



Registered Nurse

ANZSCO 2544

Northern Territory

June 2019

Current labour market rating: Regional Shortage

Regional employers were unable to attract sufficient suitable applicants to fill their vacancies.

Key research findings

- Surveyed employers included public hospitals and community clinics and was supplemented by cold-canvassing employers in the health sector.
- All surveyed vacancies were replacement positions and all required qualifications.
- The survey shows 53 per cent of vacancies were filled compared with 56 per cent in 2018.
- All vacancies in the metropolitan region were filled compared with 35 per cent filled in regional areas.
- On average, there were 2.7 applicants per vacancy and less than one suitable applicant per vacancy.
- Regional employers noted they had unfilled vacancies due to applicants finding other employment or the vacancy being filled outside of the survey period due to multiple recruitment rounds.
- Regional employers indicated that 71 per cent of applicants were unsuitable, mainly due to a lack of experience within the occupation or specific specialist experience.
- While all advertised vacancies required a nursing qualification and registration, 32 per cent of applicants were not qualified and therefore unsuitable.

Demand and supply

- The pathway to becoming a registered nurse in the Northern Territory requires completion of a Bachelor of Nursing which is offered by Charles Darwin University.

2019 Survey Results¹



- Nurses must be registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) and meet the Board's registration standards in order to practice in Australia.
- There are 3562 registered nurses in the Northern Territory, with a further 58 dual qualified nurses (enrolled and registered).
- The number of students commencing studies in nursing increased 6.4 per cent over the 12 months to 2017.
- Completions of nursing students increased by 11.4 per cent over the year to 2017.
- Registered nurses are predominately employed in hospitals, aged care facilities, community and other health care settings. Over the five years to May 2023, employment in the health care and social assistance industry is projected to grow by 12 per cent in the Northern Territory.
- Online vacancies for registered nurses fell by around 20 per cent over the year to June 2019.

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

Additional data sources: Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, Education Accreditation Authorities; Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, Nurse and Midwife Registrant Data, March 2019; Department of Education, Higher Education Statistics Data Cube, 2001 to 2017 (domestic students); Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business, Internet Vacancy Index, June 2019, 12 month moving average; Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business, Employment Projections, five years to May 2023