

Physiotherapists address the prevention, assessment and treatment of human movement and functional disorders. Physiotherapists work collaboratively with people to manage the physical difficulties resulting from illness, injury, disability or ageing. Physiotherapists work in a range of settings including hospitals, health centres, industry, private practices and sports clubs, treating people of all ages. Physiotherapists work closely with general practitioners and other health workers to achieve a person's optimal function and health.



Workforce characteristics for NSW Health physiotherapy workforce in 2040



2888
Headcount



74.1%
Female



28.9
Work hours per
week



38.4
Years average age



7%
Future 60+



3.4%
Aboriginal
workforce target



Demand is expected to grow **1.6%** (low demand scenario) to **1.9%** (high demand scenario).

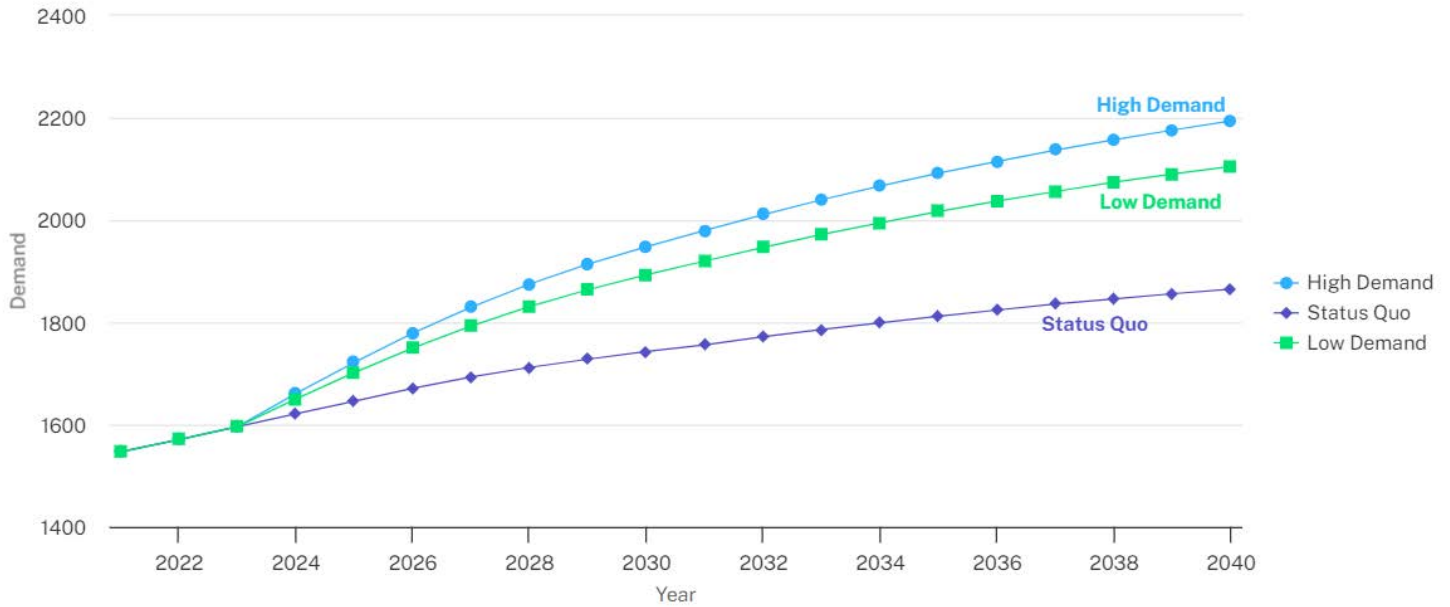
Workforce modelling indicates the need to grow the NSW physiotherapy workforce by around **36 to 50** new professionals per annum to meet community need in 2040 across both demand scenarios.

REASONABLE
CAREER
OPPORTUNITIES

Notes

- Data source: NSW Health. Vacancy data is excluded from the workforce model. Excludes affiliated health organisations.
- Note: 2040 workforce characteristics reflect the high demand scenario,
- 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 physiotherapy workforce to 2040



