



# Australian Labour Market Update

## Are you looking for a job in Australia?

The Australian Labour Market Update provides information on the Australian labour market on a quarterly basis. It is intended to inform people interested in working in Australia on a temporary or permanent basis.

Further information on job prospects, earnings and related information is at the [Job Outlook](#) website.

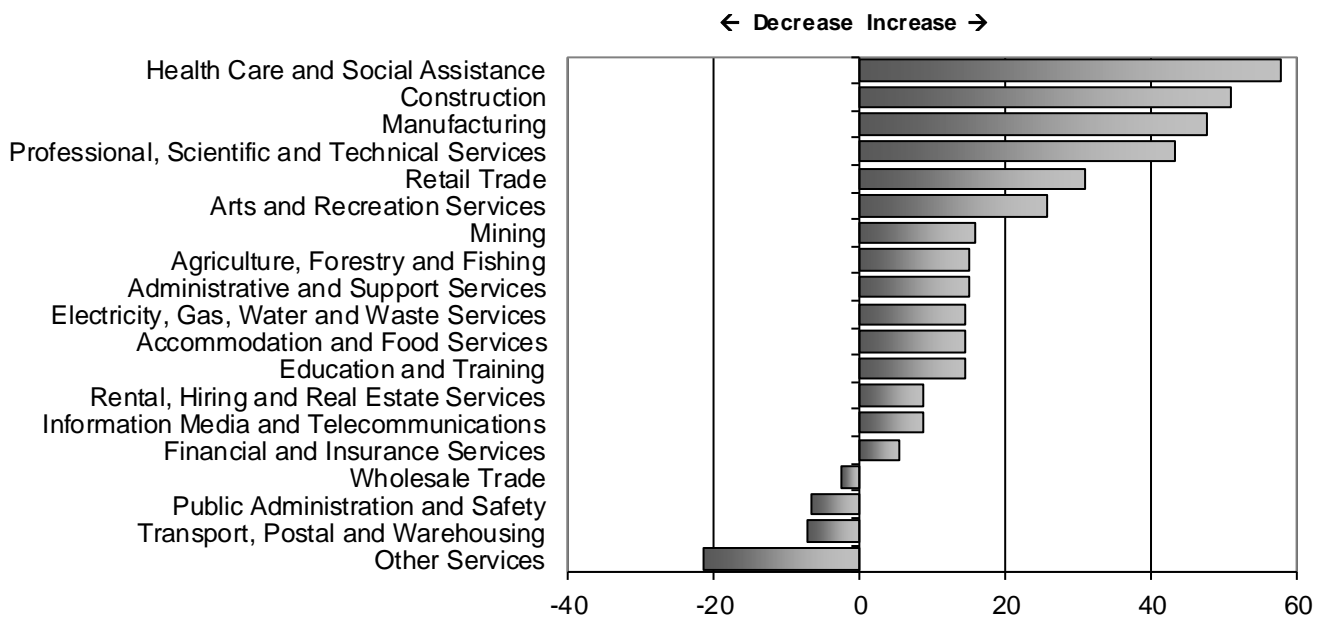
Unless otherwise stated, data are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Labour Force Survey, May 2018.<sup>1</sup>

## Employment

Over the 12 months to May 2018, the strongest employment growth (in trend terms) occurred in New South Wales (NSW, 3.7%), the Australian Capital Territory (ACT, 3.1%) and Queensland (3.0%).

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the 12 months to May 2018, the largest increases in trend employment occurred in Health Care and Social Assistance (up 57 700), Construction (up 50 900), Manufacturing (up 47 700), Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (up 43 200) and Retail Trade (up 30 900). The largest decrease in trend employment occurred in Other Services (down 21 500). The strongest rates of employment growth were in Arts and Recreation Services (up 11.4%) and Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services (up 10.7%). Increases in trend employment by industry are shown in Figure 1.

**Figure 1: Trend employment growth by industry ('000s persons)—May 2017 to May 2018**



Source: ABS, *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, May 2018*, ABS Cat. No. 6291.0.55.003.

<sup>1</sup> The first paragraph of the Employment section and the Unemployment section use trended data from the ABS' Labour Force, Australia, June 2018 (ABS Cat. No. 6202.0) time series spreadsheets. More recent data may have been published for some labour market factors.

