



# ANZSCO 3241 Panelbeaters

# Northern Territory December 2017

## Current labour market rating

Previous labour market rating (December 2016)

## Regional Shortage

Shortage

## Comments

*Shortages of panelbeaters has been persistent for several years. However, while the most recent research shows metropolitan employers have been increasingly successful in filling vacancies, regional employers continue to find it difficult to attract qualified and experienced applicants.*

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

- The Department of Jobs and Small Business surveyed employers who had recently advertised for panelbeaters and supplemented the survey through cold calling employers due to the limited number of vacancies advertised for this occupation during this survey period.
- The 2017 survey shows 57 per cent of vacancies were filled. This is a slight increase from the 50 per cent recorded in the 2016 survey. Overall, there was less than one qualified and suitable applicant per vacancy.
  - Metropolitan employers filled 80 per cent of their vacancies, attracting 1.8 applicants per vacancy and 1.0 applicants were considered qualified and suitable per vacancy. This is an increase from the 67 per cent fill rate reported in 2016.
  - Regional employers did not attract any qualified or suitable applicants and all vacancies remained unfilled. This is a large decrease from the 40 per cent fill rate reported in 2016.
- A majority of employers advised positions were vacant between 6 and 12 months. Despite this employer's noted their willingness to wait for the right qualified candidate.
- Unfilled vacancies in the Metropolitan areas were due to applicants who were unqualified.
- Regional employers advised the remoteness and lack of qualified applicants are contributing factors that make recruitment difficult. The employers advised that to address these challenges is costly, as it involves either compensating potential employees for relocation costs and accommodation, or the cost of training, as there is no training facility in regional areas.

## Unsuitable applicants

- The main reasons cited by employers for applicants being unsuitable were due to a lack of trade qualifications, skills and experience necessary to the role and the organization operational requirements.

<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

- The average number of people employed as panel beaters in the Northern Territory has decreased by 3.4 per cent over the year to August 2017.<sup>2</sup> However, the Department of Jobs and Small Business occupation projections show neither growth or decline in this occupation nationally over the five years to May 2022.<sup>3</sup>
- Nationally, the Department's Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) increased by 0.5% in October 2017 and has risen 12 consecutive months for the first time since March 2011. However, the IVI shows that the number of online vacancies for panel beaters in the Northern Territory significantly decreased by 21.9 per cent in the 12 months to October 2017 compared to the previous 12 month period.<sup>4</sup>
- Entry into this trade is through the completion of an apprenticeship in automotive body repair. Training in Certificate III in Automotive Body Repair Technology is available in the Northern Territory through Charles Darwin University.<sup>5</sup>
- There was on average 14 automotive repair trades apprenticeship commencements per annum over the five years to June 2017, down from an average of 17 per annum in the five years to June 2012.
- Completions of automotive repair trades apprenticeships remained relatively stable over the five years to June 2017, with an average of almost 8 apprentices completing per year. This is an increase from the average of 5 completions per annum for the period 2007 to 2012.<sup>6</sup>
- In 2016-17, there were less than 5 primary applicant 457 visas grants for panel beaters in the Northern Territory. Less than 5 visas per annum have been granted for this occupation since 2008-09.<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> ABS, *Labour Force Australia*, August 2017, Department of Jobs and Small Business, Trend data

<sup>3</sup> Department of Jobs and Small Business, Occupational Employment Projections to May 2022

<sup>4</sup> Department of Jobs and Small Business Internet Vacancy Index data, October 2017, 12 month moving average.

<sup>5</sup> Myskill website

<sup>6</sup> National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER), Apprentices and Trainees, June 2017, estimates. Counting: Occupation 324 Panelbeaters, Vehicle Body Builders, Trimmers and Painters (limited to Certificate III)

<sup>7</sup> Department of Immigration and Border Protection, Subclass 457 visas granted pivot table, (2017-18 to 30 September 2017 - comparison with previous years), as at 30 September 2017. ([www.data.gov.au](http://www.data.gov.au))