



# Occupational Therapist

## ANZSCO 2524-11

Northern Territory  
June 2019

### Current labour market rating: Shortage

Occupational therapists continue to be in shortage in the Northern Territory. Despite attracting suitable applicants, employers noted that location of employment was a factor for some interstate applicants.

### Key research findings

- The survey shows 56 per cent of vacancies were filled within the survey period, a slight increase from 53 per cent reported in 2018.
- On average, there were two applicants per vacancy and all were qualified. This is a slight increase from the 1.3 qualified applicants per vacancy reported in 2018.
- All applicants were qualified and considered suitable by employers.
- Employers were seeking fully qualified applicants with AHPRA registration, relevant experience, and (in relation to interstate applicants) a commitment to relocate to the Northern Territory.
- Overall, 71 per cent of employers had some unfilled vacancies. Employers noted that location of employment was a factor for some interstate applicants.

### Demand and supply

- The pathway to becoming an occupational therapist is through completion of an accredited program of study and registration with the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia. Except in the Northern Territory, all other states and territories have approved programs of study for this occupation.
- Charles Darwin University (CDU) offers a Bachelor of Health Science which provides a specialist stream in occupational therapy and is cross institutional through Flinders University.
- According to the ABS Census, the number of employed occupational therapists in the Northern Territory increased by a third from 2011 to 2016.

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



56%  
of vacancies  
filled



2.0  
Applicants pr  
vacancy



2.0  
Qualified  
applicants  
per vacancy



2.0  
Suitable  
applicants per  
vacancy

- As at March 2019, there were 188 registered and practising occupational therapists in the Northern Territory, a 5 per cent increase on a year earlier.
- The number of online vacancies for occupational therapists increased over the year to June 2019.

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

Additional data sources: Charles Darwin University, Course Catalogue 2018, Course structure (WHSC01); ABS Census of Population and Housing, Place of Usual Residence, 2011 and 2016; Occupational Therapy Board of Australia, Registration Data table, March 2018 and March 2019; Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business, Internet Vacancy Index, June 2019, 12 month moving average.