



## Are you looking for a job in Australia?

The Australian Labour Market Update provides information on the Australian labour market on a quarterly basis. It is intended to help people interested in working in Australia on a temporary or permanent basis.

Further information on job prospects, earnings and related information is available at [www.joboutlook.gov.au](http://www.joboutlook.gov.au).

*Unless otherwise stated, data are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Labour Force Survey, November 2010.*

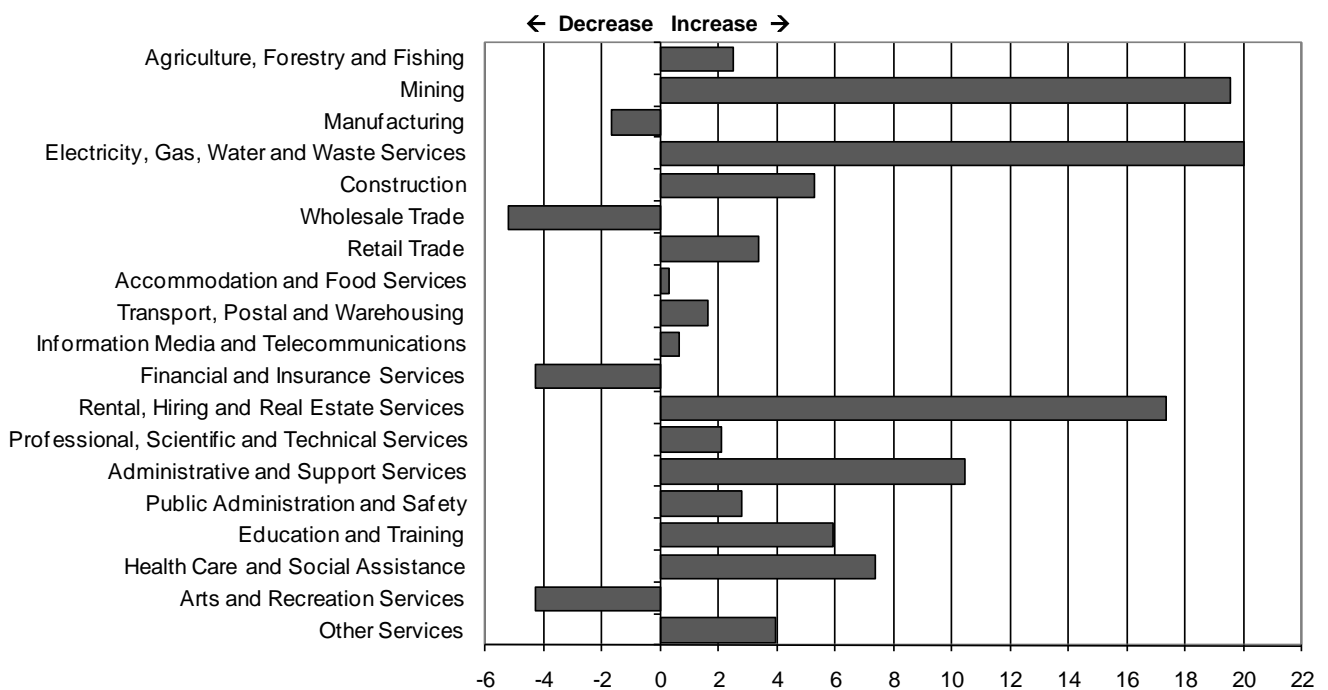
## EMPLOYMENT

Over the year to November 2010, trend employment has increased by a robust 371 600 (or 3.4%) and employment grew by 32 000 jobs in November. While this was slightly down from its most recent peak (37 500 jobs per month in September 2010), a number of forward indicators suggest employment should continue to expand in the period ahead. That said, only a very gradual downward trend in the unemployment rate is expected, as the positive impact of solid employment growth on the unemployment rate is likely to be tempered by continued strong labour force growth over the coming year.

Over the 12 months to November 2010, employment (in trend terms) increased in all States and Territories (the States) with the largest employment growth occurring in Western Australia (3.8%), New South Wales (3.7%) and Victoria (3.5%).

Employment opportunities and growth varied across industries. Over the 12 months to November 2010, the largest increases in trend employment occurred in Health Care and Social Assistance (up 89 000), Construction (up 52 200), Education and Training (up 48 700) and Retail Trade (up 40 300). The strongest rates of employment growth were in Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services (20.0%), Mining (19.4%), Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services (17.3%) and Administrative and Support Services (10.4%). Employment growth rates by industry are shown in Figure 1.

