



# Hospital and Retail Pharmacist

## ANZSCO 2515-11, 13

South Australia  
June 2019

**Current labour market rating: Shortage**  
**Employers found it difficult to fill their vacancies, particularly in regional areas.**

### Key research findings

- The employers contacted in South Australia (SA) were advertising vacancies for retail, hospital and community pharmacists.
- In 2019, half of the vacancies were filled, a decrease since the last survey of Hospital and Retail Pharmacists in 2017 (63 per cent).
  - None of the regional employers surveyed were able to fill their vacancies.
- There was an average of 7.8 applicants per vacancy in 2019, which was an increase since 2017 (5.3).
- An average of 4.0 applicants held the required qualifications to be a Pharmacist.
- The number of suitable applicants per vacancy in 2019 (1.3) had decreased from 2017 (3.4).
- Requirements that employers had for Hospital or Retail Pharmacist roles included:
  - An undergraduate degree in pharmacy and registration with the Pharmacy Board of Australia.
  - Good communication skills.
  - Willingness to work out of business hours and short shifts on weekends.
  - The ability to work independently. This was particularly relevant to Hospital and Community Pharmacists.
  - Familiarity with a drug dispensary system, in particular FRED and MINFOS software.
- Regional employers attributed difficulties filling vacancies to recently qualified Pharmacists being unwilling to relocate to regional areas.
  - Regional employers raised concerns about how they would meet future requirements for prescriptions (with increasingly older populations) if difficulties employing Retail Pharmacists continued.

### 2019 Survey Results<sup>1</sup>



### Demand and supply

- There were 2030 practicing pharmacists with general registration in South Australia in December 2019. This was an increase of 7 per cent from five years prior in December 2014.<sup>2</sup>
- At the 2016 Census, around 70 per cent of Pharmacists worked in retail pharmacies and around 18 per cent worked in hospitals. Smaller proportions worked in the wholesaling, manufacturing and higher education industries.<sup>3</sup>
- In June 2017, there were 565 businesses in the Pharmaceutical, Cosmetic and Toiletry Goods Retailing industry in South Australia. This was a decline of around 1 per cent since June 2016.<sup>4</sup>
- After the retail sector, the Government of South Australia is a major employer of Pharmacists.
  - In 2017-18 the Government of South Australia employed 408 Pharmacists, this was a 5 per cent decrease from 2016-17 (429).<sup>5</sup>
- From 2012 to 2017, an average of around 100 domestic students completed an undergraduate Pharmacy degree each year in SA.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology](#)

<sup>2</sup> Pharmacy Board of Australia Website - [www.pharmacyboard.gov.au/About/Statistics.aspx](http://www.pharmacyboard.gov.au/About/Statistics.aspx).

<sup>3</sup> ABS Census of Population and Housing 2016, customised tables.

<sup>4</sup> ABS, 8165.0 Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, 2013 to 2018.

<sup>5</sup> Government of South Australia – Workforce Information Reports, 2013-14, 2016-17 and 2017-18.

<sup>6</sup> Department of Education, Higher Education Student Data Collection, 2017, customised tables.