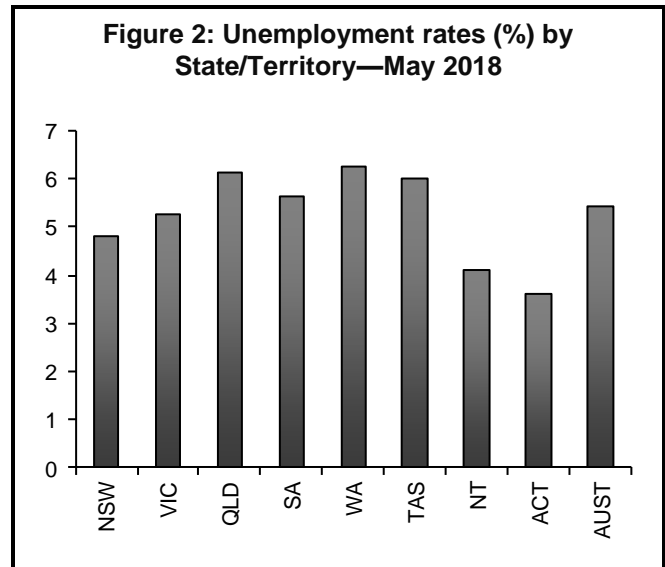
# Unemployment

The trend rate of unemployment in Australia was 5.4% in May 2018, compared to 5.7% in May 2017.

In the past year, the trend unemployment rate increased in the Northern Territory (NT, 3.3% to 4.1%), Western Australia (WA, 5.7% to 6.3%) and Tasmania (5.8% to 6.0%).

Over the same period, the trend unemployment rate decreased in South Australia (SA, 6.6% to 5.6%), Victoria (6.1% to 5.2%), the ACT (4.0% to 3.6%), Queensland (6.2% to 6.1%) and NSW (4.9% to 4.8%).

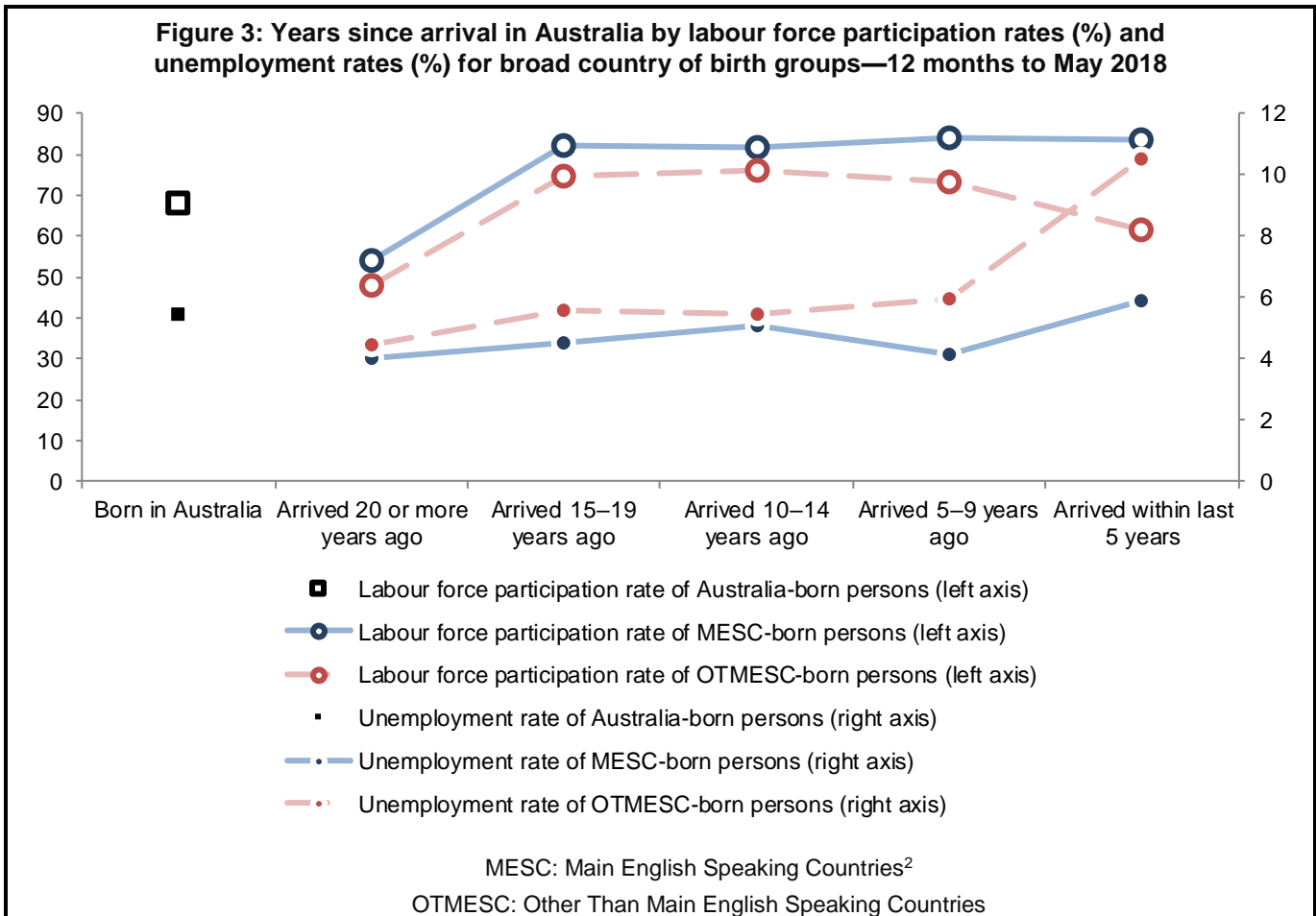
In May 2018, the trend unemployment rate was highest in WA (6.3%) and lowest in the ACT (3.6%). See Figure 2.



