



a healthier world through  
sonographer expertise

Thursday, 17 August 2023

Trudy Hansson  
Data and Metadata Management Specialist  
ANZSCO Review – Statistical Infrastructure Branch  
Australian Bureau of Statistics

Submitted via email [updating.anzSCO@abs.gov.au](mailto:updating.anzSCO@abs.gov.au)

Dear Ms Hansson,

**ANZSCO Review - Medical, Nursing and Other Health Care Services**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the review of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO), in the area of medical, nursing, and other health care services.

The Australasian Sonographers Association (ASA) is the professional organisation for Australasian sonographers, who are the experts in ultrasound. With over 7,000 members across Australia and New Zealand, the ASA's purpose is to foster a sonography profession that delivers high quality ultrasound with a vision to create a healthier world through sonographer expertise.

Sonographers are highly skilled health professionals who are strategically involved at the initial diagnostic stages of patient care and are responsible for performing most of the comprehensive medical diagnostic ultrasound examinations undertaken nationally.

We recognise the importance of updating ANZSCO to ensure it reflects the current labour market and best meets stakeholder needs. This is particularly important given the current workforce shortage in many areas of health – including sonography.

The ASA has considered this consultation through its Sonographer Policy and Advisory Committee. We have also had discussions with Professionals in Cardiac Sciences Australia (PiCSA), Australia's peak representative body for Cardiac Physiologists, as there is some overlap between cardiac sonographers (also known as echo physiologists or echocardiographers). Our recommendations focus on the occupation of sonographer ANZSCO 251214, and are outlined in Appendix 1.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Rebecca Burdick Davies, General Manager, Policy and Advocacy, at [policy@sonographers.org](mailto:policy@sonographers.org) or by phone on +61 401 619 280. We look forward to hearing of the outcomes of this consultation.

Yours sincerely,

**Dr Vanda Fortunato**  
**Interim Chief Executive Officer**  
Australasian Sonographers Association



## Appendix 1:

### ANZSCO Review of the Standard Classification of Occupations

#### Recommendations from the Australasian Sonographers Association (ASA)

Note, new / additional content is highlighted, using red underlined text.

<b>1. Incorporate additional qualification information for sonographers</b>
<b>Level: 2512 Medical Imaging Professionals &gt; ANZSCO Skill Level</b>
Incorporate additional information for sonographers, as highlighted below:  Most occupations in this unit group have a level of skill commensurate with a bachelor degree or higher qualification (ANZSCO Skill Level 1). <u>Sonographers require an accredited postgraduate qualification, incorporating clinical training in either an Australian or New Zealand setting.</u>
<b>Reason:</b> The additional information more clearly highlights the skill requirement for sonographers.

<b>2. Small amendments to tasks</b>
<b>Level: 2512 Medical Imaging Professionals &gt; Tasks</b>
Incorporate minor amendments to tasks, as indicated below:  Tasks Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• receiving <u>and interpreting</u> referrals from Medical Practitioners to perform medical imaging and radiation treatment of patients</li><li>• determining the appropriate equipment to use, such as X-ray equipment, radiation scanners, fluoroscopes, ultrasound equipment, nuclear instrumentation, angiography equipment and computed tomography (CT) equipment, and selecting the appropriate equipment settings to provide the diagnostic information requested by Medical Practitioners</li><li>• calculating details of procedures such as length and intensity of exposure to radiation, size and strength of dosage of isotopes, and settings of recording equipment</li><li>• explaining procedures to patients and answering patients' inquiries about processes</li><li>• ensuring patients' welfare during procedures</li><li>• positioning patients, screens and equipment preparatory to procedures</li><li>• viewing the screen and deciding if images are satisfactory for diagnostic purposes, and selecting images to <u>show record for diagnostic interpretation</u> by Medical Practitioners</li><li>• conveying findings of procedures to Medical Practitioners.</li></ul>
<b>Reason:</b> The amendments more accurately describe the tasks of medical imaging professionals.



<b>3. Remove the alternative title</b>
<b>Level: 251214 Sonographer &gt; Alternative Title</b>
Remove the alternative title: "ultrasonographer"
<b>Reason:</b> It is an outdated term and no longer used. A search on Seek (Australia or New Zealand) find no current listings using that title.

<b>4. Incorporate amendments to definition</b>
<b>Level: 251214 Sonographer - Definition</b>
Incorporate minor amendments listed below. <u>Undertakes a comprehensive examination Operates operating</u> ultrasound equipment to acquire, interpret and selectively record anatomical images, physical data and real-time physiological information <u>to detect if something is abnormal; preparing a worksheet of findings</u> for <u>Medical Practitioners to interpret for</u> medical diagnostic purposes <u>in conjunction with Medical Practitioners</u> .
<b>Reason:</b> These comments better describe the role of a sonographer.

