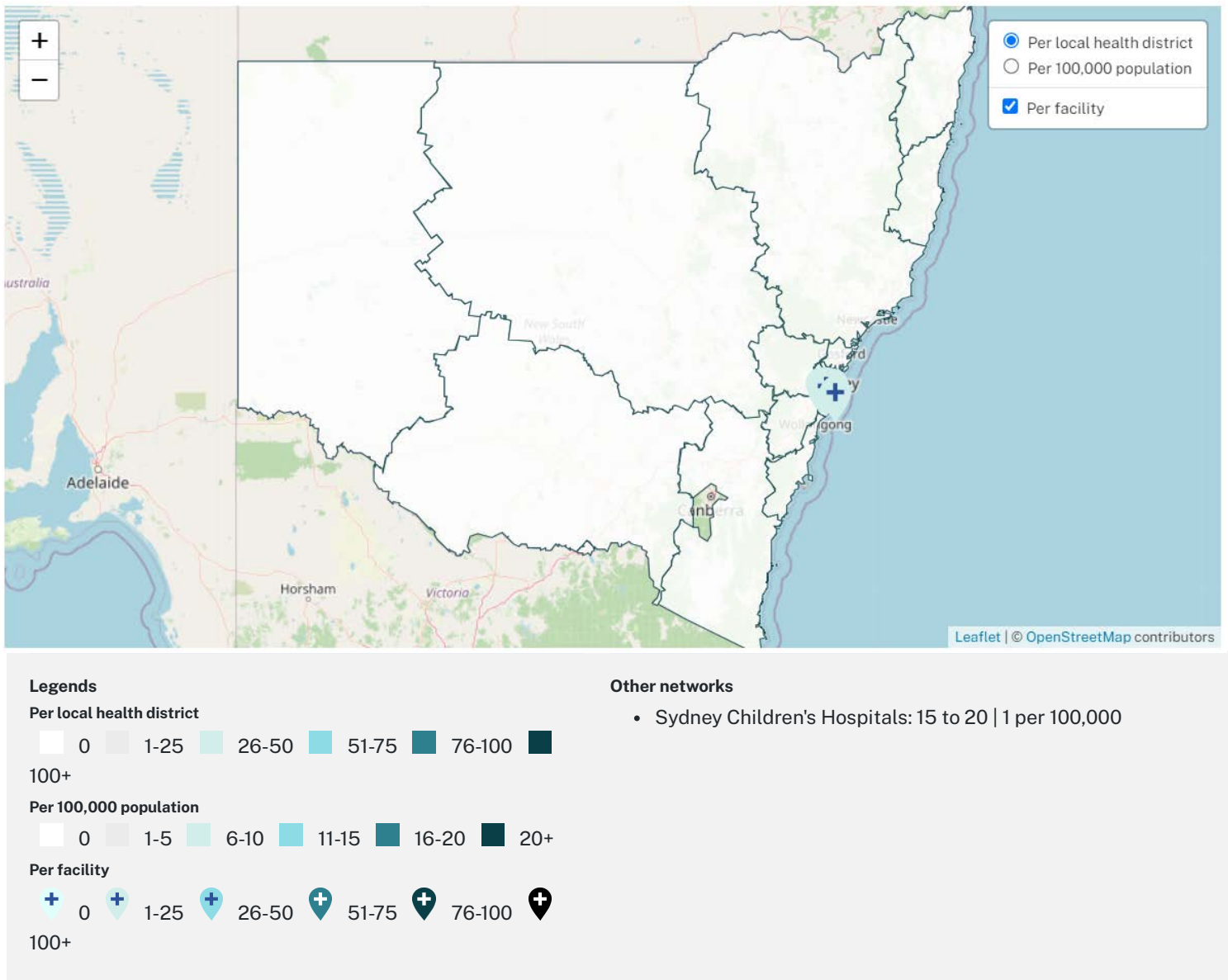
2019
4

2020
5

2021
3

Workforce distribution for NSW Health orthotics and prosthetics workforce in 2021

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



Workforce considerations

- LHD/SHN sessional arrangements exist in the orthotics and prosthetics workforce and data relating to these arrangements are not factored into the workforce model and does not include unmet need.
- Cross border arrangements may not truly reflect supply or demand for orthotics and prosthetics workforce in some rural and remote settings.
- Population demographics and increasing incidence of acute trauma and complex and chronic disease may increase demand for orthotics and prosthetics services.
- Technology advancements, virtual care and a hypothesised centralised manufacturing may influence the practice, role, distribution and function of the orthotics and prosthetics workforce in future years.
- Orthotics and prosthetic services do not operate within all districts, which has the potential to impact on access and equity of services.