# Migrant Unemployment

The unemployment rates for people who migrate to Australia vary appreciably. Several factors influence migrant unemployment rates including skill level, age, English proficiency, recent and relevant work experience, and the period since arrival in Australia. Data consistently show recently-arrived migrants have a higher unemployment rate on average than those who have lived in Australia for some years.

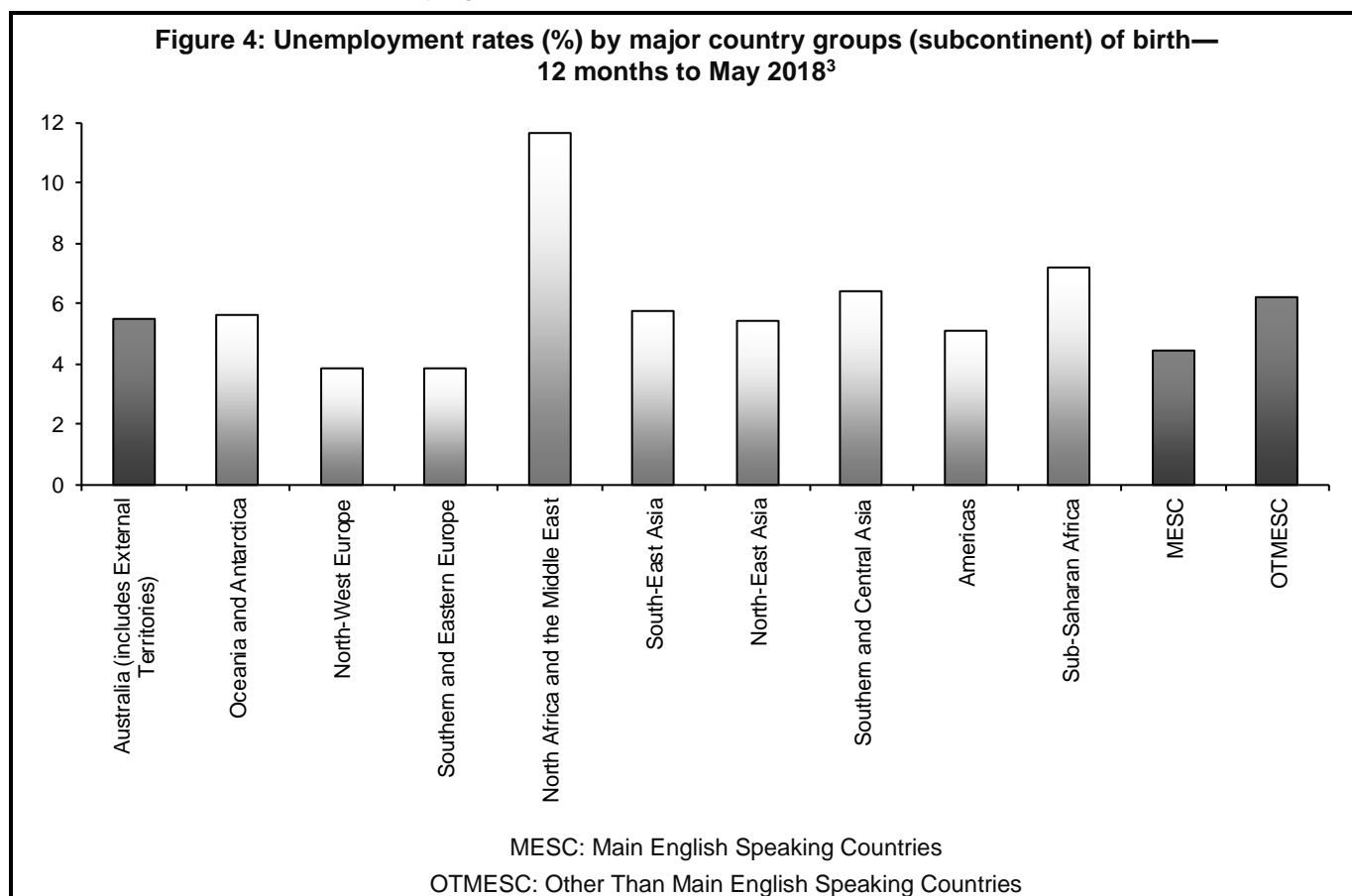
Figure 3 below shows the participation and unemployment rates of the Australian-born and migrants by broad country of birth groups and period of residence in Australia (average of the last 12 months to May 2018).



