



Registered Nurse

ANZSCO 2544

New South Wales
June 2019

Current labour market rating: Shortage

A shortage of registered nurses is apparent across metropolitan and regional New South Wales. Employers in NSW attracted few suitable applicants.

Key research findings

- Employers filled 49 per cent of vacancies with an average of 7.9 applicants, 6.3 qualified applicants and 0.9 suitable applicants per vacancy.
- Employers were surveyed across hospitals, aged care facilities, general practice clinics and private clinics.
- Employers sought applicants with tertiary qualifications in nursing, and full registration with both the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) as a registered nurse.
- Employers commonly sought experienced applicants with high level of communication and management skills and the ability to work independently or within a multidisciplinary team.
- Qualified and registered applicants were commonly considered unsuitable because they lacked specific or general experience, lacked technical skills, or submitted a poor job application.

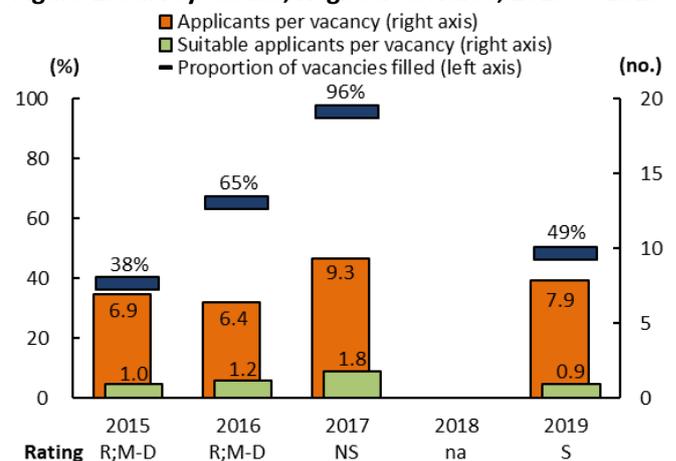
Demand and supply

- Activity in hospitals and other health care services has been slightly subdued, with public and private hospital separations (episodes of care) in NSW decreasing by 0.6 per cent over the year to 2017-18 after having increased by 3.3 per cent in the previous year.
- The number of persons registered and active in NSW as a registered nurse or registered nurse/registered midwife or enrolled nurse/registered nurse increased by 3.0 per cent in the year to March 2019, from 92,275 to about 94,670.
- Vacancies advertised online for registered nurses in NSW increased strongly by around 30 per cent to a record high over the year to June 2019.

2019 Survey Results¹



Figure 1: Survey results, Registered Nurse, 2015 to 2019



Key to ratings: S = Shortage; R; M-D = Regional shortage and Metropolitan recruitment difficulty; NS = No shortage; na = Not assessed

- The number of temporary resident skilled visas averaged 374 per annum over the three years to 2017-18 compared with an average of 720 per annum over the three years to 2014-15.
- In 2017, 2900 domestic students completed general undergraduate courses for initial nursing registration at NSW universities, an increase of around a quarter compared to the average over the previous five years.
 - Commencements for undergraduate courses were around 4715 in 2017, an increase of 17 per cent compared to the average over the previous five years.

¹ The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology](#)

Additional Data Sources: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Admitted Patient Care 2017-18 Australian Hospital Statistics; Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, Registrant data, various issues; Internet Vacancy Index, June 2019, 12 month moving average; Department of Home Affairs, Temporary Resident (Skilled) Visas Granted; Department of Education, Higher Education Student Statistics Data Cube, 2017, domestic students