



Speech Pathologist ANZSCO 2527-12

Australia
June 2018

Current labour market rating – No Shortage

Although the labour market for speech pathologists tightened in 2018 compared with previous years, the occupation is not currently in shortage.

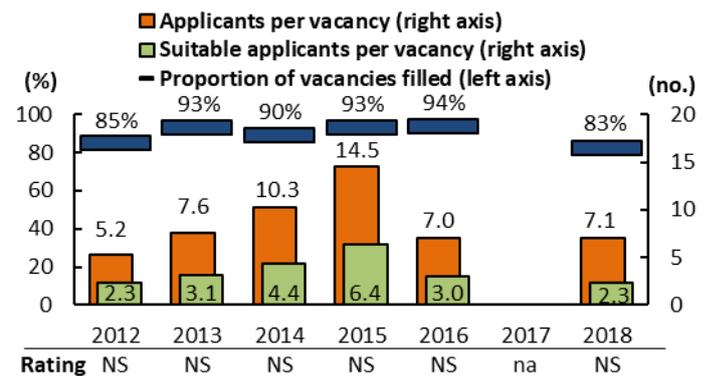
Key issues

- When advertising for speech pathologists, employers attracted a high number of applications, with most applicants having relevant qualifications.
- Regional employers had more difficulties filling vacancies than those in capital cities, although they were able to fill most positions and attract sufficient numbers of suitable applicants.
- While there is currently no shortage of speech pathologists, the labour market is tightening.
 - In 2018, the proportion of vacancies filled and the number of suitable applicants per vacancy are lower than in previous years.
- There may be additional pressure in some areas. For example, a 2017 survey by National Disability Services found 62 per cent of providers had difficulty recruiting speech pathologists, signalling issues “connecting the allied health workforce to the disability sector”.
- The demand for speech pathologists has grown, as suggested by internet vacancies more than doubling over the past five years.
- While the demand has grown, indicators of supply have also increased.
 - Since 2012, there has been a general increase in the number of university speech pathology completions, with a slight decline in 2016.
 - The practising membership of Speech Pathology Australia grew by almost 11 per cent in 2017.
- The tightening labour market has contributed to a significant improvement in employment outcomes for speech pathology graduates in recent years.

2018 Survey results¹

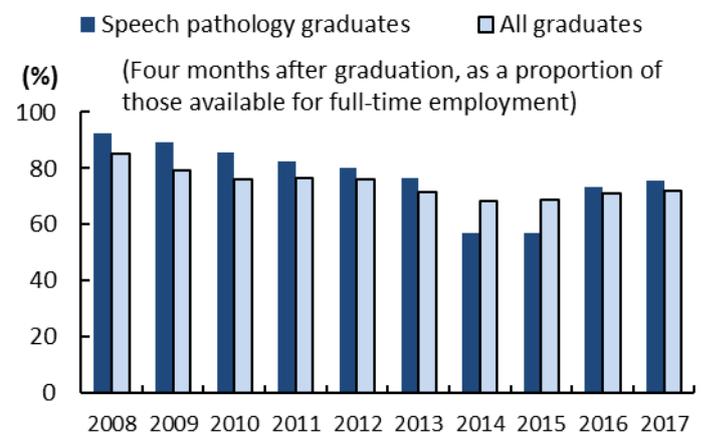


Figure 1: Survey results, Speech Pathologist, 2012 to 2018



Key to ratings: NS = No shortage; na = Not assessed

Figure 2: Graduates in full-time employment, Speech Pathology and all graduates, 2008 to 2017



¹ The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology | Department of Jobs and Small Business - Document library, Australian Government](#).

Additional data sources: National Disability Services, *State of the Disability Sector Report, 2017*; Department of Jobs and Small Business, Internet Vacancy Index, May 2018, 12 month moving average; Department of Education and Training, Higher Education Statistics (domestic students); Speech Pathology Australia, Annual Reports; QILT, Graduate Outcomes Survey