Source: ABS, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery, May 2018, ABS Cat. No. 6291.0.55.001.

<sup>2</sup> MESC are the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, South Africa, Canada, the United States of America and New Zealand.

Figure 4 below shows unemployment rates (average of the last 12 months to May 2018) for people resident in Australia born in major country groups (subcontinent). People born in Southern and Eastern Europe and North-West Europe have relatively low unemployment rates (both 3.8%), while unemployment rates for people born in North Africa and the Middle East (11.6%) and Sub-Saharan Africa (7.2%) are relatively high.



## Employment by Occupation<sup>4</sup>

Over the 12 months to May 2018, the largest increases in trend employment occurred for Professionals (up 84 100), Technicians and Trades Workers (up 76 800), and Machinery Operators and Drivers (up 47 700). Trend employment growth rates in descending skill order are shown in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Trend employment growth by occupation—12 months to May 2018**

Occupational Group	1 Year Change ('000 persons)	1 Year Change (%)
Managers	22.2	1.4
Professionals	84.1	2.9
Technicians and Trades Workers	76.8	4.4
Community and Personal Service Workers	23.3	1.8
Clerical and Administrative Workers	7.9	0.5
Sales Workers	26.2	2.3
Machinery Operators and Drivers	47.7	6.1
Labourers	6.8	0.6

Additional information on occupational groups is provided in the following section on internet vacancy trends.

<sup>3</sup> From October 2015, Figure 3 of the Australian Labour Market Update uses major country groups (subcontinent) of birth data from the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 2011 (ABS Cat. No. 1269.0). In SACC, 'Australia (includes External Territories)' is included within 'Oceania and Antarctica'.

<sup>4</sup> This section is based on May 2018 Department of Jobs and Small Business trend data derived from ABS Labour Force Survey data. Occupational Groups are from the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) (ABS Cat. No. 1220.0).