**Figure 1: Percentage change in trend employment by industry – November 2009 to November 2010**



Source: ABS, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, November 2010, ABS Cat. No. 6291.0.55.003.

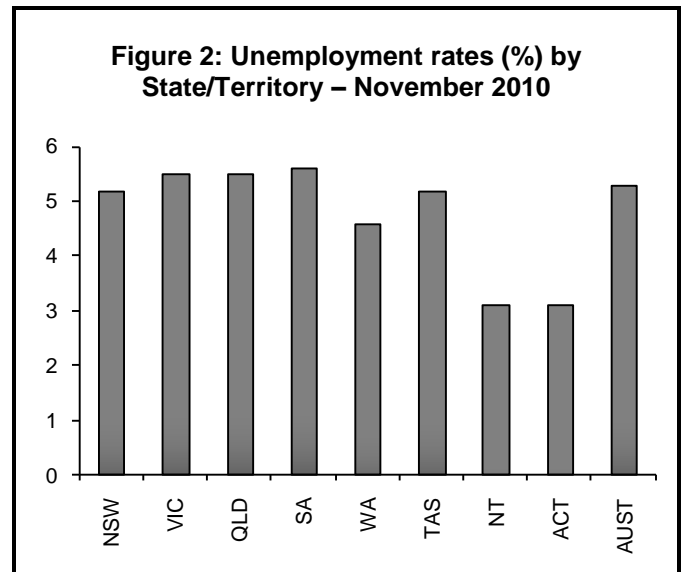
## UNEMPLOYMENT

The trend rate of unemployment was 5.3% in November 2010, compared with 5.6% in November 2009.

In the past year, trend unemployment rates have decreased in all of the States, except for South Australia where it increased from 5.3% to 5.6% and Victoria where it remained unchanged at 5.5%.

In November 2010, the trend unemployment rate was highest in South Australia (5.6%) and lowest in the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory (at 3.1% respectively). See Figure 2.

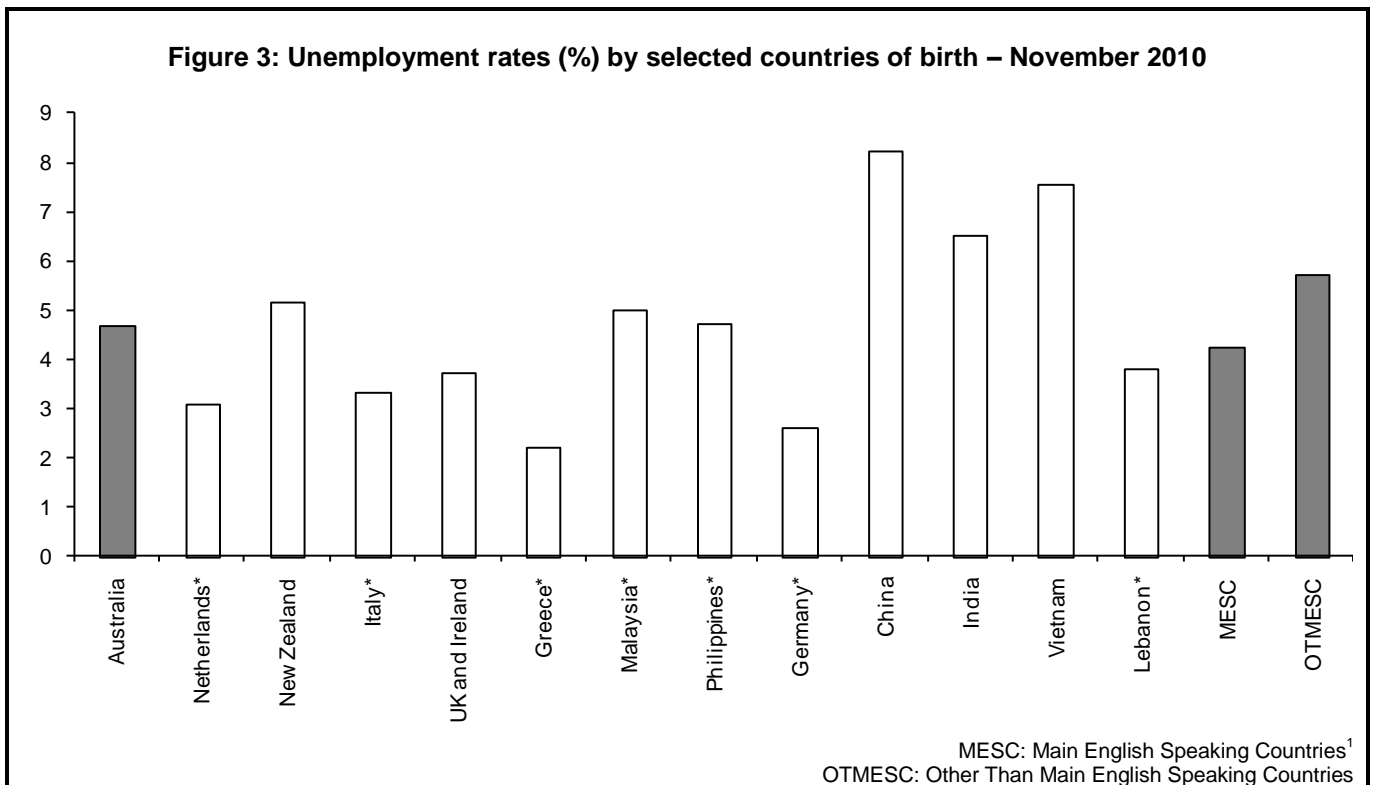
Generally, people in more highly-skilled occupational groups are less likely to experience unemployment. For example, in November 2010 the unemployment rate for those who were formerly employed as Labourers was almost four times that of former Professionals.



