



# ANZSCO 2541-11 Midwife

## Queensland June 2018

**Current labour market rating:**

**No Shortage**

Previous labour market rating (June 2017):

Regional Shortage

### Comments

While a large proportion of employers seek applicants with at least 2 years' experience, the majority are able to fill their vacancies with suitable and qualified applicants in both metropolitan and regional areas.

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

- In this year's survey, 87 per cent of vacancies were filled within six weeks of advertising, an increase of 12 per cent since 2017.
  - As with the last three years, all metropolitan vacancies were filled. The proportion of regional vacancies filled increased from 70 per cent in 2017 to 83 per cent this year.
- On average, there were 4.7 applicants per vacancy across the state compared with 5.9 in last year's survey.
- On average, 99 per cent of applicants were qualified, a substantial increase from 49 per cent last year.
  - There was an average of 4.7 qualified applicants per vacancy this year compared with 2.9 qualified applicants received in 2017.
- Metropolitan vacancies attracted a greater proportion of suitable applicants.
  - On average, there were 5.0 suitable applicants per metropolitan vacancy compared with 1.6 last year.
  - Regional vacancies remained steady with 1.5 suitable applicants per vacancy.
- This year, 27 per cent of regional employers were unable to fill their vacancies compared with 43 per cent last year.
  - Some regional employers stated they had difficulty recruiting, especially in areas such as Rockhampton, Emerald and Gladstone. This is mainly due to the lack of suitable accommodation as well as available work for partners.

### Unsuitable applicants

- In metropolitan areas, 43 per cent of applicants were considered unsuitable while in regional areas this figure was 52 per cent. The main reason reported was a lack of direct experience in the role.
  - Most employers advised that applicants were largely new graduates with insufficient antenatal and post-natal experience, while seeking at least two to three years' experience.
  - Some regional employers advised that applicants lacked experience working across remote communities, particularly with Indigenous communities, when specific to the roles advertised.

<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

- Demand for midwives is dependent on birth rates. Data from the Queensland Government show that 61,639 births were registered in the state in 2017, a slight decrease of around one per cent from 2016 (62,227).<sup>2</sup>
- Formal entry to this profession is via completion of a Bachelor of Midwifery or, for registered nurses, completion of a postgraduate qualification in midwifery. All midwives must be registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia.
  - Data from the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia indicates that at the end of March 2018 there were 1024 midwives registered in Queensland, an increase of around 16 per cent this year. The number of midwives holding joint registration as either a registered or enrolled nurse decreased by around 1.4 per cent to 5708.<sup>3</sup>
- Latest data from the Department of Employment and Training show that there were 242 students commencing undergraduate midwifery courses in 2016, an increase of 7.6 per cent from 2015. The number of nurses commencing a postgraduate midwifery qualification increased by around 25 per cent from 2015 (78) to 2016 (98).<sup>4</sup>
  - The number of midwives graduating from undergraduate midwifery degrees increased by around 40 per cent in 2016 (178) when compared with 2015 figures (127). The number of nurses completing postgraduate midwifery qualifications in 2016 was 28, down approximately 6.5 per cent from the previous year (30).<sup>5</sup>
- The Department of Home Affairs indicate that temporary skilled migration is a minimal source of supply to this profession with less than five class 457 and 482 visas granted for positions in Queensland in 2017-18 to 31 March 2018.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Queensland Government, [Life event statistics](#)

<sup>3</sup> Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, [Statistics, Nurse and Midwife Registrant data March 2018](#)

<sup>4</sup> Department of Education and Training, [Higher Education Student Data Collection, 2016](#)

<sup>5</sup> *ibid*

<sup>6</sup> Department of Home Affairs, [Temporary resident \(skilled\) visas granted, 2017-18 to March 2018](#)