



Occupational Therapist

ANZSCO 2524-11

Victoria
June 2019

Current labour market rating: Regional shortage

While most metropolitan employers were able to fill their vacancies with ease, regional employers struggled to attract suitable applicants. This result follows four years of no shortages recorded for occupational therapists.

Key research findings

- Employers filled 62 per cent of vacancies from averages of 2.5 qualified applicants and 1.3 suitable applicants per vacancy.
 - These results represent a five-year low for the proportion of vacancies filled, and total and suitable applicants per vacancy.
- Almost all metropolitan vacancies received suitable applicants whereas half of regional vacancies did not.
- Employers in metropolitan areas filled 83 per cent of vacancies from averages of 4.2 qualified and 2.0 suitable applicants per vacancy.
- Employers in regional areas filled 43 per cent of vacancies from averages of 1.1 qualified and 0.7 suitable applicants per vacancy.
- Vacancies were sourced from community health, private practice and hospital sectors.

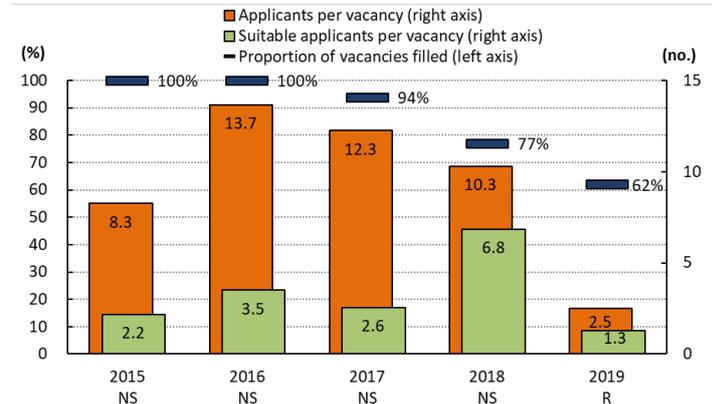
Demand and supply

- Population growth underpins demand for occupational therapists. The Victorian average annual rate of growth in the period 2014-2018 was 2.3 per cent.
 - Victoria had Australia's highest population growth rate of 2.2 per cent for the year ended 31 December 2018.
- The NDIS has created a new source of demand as evaluation of NDIS clients is often undertaken by occupational therapists.
- The number of internet vacancies in Victoria for occupational therapists has increased by 76.3 per cent over the year to May 2019 and by an annual average increase of 26.2 per cent over five years compared to an increase of 3.6 per cent and 7.5 per cent respectively for all vacancies.

2019 Survey Results¹



Figure 1: Survey results, Occupational Therapist, 2015-2019



Key to ratings: NS = No shortage; R = Regional shortage

- In 2017, 237 people completed a bachelor degree in occupation therapy in Victoria, which is consistent with the average of 236 completions in each year since 2013.
- The number of registered (General classification) occupational therapists in Victoria increased by 414 people or 8.1 per cent over the year to March 2019 and has increased by an average of 8.0 per cent in each year since 2014.
- Females comprise almost 92 per cent of the occupational therapist labour force.

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

Additional Data Sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Demographic Statistics, December 2018, Table 2; Department of Education and Training, Higher Education Student Data Collection, 2017, customised tables; Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business, Internet Vacancy Index, May 2019; Occupational Therapy Board of Australia, registrant data, March 2014 to March 2019.