<b>5. Incorporate registration / licensing requirements</b>
<b>Level: 251214 Sonographer - Registration or licensing</b>
Incorporate text relating to the registration and accreditation requirements for sonographers, as per one of the options below. <b>Option 1:</b> <u>Accreditation (Australia) and registration (New Zealand) is required.</u>
<b>Option 2:</b> <u>Accreditation (Australia) and registration (New Zealand) is required.</u> <u>In New Zealand, sonographers must be registered with the Medical Radiation Technologists Board. In Australia to be eligible to undertake Medicare rebateable examinations, sonographers must be accredited with the Australian Sonographer Accreditation Registry.</u>
<b>Option 3:</b> <u>Registration or licensing is required.</u> <u>In New Zealand, sonographers must be registered with the Medical Radiation Technologists Board. In Australia to be eligible to undertake Medicare rebateable examinations, sonographers must be accredited with the Australian Sonographer Accreditation Registry.</u>
<b>Reason:</b> While there are no licensing requirements for sonographers, important registration (New Zealand) and accreditation (Australia) requirements do exist and should be recognised.
<i>Reference:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Australian Sonographer Accreditation Registry: <a href="https://www.asar.com.au/sonographer-info/accredited-medical-sonographer/">https://www.asar.com.au/sonographer-info/accredited-medical-sonographer/</a></li></ul>



- New Zealand Medical Radiation Technologists Board: <https://www.mrtboard.org.nz/pre-registration/nz-trained-how-to-register/>
- Note:**
- There may be some change in relation to accreditation or registration requirements for sonographers in the next five years in Australia, if all sonographers are regulated under AHPRA through the Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia. This change would bring all sonographers in line with the registration requirements that exists for other medical imaging professionals.

<b>6. Add specialisations for sonographers</b>
<b>Level: 251214 Sonographer &gt; Specialisation</b>
<p>Incorporate the following specialisations for sonographers:</p> <p><u>Specialisation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#"><u>Cardiac sonographer *</u></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>Vascular sonographer</u></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>Breast sonographer</u></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>General sonographer</u></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>Obstetrics and gynaecology sonographer</u></a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Reason:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed specialisations align with accredited ultrasound courses currently available, including in general ultrasound / sonography: Available at: <a href="https://www.asar.com.au/course-accreditation/asar-accredited-courses/">https://www.asar.com.au/course-accreditation/asar-accredited-courses/</a></li> <li>• They also align with the categories used by ASAR to classify sonographers on their public register of accredited medical sonographers. Available at: <a href="https://www.asar.com.au/sonographer-info/find-a-sonographer/">https://www.asar.com.au/sonographer-info/find-a-sonographer/</a></li> <li>• It is common to see such terms in job advertisements such as those on Seek. Available at: <a href="https://www.seek.com.au/sonographer-jobs">https://www.seek.com.au/sonographer-jobs</a></li> <li>• In New Zealand, registration specialties are not defined. Here, all sonographers are recorded in the single scope of 'sonography' for registration purposes. See: <a href="https://www.mrtboard.org.nz/the-register">https://www.mrtboard.org.nz/the-register</a></li> <li>• However, in the New Zealand job market it is still common to see reference to these areas, e.g., cardiac and vascular.</li> <li>• ** In the coming two to three years, we expect an additional specialisation of obstetrics and gynaecology sonographer to be relevant, following the establishment of a new accredited course in obstetrics and gynecology medical ultrasound / sonography.</li> </ul>
<p><b>* Note on cardiac sonographers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is some possible overlap with category 251214 Sonographer and 311212 Cardiac Technicians in relation to cardiac sonographers, who are also known as echo physiologists or echocardiographers. However, as cardiac sonographers have the same accreditation and/or registration requirements as other sonographers (including the successful completion of an accredited medical ultrasound / sonography postgraduate qualification); and because their role aligns with the definition of a sonographer, they naturally fall into the sonographer occupation category.</li> </ul>



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- We understand that the remaining cardiac physiologist modalities fall within category 311212 Cardiac Technicians, and as we understand it PiCSA (Australia's peak representative body for Cardiac Physiologists) will focus most of their recommendations on this occupation classification. We understand PiCSA agrees with our thinking that cardiac sonographers (echo physiologists) fall within the category of Sonographer 251214.