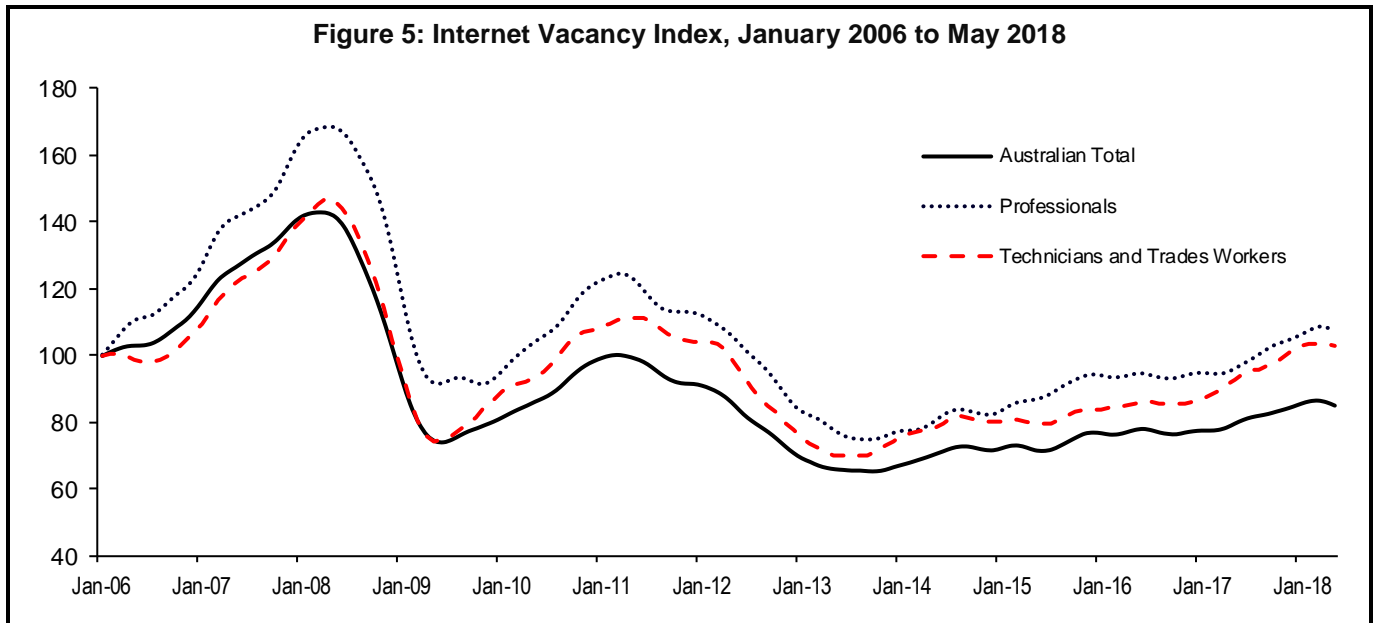
## Internet Vacancy Trends

The Department of Employment produces the monthly Vacancy Report which contains the Internet Vacancy Index (IVI)<sup>5</sup> (see Figure 5). Over the year to May 2018, the IVI (trend) increased by 5.8% with increases recorded for six of the eight occupational groups.

The largest occupational group increases were for Professionals (up 11.3%), Managers (up 10.0%) and Technicians and Trades Workers (up 8.5%).

At the more detailed occupation level, vacancies increased in 36 of the 48 occupation clusters over the year to May 2018, with the strongest increases for Engineers (up 23.7%), Science Professionals and Veterinarians (up 23.5%) and Automotive and Engineering Trades Workers (up 21.3%). The strongest decrease over this period was for Farm, Forestry and Garden Workers (down 19.6%).

Over the year to May 2018, vacancies rose in seven states and territories. The strongest rises were in WA (up 18.0%), followed by the NT (up 10.3%) and Victoria (up 8.1%). The only fall was in SA (down 1.7%).



Source: Department of Employment, Vacancy Report (June 2018), Trend Index data.

## Future Employment Change

The Labour Market Information Portal contains information on projected future employment change over the five years to May 2022 for different occupations and industries. As there may be significant variation between and within states, information on future employment change should be used with caution.

Future employment change estimates are indicative only and are intended to provide a guide to opportunities likely to be available over the five years to May 2022. It is important to note that these estimates do not provide any guidance about the number of people looking for opportunities in each occupation. As the Australian labour market can change quickly, information should be re-assessed prior to making a decision to lodge a visa application.

Queries on the Australian Labour Market Update publication should be emailed to [migration@jobs.gov.au](mailto:migration@jobs.gov.au).

<sup>5</sup> See Department of Jobs and Small Business, Vacancy Report (May 2018 and (for Figure 5) June 2018). The IVI is based on a count of online job advertisements newly lodged on SEEK, CareerOne and Australian JobSearch during the month. Duplicate advertisements are removed before IVI vacancies are coded by the now Department of Jobs and Small Business (former Department of Employment) to occupations based on ANZSCO. The data are seasonally adjusted and trended, then indexed (January 2006=100).



## Midwives

Midwives provide care and advice to women during pregnancy, labour and childbirth, and postnatal care for women and babies in a range of settings such as the home, community, hospitals, clinics and health units.<sup>i</sup>

In the Australian labour market, employers of Midwives seek applicants with a Bachelor degree in a highly relevant field of study. The occupation of Midwife is regulated by the Australian Health Practitioner Registration Agency (AHPRA) through the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA), and other certifications (such as working with children and/or comprehensive criminal record checks) may be required. Requirements vary between workplaces and according to state/territory rules and regulations.

