



Occupational Therapist

ANZSCO 2524-11

South Australia
June 2019

Current labour market rating: No Shortage

Employers recruiting Occupational Therapists in South Australia had no difficulties filling vacancies. This was consistent with surveys conducted since 2014.

Key research findings

- Employers surveyed in South Australia (SA) were mainly from aged care providers, not for profit providers and allied health services.
- In 2019, the proportion of vacancies filled were 86 per cent in comparison to 2018 (79 per cent).
- The average number of applicants per vacancy in 2019 (3.1) increased compared to 2018 (1.7).
- On average 0.9 applicants were considered suitable per vacancy in 2019 (this was unchanged from 2018).
- In 2019, there was an average of 2.0 applicants who were qualified per vacancy, an increase from the average in 2018 (1.5).
- Employers recruiting for Occupational Therapist roles had the following requirements:
 - Tertiary qualifications in Occupational Therapy.
 - Current AHPRA registration.
 - Passion for helping a diverse range of clients.
 - Strong communication skills and the ability to work as part of a team as well as autonomously.
 - Demonstrated previous work experience.
 - Current and unrestricted driver's license.
- Most employers sought candidates who had at least three years of experience.
 - Some employers advised that they would only consider new graduates if there were experienced staff available to provide mentoring and guidance.
- Regional employers believed potential applicants were unwilling to consider relocation based on remuneration issues.

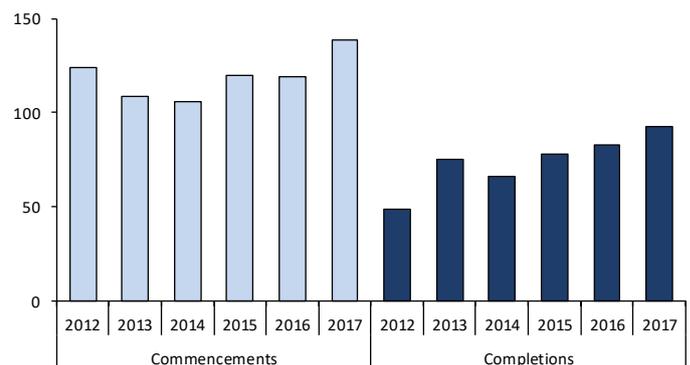
2019 Survey Results¹



Demand and supply

- There were 1673 registered Occupational Therapists in SA in 2019. This is an increase of around 5 per cent since 2018, and 36 per cent since 2014.²
- The main industries that SA Occupational Therapists work in are allied health services (26.1 per cent), hospitals (24.5) and aged care (12.2).³
- In 2018 there were 519 Occupational Therapists working for the Government of South Australia, this was a slight decrease compared to 2017 (526).⁴
- From 2012 to 2017, an annual average of 74 people completed the undergraduate Occupational Therapy degree in SA.⁵

Figure 1: Undergraduate Commencements and completions, Occupational Therapists, 2012 to 2017.



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

² Occupational Therapy Board Report, March 2014, March 2018, March 2019.

³ ABS Census of Population and Housing 2016, customised tables.

⁴ Government of South Australia – Workforce Information Reports, 2016-17 and 2017-18.

⁵ Department of Education, Higher Education Student Data Collection, 2017, customised tables.