## MIGRANT UNEMPLOYMENT

The unemployment rates for people who migrate to Australia vary appreciably. Several factors influence migrant unemployment rates including the period since arrival in Australia (data consistently show recently-arrived migrants have a higher unemployment rate than those who have lived in Australia for some years), skill level, age, English proficiency, and recent and relevant work experience.

Figure 3 below shows unemployment rates (original data) for people resident in Australia who were born in selected overseas countries. For example, people born in Greece and Germany have low unemployment rates (2.2% and 2.6% respectively), while unemployment rates for people born in China and Vietnam are relatively high (8.2% and 7.6% respectively).



\* Estimate is subject to high sampling variability.

<sup>1</sup> MESC are the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, Canada, the United States of America and New Zealand.

## EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION

While employment growth is not the only factor influencing job prospects, it is often easier to obtain a job in an occupation which is experiencing strong employment growth than one growing only slowly or declining. Over the 12 months to November 2010, the largest increases in employment (original data) occurred for Technicians and Trades Workers (up 101 300), Sales Workers (up 98 300) and Professionals (up 57 600). Employment growth rates, in descending skill order, are shown below.

The unemployment rate for occupational groups generally reflects skill levels. Highly skilled occupational groups experience lower rates of unemployment, while higher unemployment rates are generally associated with less-skilled occupations. The unemployment rates (for those who had worked for two weeks or more in the past two years) by occupational group are presented in descending skill order below.

Percentage Growth Rates in Employment in the 12 months to November 2010		Unemployment Rate at November 2010	
Managers	-1.0%	Managers	1.2%
Professionals	2.5%	Professionals	1.4%
Technicians and Trades Workers	6.4%	Technicians and Trades Workers	2.6%
Community and Personal Service Workers	4.6%	Community and Personal Service Workers	2.6%
Clerical and Administrative Workers	2.4%	Clerical and Administrative Workers	2.6%
Sales Workers	9.4%	Sales Workers	4.4%
Machinery Operators and Drivers	6.7%	Machinery Operators and Drivers	3.5%
Labourers	2.5%	Labourers	5.7%

Additional information on Professional and Trade occupations is provided in the following section on skilled and internet vacancies.

## SKILLED AND INTERNET VACANCIES<sup>2</sup>

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) produces the *Skilled Vacancy Index* (SVI) for 18 skilled occupational groups for each State and the Northern Territory. These are aggregated into groups including Professionals and Trades (see Figure 4 overleaf). The SVI shows where the best employment opportunities may be in the Australian labour market.

In November 2010 skilled vacancies were 5.9% higher than in November 2009. Over the 12 months to November 2010, the largest SVI increase was recorded in Western Australia (up 42.5%) and the largest decrease was in Queensland (down 37.0%).

