



# Physiotherapist

## ANZSCO 2525-11

South Australia  
June 2019

### Current labour market rating: Shortage

There is a shortage of physiotherapists in South Australia. Employers found it difficult to fill their vacancies.

### Key research findings

- Employers contacted were from Allied Health Services, Not for Profit and Aged Care providers.
- In 2019, the proportion of vacancies filled (29 per cent) increased compared to 2018 (18 per cent).
- Applicants per vacancy increased in 2019 (2.7) from 2018 (1.5).
- On average 0.7 applicants per vacancy were considered suitable in 2019, an increase from 2018 (0.3).
- There was an average of 0.7 qualified applicants per vacancy, which was unchanged from 2018.
- Employers had the following requirements for Physiotherapist roles:
  - Tertiary qualification in Physiotherapy.
  - Current AHPRA registration.
  - A sound knowledge of contemporary Physiotherapy practice.
  - Great communication and interpersonal skills.
  - The ability to work autonomously utilising time management and organisational skills.
- Employers from regional areas had the greatest difficulty filling vacancies. This was mainly due to applicants being unwilling to relocate, and remuneration limitations in the not for profit sector.
- Some employers advised it was difficult to recruit via online recruitment methods and resorted to brokering deals with other providers to fill roles.

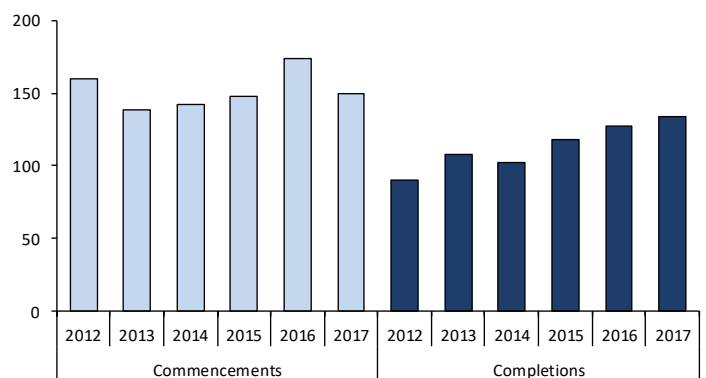
### 2019 Survey Results<sup>1</sup>



### Demand and supply

- There were 2492 registered Physiotherapists in South Australia (SA) in March 2019. This was an increase of 19.5 per cent from the five years prior in 2014 (2086).<sup>2</sup>
- The main industries that Physiotherapists worked in at the 2016 Census in SA were Physiotherapy Services (55.1 per cent), Hospitals (20.5) and Aged Care (7.8).<sup>3</sup>
- In 2018 there were 542 Physiotherapists working for the Government of South Australia, this was a slight increase compared to 2017 (533).<sup>4</sup>
- From 2012 to 2017, an annual average of 113 people completed an undergraduate physiotherapy degree in SA.<sup>5</sup>

**Figure 1: Undergraduate Commencements and Completions, Physiotherapists, 2012 – 2017.**



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

<sup>2</sup> Physiotherapy Board of Australia, Statistics, 2014 - 2019

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

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

<sup>5</sup> Department of Education, Higher Education Student Data Collection, 2017, customised tables.