



a healthier world through
sonographer expertise

17 September 2026

Australian Bureau of Statistics
www.abs.gov.au

Via email: occupation@abs.gov.au

Dear OSCA consultation representatives,

Re: Public consultation | ABS Occupation Standard Classification for Australia (OSCA) - 2027 Draft

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed draft version of the 2027 Occupation Standard Classification for Australia (OSCA).

The Australasian Sonographers Association (ASA) is the professional organisation for Australasian sonographers, who are the experts in ultrasound. We represent over 8,000 members and more than 70 per cent of Australasia's sonographers.

The ASA recognises the work being undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to ensure that the classification of occupations stays up to date and continues to reflect the modern labour market. We support the efforts made to enhance the data available for the profession of sonography, by clearly and accurately classifying the profession and its associated tasks and believe this will help support national workforce planning.

Regarding the current review period, we support the high-level changes proposed in the 2027 draft Occupation Standard Classification for Australia, including the addition of *263533 Cardiac Sonography* as a subcategory of the Unit Group *2635 Sonographers*. However, there are several areas where we recommend minor changes to enhance the classification, including amendments to the description of tasks for cardiac sonographers. Our recommendations are outlined in detail below.

Should you require further information or clarification, please contact Elissa Campbell, General Manager, Policy and Advocacy, at elissa.campbell@sonographers.org.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Tony Coles
Chief Executive Officer
Australasian Sonographers Association

APPENDIX 1: ASA RESPONSE TO THE ABS CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

1. What is your first name?

Elissa

2. What is your last name?

Campbell

3. What is your organisation?

Australasian Sonographers Association (ASA)

4. What is your position/title?

General Manager, Policy and Advocacy

5. Which state are you located in (or country if overseas)?

The head office is located in Victoria (VIC), but we represent sonographers in Australia and New Zealand and have staff in various locations.

6. What is your email address?

Email: elissa.campbell@sonographers.org

7. What is your phone number?

T: +61 3 9552 0000

8. Which proposed changes are you commenting on?

We are commenting on Unit Group 2635 – Sonographers, including the subcategory of [263532 Sonographer \(General\)](#) and [263533 Cardiac Sonographer](#).

We are also providing minor comments about [263932 Cardiac Physiologist](#) (as some cardiac sonographers also practise other Cardiac Physiology modalities captured within this classification).

9. What should be corrected or reconsidered before this change is finalised?

Overall, we support the high-level changes made in relation to the Unit Group 2635 Sonographers, including the inclusion of a second subcategory of [263533 Cardiac Sonographer](#).

Below are some specific points of feedback:

- In the **Unit Group 2635 Sonographers** description, it currently states:

Examine patients and operate ultrasound equipment to acquire, interpret and selectively record anatomical images, ~~echocardiographic data~~, physical data and real-time physiological information.

We understand that this high-level description is designed to capture all sonographers, but we do not believe it is necessary to include the words “echocardiographic data” to recognise cardiac sonographers, as cardiac sonographers are still *acquiring, interpreting*

and selectively recording anatomical images, physical data and real-time physiological information (the images and data just happen to be of the heart).

- In the **subcategory of 263532 Sonographer (General)**

We support the changes made here, including recognising the specialisations of vascular and obstetrics, which are both areas that align with the Australian Sonographer Accreditation Registry (ASAR) recognised accredited courses and “specialisations”. ASAR-defined specialisations align with the accredited courses.

In the next review period of the OSCA, it may be appropriate to review and expand “*obstetric sonographer*” to “*obstetric and gynaecological sonographer*”, as a new accredited course commenced in this area in 2024 (as seen here: <https://www.asar.com.au/course-accreditation/asar-accredited-courses/>). However, currently, this expanded area is not recognised as a specialisation by ASAR (as reflected here: <https://www.asar.com.au/sonographer-info/find-a-sonographer/>)

- In the **subcategory of 263533 Cardiac Sonographer**

It is beneficial to include this new subcategory. However, we recommend several changes.

- Recommended change to the Description: The description could be condensed slightly, with *echocardiography equipment* changed to *ultrasound equipment*, to read as follows:

Examines patients and operates ultrasound equipment to perform echocardiograms on the human heart to acquire, interpret and selectively record images, data and real-time physiological data and images.

- Recommended changes to the Main Tasks:

- **Dot Point 1** currently states:

- *Performs transthoracic, transoesophageal and stress echocardiograms to assess cardiac and vascular function in patients*
- We request the word ‘transoesophageal’ is removed, as cardiac sonographers are not permitted to perform transoesophageal echocardiograms in Australia; this is performed by cardiologists.

- **Dot Point 2**. We recommend amending dot point 2 to remove unnecessary wording:

- *FROM: Operates and maintains echocardiography and ultrasound machines according to correct protocols*
- *TO: Operates and maintains cardiac ultrasound machines according to correct protocols.*

- Feedback in relation to **263932 Cardiac Physiologist**

We recommend the ABS seeks detailed advice from [PiCSA - Professionals in Cardiac Sciences Australia](#) as the peak representative body for Cardiac Physiologists, however we believe the following changes are necessary:

- Recommended change to the **Main Tasks**:
 - **Dot Point 4** currently states:
 - *Conducts comprehensive ultrasound examinations of the heart to assess overall anatomy and function of cardiac chambers, valves and large vessels*
 - This task would only be appropriate if the cardiac physiologist has completed an accredited ultrasound qualification (and therefore was also an accredited cardiac sonographer). However, not all cardiac physiologists are qualified to undertake ultrasound examinations (i.e. cardiac sonographers), and therefore this task is not appropriate to include in the general cardiac physiologist task description. We recommend it be removed from here.
 - **Dot Point 10** (last point) currently states:
 - *Provides long-term follow up to ensure optimal performance of cardiac devices*
 - This would benefit from clarification. Cardiologists provide the follow up for patients. However, if this point is referring to the equipment, it could be amended to clarify that cardiac physiologists will ensure continual maintenance is performed for optimal performance of cardiac devices and equipment.

10. Do you have any other comments?

For instance, regarding issues related to the structure of the classification, occupations outside of those affected by the update, broad treatment of related occupations, or any other issues with OSCA generally?

- No other comments