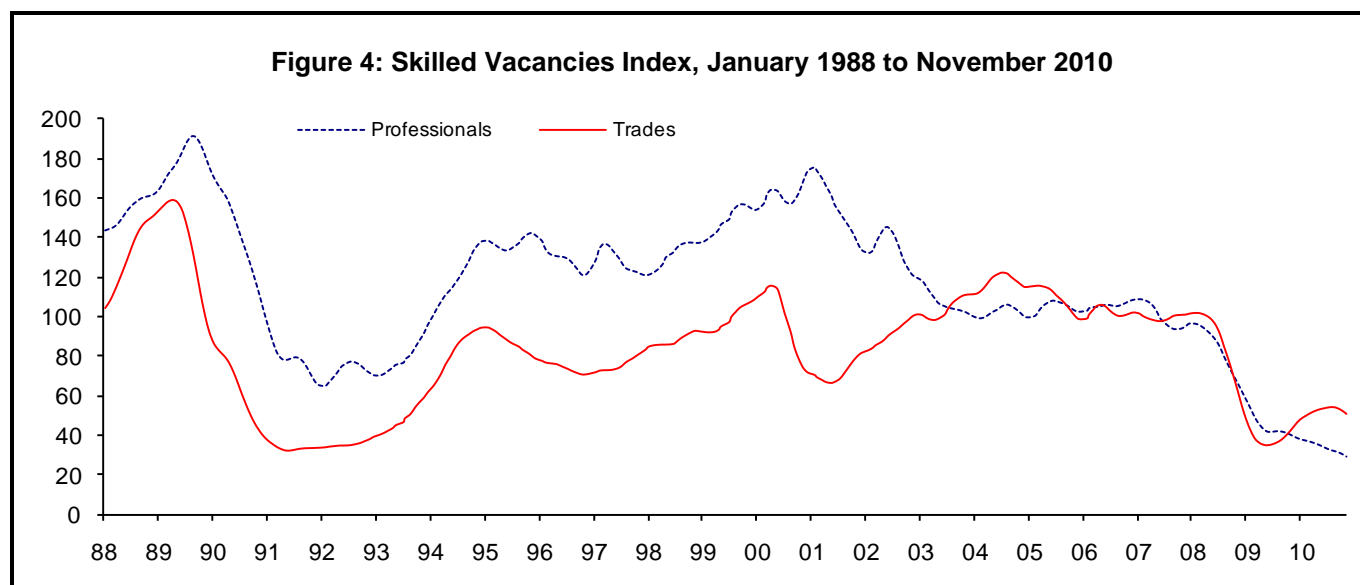
In the 12 months to November 2010 advertised vacancies decreased for Professional occupations (down 26.0%) and increased for Trade Occupations (up 25.9%). The most significant increases were for Construction Trades (up 38.9%), Metal Trades (up 38.8%) and Automotive Trades (up 33.1%). The most notable decreases listed were for Health Professionals (down 32.0%) and Building and Engineering Professionals (down 20.0%).

DEEWR also produces the *Internet Vacancy Index* (IVI) based on vacancies lodged on four recruitment websites for 48 occupational groups across all skill levels and for all of the States.

In November 2010 internet vacancies were 20.9% higher than for November 2009. Over the 12 months, IVI increases were recorded in all States, except for the Northern Territory (down 1.1%). The most significant IVI increases were in Western Australia (up 43.2%), the Australian Capital Territory (up 25.9%) and New South Wales (up 22.4%).

In the 12 months to November 2010, internet vacancies increased in 42 of the 48 occupational groups. The most notable increases were for Science Professionals and Veterinarians (up 65.4%), Sales, Marketing and Public Relations Professionals (up 55.7%), and Transport and Design Professionals, and Architects (up 54.3%). The most notable decreases were for Education Professionals (down 14.6%) and Farm, Forestry and Garden Workers (down 11.6%).

<sup>2</sup> Historical series of trend figures for SVI are revised monthly; the IVI is based on a three month moving average. SVI occupational groups are based on the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO), Second Edition (ABS Cat. No. 1220.0) while IVI vacancies are coded to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO), First Edition (ABS Cat. No. 1220.0).



Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, SVI Seasonally Adjusted and Trended Data (January 2011), [www.skillsinfo.gov.au/skills/LMI/VacancyReport](http://www.skillsinfo.gov.au/skills/LMI/VacancyReport).