## Labour Market Profile

Employment growth projections by the Australian Department of Jobs and Small Business indicate that the occupation group of Midwives is expected to grow strongly over the five years to May 2022. The number of job openings over the five years to May 2022 is expected to be around 7 000<sup>ii</sup>. Nearly all Midwives are employed in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry (92.8%). Table A provides a labour market profile for Midwives from the [Job Outlook](#) website.

**Table A: Midwives—Key Labour Market Indicators**

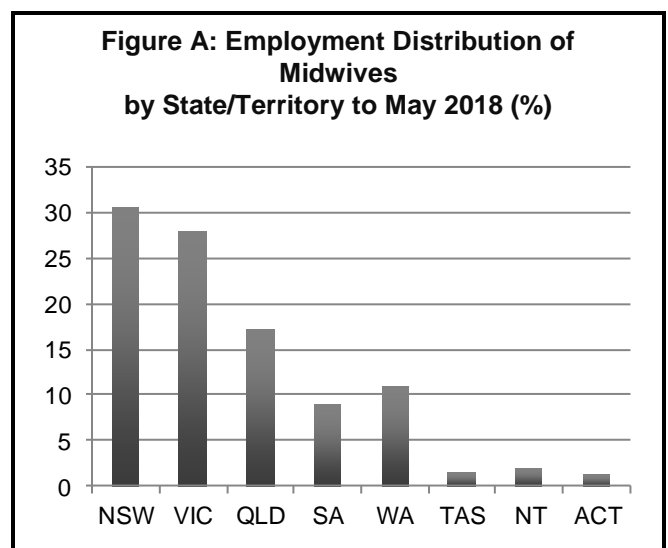
Key Indicator	Midwives
Occupation size (May 2017)	17 100
Most common level of educational attainment	Bachelor degree (75.7%)
Average age	49 years
Full-time share of employment	45.2%
Average weekly hours (full-time)	35.3
Median weekly earnings (full-time and before tax)	\$1 377
Unemployment rate	Below average
Employment growth over past five years (to May 2017)	6.2%
Projected (to May 2022) occupation size	18 800

## Regional Employment

Midwives are employed in all states and territories in Australia.

For the eight quarters to May 2018,<sup>iii</sup> the average share of employment of Midwives was highest in New South Wales (30.5%), Victoria (27.9%), Queensland (17.2%) and Western Australia (10.8%).

South Australia, the Northern Territory, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory employed the smallest average share of Midwives (at fewer than 10.0% each). See Figure A (original data).



## Skills Assessment

Overseas-trained Midwives wishing to apply for skilled migration to Australia need to obtain a skills assessment from the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC). ANMAC skills assessment criteria for Midwives includes a relevant qualification at the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Bachelor degree level and post-qualification employment as a Midwife undertaken in the five years preceding the assessment. Overseas trained Midwives should note that registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) is also necessary to be employed as a Midwife in Australia. For more information click [here](#).

## Employer-Sponsored Migration

The Australian Government has several employer-sponsored migration programs including the Temporary Skill Shortage, the Employer Nomination Scheme and the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme. Information on these programs is on the [Department of Home Affairs](#) website.

## Seeking Employment in Australia

Midwives should note that acceptance of qualifications for a migration (visa) purpose does not assure employment in this occupation or related occupations in Australia. Employment will depend on other factors such as the number of vacancies, skill needs in the Australian labour market, and suitability of an applicant for employment in a particular job in Australia.

The Department of Jobs and Small Business is not an employment agency and is not able to assist visa applicants or potential migrants to obtain employment in Australia. Australian employers are increasingly using the internet to advertise vacancies, and websites of relevant Australian professional bodies (which may recognise membership of affiliated overseas bodies) and industry bodies may include information on vacancies.

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<sup>i</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and Statistics New Zealand, Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, Cat. No. 1220.0, First Edition.

<sup>ii</sup> Department of Jobs and Small Business, [www.joboutlook.gov.au/Occupation.aspx?search=Career&code=2541](http://www.joboutlook.gov.au/Occupation.aspx?search=Career&code=2541).

<sup>iii</sup> ABS Labour Force Survey (original data), Cat. No. 6291.0.55.003.