



# ANZSCO 2512-11

# Medical Diagnostic Radiographer

# Northern Territory

# June 2018

**Current labour market rating:**

**Shortage**

Previous labour market rating (June 2017):

Unable to rate

## Comments

Recent research indicates there is a shortage of medical diagnostic radiographers in the Northern Territory with approximately 50 per cent of the surveyed vacancies remaining unfilled.

## Survey results<sup>1</sup>

- The Department of Jobs and Small Business surveyed employers who had recently advertised for medical radiographers and supplemented the survey through cold calling other employers in this field.
- In general, employers sought applicants with multiple skills and qualifications such as the ability to undertake MRI and CT scans as well as management and supervision expertise.
- Applicants were required to have relevant qualifications and be registered with the Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency (AHPRA).
- The survey shows 60 per cent of vacancies for medical diagnostic radiographers were filled contrary to 2017 when this occupation was unable to be rated due to insufficient data.
- There was on average 1.1 applicants per vacancy, with less than one applicant per vacancy considered suitable.
- Due to insufficient applicants, approximately 50 per cent of metropolitan employers are seeking to recruit international applicants with working rights in Australia.
- Employers in regional areas experienced considerable difficulty filling advertised vacancies, noting that vacancies remained unfilled due to a lack of applicants and having to fill the role temporarily with locums to ensure the business continues to be operational.
- Employers noted positions were advertised for periods of three to twelve months, with some positions remaining unfilled.
- Employers stated that reasons for low applicant numbers included a shortage of suitably experienced diagnostic radiographers, remuneration, location and shift work.

## Unsuitable applicants

- Employers considered 33 per cent of qualified applicants unsuitable as they:
  - did not hold working rights for Australia;
  - were unable to relocate on a permanent basis; or
  - were only seeking casual employment when a full time applicant was required.

<sup>1</sup> The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology | Department of Jobs and Small Business - Document library, Australian Government](#) and can also be accessed by the QR code.



## Demand and supply trends

- Medical diagnostic radiographers are healthcare professionals who specialise in the imaging of the human anatomy for the diagnosis and treatment of pathology. This occupation is predominately employed in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry.<sup>2</sup>
- Radiographers must register with the Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia under the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). AHPRA registration is taken as a radiation licence in the Northern Territory and there is no requirement for a separate radiation licence.<sup>3</sup>
- Approved programs for entry into this occupation are available in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. Entry into this occupation requires completion of an approved program of study. Graduates may be required to undertake a further 48 weeks of supervised practice program which is administered by AHPRA on behalf of the Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia. On completion a graduate is eligible to apply for a general registration with the Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia.<sup>4</sup>
- The number of diagnostic imaging services provided in the Northern Territory increased by 12.6 per cent over the 12 months to June 2018, an increase of 9,052 imaging services.<sup>5</sup>
- The Internet Vacancy Index showed there were 46 medical imaging vacancies in the Northern Territory over the year to June 2018, a decrease of 29 per cent from the previous 12 months.<sup>6</sup>
- There are 107 medical diagnostic radiographers registered with their principal place of practice in the Northern Territory, compared to 105 as at March 2017. It is less than one per cent of the overall number of registered radiographers in Australia.<sup>7</sup>
- Data from the Australian Government Department of Education and Training shows nationally, an annual growth of seven per cent each year over the ten years to 2016 of students commencing in undergraduate and postgraduate radiography studies. Similarly, completion rates grew by 3.24 per cent per annum over the same ten year period.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Australian Society of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy

<sup>3</sup> NT Government <https://nt.gov.au/industry/licences/radiation-licences-for-medical-and-dental-practitioners/diagnostic-radiographers>

<sup>4</sup> Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency; Approved Programs of Study and program study terms.

<sup>5</sup> Department of Health, Annual Medicare Statistics, MBS category by group and sub-group, Group 5 Diagnostic Imaging services.

<sup>6</sup> Department of Employment, Vacancy Report, 4 digit data, 12 month moving average, May 2016,

<sup>7</sup> <http://lmip.gov.au/default.aspx?LMIP/VacancyReport>

Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia, Medical Radiation Practitioner Registration Data: March 2016, data excludes non-practising radiographers.

<sup>8</sup> Department of Education and Training, Higher Education Student Data Collection, 2016, customised tables