ANZSCO 2541-11
Midwife

Australian Capital Territory
June 2017

Current labour market rating: No Shortage
Previous labour market rating (June 2015): No Shortage

Survey results

- A relatively small number of employers in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) offer midwifery services and successful contact numbers for the research into this labour market were low this year compared with past years.
  - Those who did contribute did not present evidence to suggest that there is a shortage of midwives, although some noted that senior positions and casual roles can be difficult to fill.
- All the surveyed vacancies were filled in 2017, consistent with the results over recent years.
- There were multiple qualified and suitable applicants for the few vacancies surveyed.
  - Employer comments suggest that the University of Canberra’s midwifery bachelor degree has helped to bolster supply in the region in recent years.

Demand and supply trends

- Direct entry into this occupation is through the completion of a Bachelor of Midwifery. Registered nurses can also enter the midwifery labour market by completing a graduate diploma or a masters degree in midwifery.
- Midwifery training in the ACT is offered at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels by the University of Canberra.
  - Bachelor degree completions have averaged around 23 per annum over the past five years but numbered more than 30 in 2015.
  - Postgraduate completion numbers are low, with fewer than 10 per annum over the past few years.
- To practise, midwives require registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). The number of (registered and practising) midwives in the ACT fell by around 3 per cent between December 2012 and December 2016, to about 660.

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1 The survey was undertaken in the first six months of 2017. The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at Skill Shortage Research Methodology | Department of Employment - Document library, Australian Government and can also be accessed by the QR code
2 Australian College of Midwives, Become a Midwife, https://www.midwives.org.au/become-midwife (last accessed 30 June 2017)
4 Department of Education and Training, Higher Education Student Data Collection, 2015, customised tables
• Approximately 80 per cent of the midwives employed in the ACT hold dual registration as a midwife and registered nurse.\(^6\)
  ○ That said, less than half of the midwives aged under 34 years have dual registration.
• There is expected to be relatively strong replacement demand in coming years as significant numbers of midwives reach retirement age.
  ○ More than one third of midwives expect to leave the midwifery workforce in the next five years, with a further 23 per cent noting their intention to retire within six to 10 years.\(^7\)

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\(^5\) AHPRA, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, *Registrant Data*, various issues, includes those registered solely as a midwife and midwives with dual registration as either a registered or enrolled nurse
\(^6\) Department of Health, Health Workforce dataset, 2016, online data tabulation tool
\(^7\) ibid

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