



Enrolled Nurse

ANZSCO 2544-11

South Australia
June 2019

Current labour market rating: No Shortage

There is no evidence of a shortage of Enrolled Nurses in South Australia.

Key research findings

- Employers surveyed sought enrolled nurses for aged care facilities and hospitals.
- The proportion of vacancies filled in 2019 (65 per cent), decreased compared to 2018 (88 per cent).
- In 2019, the average number of applicants (8.9) decreased compared to 2018 (11.5).
- The average number of suitable applicants per vacancy 2019 (2.6) increased slightly compared to 2018 (2.2).
- In 2019, the average number of qualified applicants per vacancy (4.8) decreased compared to 2018 (9.2).
- The reasons why applicants were considered unsuitable included:
 - Did not have current registration or were unqualified for the position.
 - Lacked experience in the occupation.
 - Some applicants lacked soft skills including good communication skills and interview skills.
- Employers found it difficult to recruit experienced Enrolled Nurses with many employers requiring a minimum of 12 months experience.
- Some employers surveyed identified that remuneration was low in the Aged Care sector which has resulted in fewer Enrolled Nurses working in the sector.
- Some employers surveyed identified that candidates were more inclined to work in the government sector as pay and working conditions were more attractive.
- Some employers were not able to attract local candidates due to limited number of hours and shift work/schedule availability.
- Regional employers tended to recruit applicants who needed to relocate as skills were not found locally.

2019 Survey Results¹



65%
of vacancies
filled



8.9
Applicants per
vacancy



4.8
Qualified
applicants
per vacancy



2.6
Suitable
applicants per
vacancy

Demand and supply

- As of 31 March 2019, there were 8695 registered and practicing enrolled nurses in SA. This was an increase of around 4 per cent from numbers in 2014 (8342).²
- In SA, the main industries that employed Enrolled Nurses at the 2016 Census were Hospitals (46.0 per cent) and Aged Care Residential Services (31.5 per cent).³
- In 2018, the Government of South Australia employed 3099 Enrolled and Mothercraft Nurses.⁴

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

² Nursing and Midwifery Board, Nurse and Midwife – Registration Data, March 2014, March 2019.

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

⁴ Government of South Australia – Workforce Information Report, 2017-18.