### FUTURE JOB PROSPECTS<sup>3</sup>

Future job prospects depend on many factors, some of which are difficult to predict. Prospects differ between and within the States and can change rapidly. Even in occupations with below average prospects, employment opportunities may arise. This information should therefore be used with caution.

The following future job prospect ratings are for the period to 2014-15 and are based on employment trends, projected growth, unemployment rates, SVI trends (where available), and other data. In the following table G stands for good prospects, A for average prospects and BA for below average prospects; L (not in the table) stands for limited prospects.<sup>4</sup>

Occupational Group	Prospects to 2014-15	Occupational Group	Prospects to 2014-15
<b>Managers</b>		Social Workers	<b>G</b>
Child Care Centre Managers	<b>G</b>	<b>Technicians and Trades Workers</b>	
<b>Professionals</b>		Bakers and Pastrycooks	<b>A</b>
Civil Engineering Professionals	<b>G</b>	Cabinetmakers	<b>A</b>
Computer Network Professionals	<b>G</b>	Civil Engineering Draftspersons and Technicians	<b>G</b>
Dental Practitioners	<b>G</b>	Clothing Trades Workers	<b>BA</b>
Generalist Medical Practitioners	<b>G</b>	Electrical Engineering Draftspersons and Technicians	<b>G</b>
Industrial, Mechanical and Production Engineers	<b>A</b>	Electricians	<b>G</b>
Medical Imaging Professionals	<b>G</b>	Mechanical Engineering Draftspersons and Technicians	<b>BA</b>
Midwives	<b>G</b>	Metal Casting, Forging and Finishing Trades Workers	<b>A</b>
Occupational Therapists	<b>G</b>	Panelbeaters	<b>A</b>
Pharmacists	<b>G</b>	Printers	<b>A</b>
Physiotherapists	<b>G</b>	Wood Machinists and Other Wood Trades Workers	<b>A</b>
Primary School Teachers	<b>G</b>	<b>Community and Personal Service Workers</b>	
Registered Nurses	<b>G</b>	Dental Hygienists, Technicians and Therapists	<b>G</b>
Secondary School Teachers	<b>G</b>	Florists	<b>A</b>

The Australian Labour Market Update uses the latest available detailed and consistent data at time of production. However, the labour market can change quickly and should be re-assessed prior to making a decision to lodge a visa application. Queries relating to this publication should be emailed to [migration@deewr.gov.au](mailto:migration@deewr.gov.au).

<sup>3</sup> The occupational groups listed in this table are at least partly on the Employer Nomination Scheme Occupation List (ENSOL) issued on 5 December 2010.

<sup>4</sup> Job prospect ratings are based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO), First Edition (ABS Cat. No.1220.0).



## Environmental Scientists

In the Australian labour market, environmental scientists study, develop, implement and advise on policies and plans for managing and protecting the environment, flora, fauna and other natural resources. For the purpose of this Hot Topic, environmental scientists includes conservation officer, environmental consultant, environmental research scientist and park ranger. The entry requirement for employment in the occupation is the completion of an Australian bachelor degree.

### LABOUR MARKET PROFILE

Australian Bureau of Statistics data show employment of environmental scientists has declined slightly, with a decline of 6.5% over the two years to May 2010. Very strong employment growth is expected for the five years to 2014-15 with most environmental scientists employed in the Public Administration and Safety, Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, Arts and Recreation Services, and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing sectors. **Table A** provides a labour market profile for the occupation of environmental scientist based on *Job Outlook Online* data (see [www.joboutlook.gov.au](http://www.joboutlook.gov.au)).