Workforce characteristics for NSW Health physiotherapy workforce in 2021



2042
Headcount



28.2
Work hours per week



38.5
Years average age



76.1%
Female



2%
Aged 60+



1.3%
Aboriginal

Metropolitan Sydney



1205
Headcount



29
Work hours per week



37.3
Years average age



0.9%
Aged 60+

Non-Metropolitan Sydney



872
Headcount



27
Work hours per week



40.1
Years average age



1.1%
Aged 60+

Physiotherapy junior entrant positions into NSW Health



2017
273

2018
159

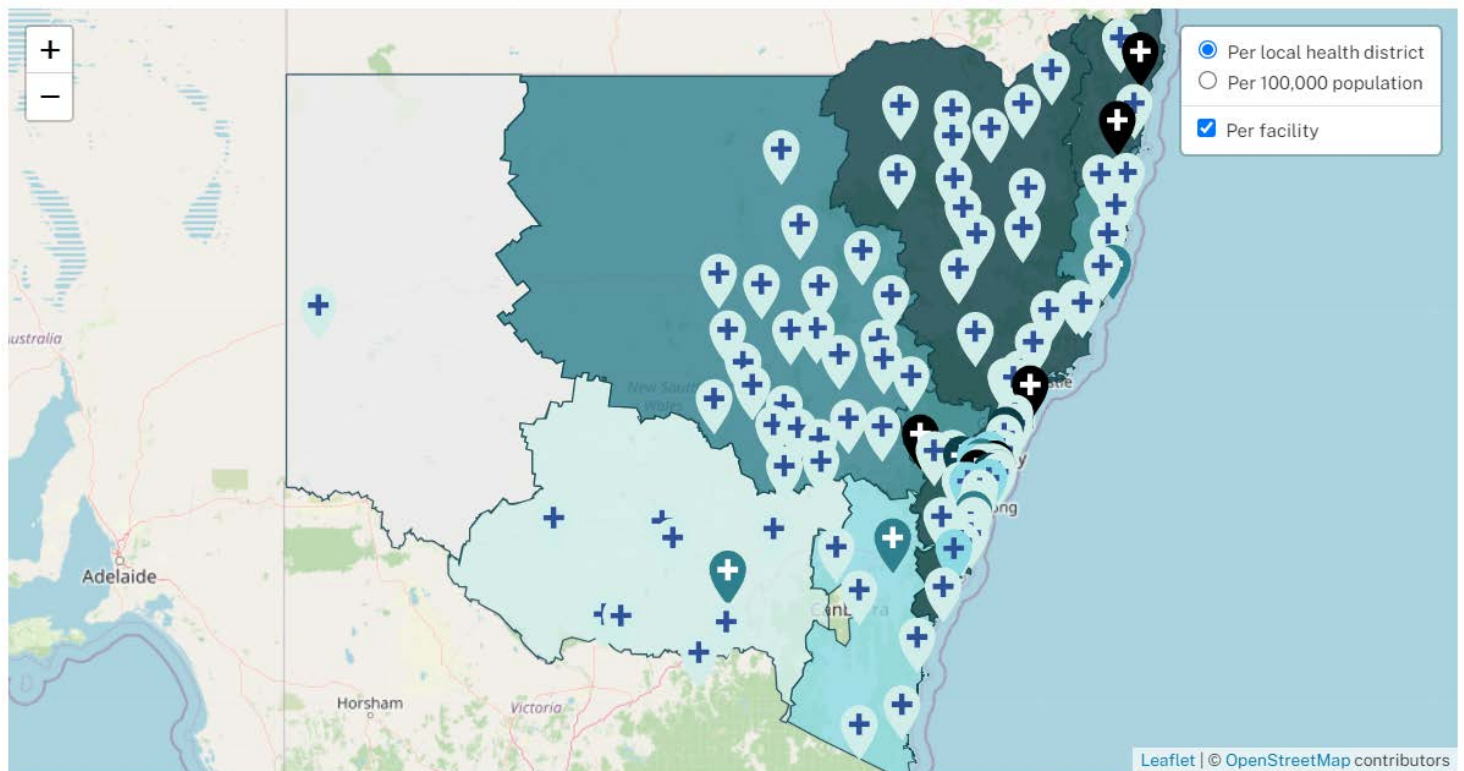
2019
139

2020
145

2021
133

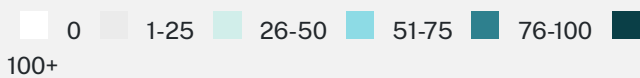
Workforce distribution for NSW Health physiotherapy workforce in 2021

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



Legends

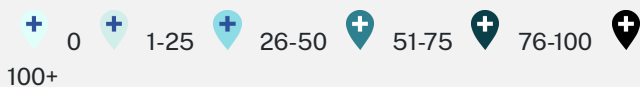
Per local health district



Per 100,000 population



Per facility



Other networks

- Sydney Children's Hospitals: 1 to 50 | 6 to 10 per 100,000
- Enable NSW: 0 | 0 per 100,000
- Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health: 1 to 50 | 11 to 15 per 100,000

Workforce considerations

- Population demographics and increasing incidence of complex and chronic disease may increase demand for physiotherapy services.
- New government funding initiatives and policy will influence Physiotherapy workforce movement (gains / attrition) in NSW Health (i.e. Medicare Benefits Scheme, National Disability Insurance Scheme, rural funding grants and initiatives).
- Changes in integrated models of care for the physiotherapy workforce influences workforce demand (i.e. scope of practice, service coverage, accessibility).
- Changes to modes of service delivery may influence both physiotherapy workforce demand and its distribution (e.g. virtual care, advances in technology etc).
- Physiotherapists are able to work to top of scope when potentiated by supporting Allied Health Assistant or student workforce.
- Data available does not include unmet need and may not capture all specialty areas/clinics in which physiotherapists work.
- This workforce will prioritise sustainable training pipelines, new graduates and student educators to ensure future workforce is resourced, based on the needs of the community.