



Occupational Therapist ANZSCO 2524-11

Tasmania
May 2019

Current labour market rating: Shortage

Employers recruiting occupational therapists in Tasmania were unable to fill the majority of their vacancies.

Key research findings¹

- Vacancies were located across Tasmania and were for a variety of settings, including public and private hospitals, aged care facilities and private practices.
- All employers sought qualified (at the bachelor or masters level) and suitably experienced applicants who were registered, or eligible for registration, with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).
 - Employers considered 30 per cent of qualified applicants unsuitable due to lacking the required experience (for example, in a clinical setting or acute/sub-acute care, or the ability to work independently).
- The majority of employers reported difficulties attracting suitable applicants for vacancies in Tasmania. Employers noted the perception that Tasmania offers limited opportunities for career development. In addition, there is no undergraduate training available in Tasmania for occupational therapists.

Demand and supply

- The AHPRA Performance Report: Tasmania indicates, as at March 2019, there were 312 occupational therapists whose principal place of practice was Tasmania. There has been a steady increase of occupational therapists: 309 as at March 2018, 291 as at March 2017 and 283 as at March 2016.
- The 2016 Census data shows 230 people identified as occupational therapists in Tasmania; 10.5 per cent were owner managers and 89.5 per cent were employees.

2019 Survey Results²

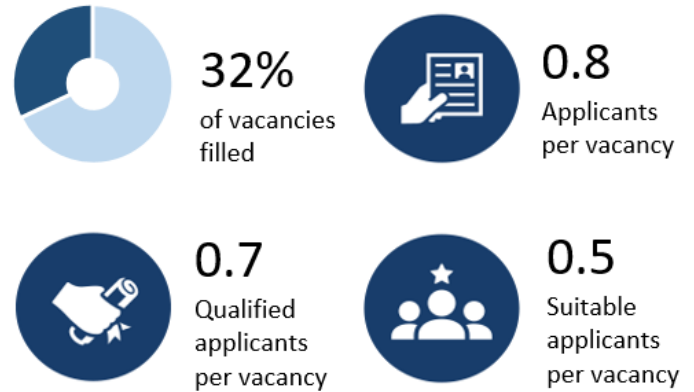
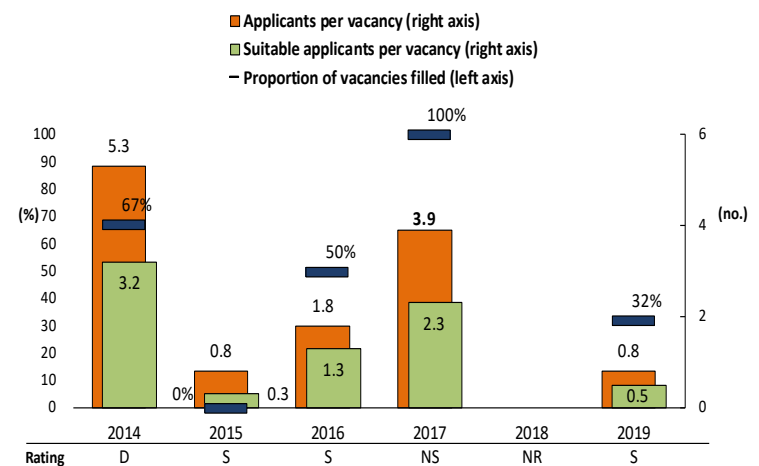


Figure 1: Survey results, Occupational Therapists, 2014 to 2019



Key to ratings: D = Recruitment difficulty; S = Shortage; NS = No shortage; NR = No rating.

- The University of Tasmania offers a three year Bachelor of Health Science, which may satisfy entry requirements for post-graduate occupational therapy courses interstate.

¹ The Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business supplemented this research by cold canvassing employers as there were limited vacancies found in the lead up to this report, and, as such the findings should be used cautiously.

² The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology | Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business](#).

Additional Data Sources: ABS, 2016 Population Census data, Tasmania; AHPRA Performance Report Tasmania, March 2016 to 2019; University of Tasmania, unpublished data, 2018.