**Table A: Environmental Scientists – Key Labour Market Indicators**

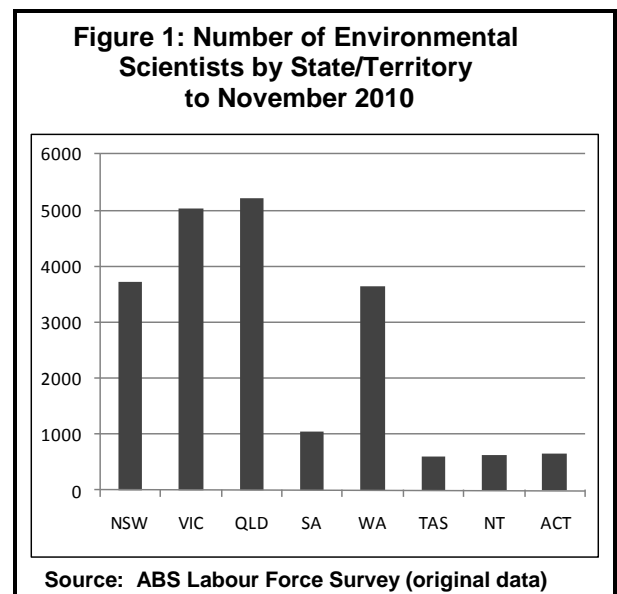
Key Indicator	Environmental Scientists	All Occupations
Occupation size	20 600	11 186 500 <sup>5</sup>
Females	39%	46%
Males	61%	54%
Median age	37 years	39 years
Full-time share of employment	83.3%	70.5%
Average weekly hours (full-time)	39.4	not available
Weekly earnings (full-time and before tax)	\$1 250	\$1 000
Vacancy level (internet)	very high	not available
Employment growth over 5 years (to May 2010)	41.7%	10.6%
Future employment growth (to 2014-15)	very strong growth	not available
Job Prospects	good	not available

### REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Environmental scientists are employed in all States and Territories.

For the four quarters to November 2010, average employment of environmental scientists was highest in Queensland (Qld, 5 203), Victoria (5 036) and New South Wales (NSW, 3 727).

The Australian Capital Territory (ACT), the Northern Territory (NT) and Tasmania employed the smallest number of environmental scientists with 661, 616 and 612 respectively employed. See Figure 1 (original data).



<sup>5</sup> ABS trended data (May 2010) from Labour Force, Australia, November 2010 (ABS Cat. No. 6202.0).

### **SKILLS ASSESSMENT**

The Australian Government has appointed Australian assessing authorities to assess the skills (qualifications and employment experience) of visa applicants against the Australian standard for managerial, professional and trade occupations appearing on various temporary and permanent migration program occupation lists. These assessing authorities are not employment agencies.

Vocational Education and Training Assessment Services (VETASSESS) is the designated Australian assessing authority for skills assessments for migration purposes for environmental scientists, with the exception of conservation officer. The entry requirement for these occupations in the Australian labour market is an Australian Qualifications Framework bachelor degree in a field of study highly relevant to the occupation. To improve an applicant's employability, VETASSESS also requires an applicant to have completed, in the five years prior to the application for skills assessment, at least one year of post-qualification employment at an appropriate skill level in a field closely related to the occupation. Further information can be found at [www.vetassess.com.au](http://www.vetassess.com.au).

Applicants must include a copy of the positive skills assessment by VETASSESS with their visa application to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) and be prepared to show all supporting documentation to the assessment.

Further information on skills, licensing and registration is available on industry body websites such as The Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers, Australia at [www.apesma.asn.au](http://www.apesma.asn.au), the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology at [www.aiast.com.au](http://www.aiast.com.au), and the DIAC Australian Skills Recognition Information website at [www.immi.gov.au/asri/a-z.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/asri/a-z.htm).

### **EMPLOYER-SPONSORED MIGRATION**

The Australian Government has in place several employer-sponsored migration arrangements, including the Temporary Business Long Stay Arrangement, Employer Nomination Scheme, Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme and Labour Agreements. Detailed information on these migration arrangements is available on the DIAC website at [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au).

### **SEEKING EMPLOYMENT IN AUSTRALIA**

Overseas-qualified environmental scientists seeking to work in Australia who are not Australian citizens or permanent residents will need to contact the nearest Australian Embassy, Consulate or High Commission to apply for a visa with a work right. Addresses of all Australian Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates are available from the DIAC website at [www.immi.gov.au/contacts](http://www.immi.gov.au/contacts).

Overseas-qualified environmental scientists should note acceptance of overseas qualifications for migration does not guarantee employment in the occupation in Australia. Employment will depend on other factors such as the number of vacancies advertised, skill needs in the Australian labour market, State and Territory licensing requirements and suitability of an applicant for employment in a particular job in Australia.

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations is not an employment agency and is not able to assist visa applicants or potential migrants to obtain employment in Australia. Australian employers are increasingly using the internet to advertise vacancies and websites of Australian professional bodies (which may recognise membership of affiliated overseas bodies) and industry bodies often include information on vacancies.