

# AUSTRALIA

January 2009

## **3211-11 Automotive Electrician**

**(review)**

**Review rating:** *Shortage*

### **Employer and industry comments/current labour market**

Shortages for automotive electricians that were identified by DEEWR research in mid 2008 continue. A survey of employers who had recently advertised for automotive electricians was undertaken for this review. A small number of employers were canvassed despite not having recently advertised in those states where vacancies were difficult to source.

Of the surveyed vacancies 33 per cent were filled with employers receiving around five applicants per vacancy. Employers considered less than one applicant per vacancy to be suitable with over three quarters of employer's requiring formal qualifications.

Demand appears strongest for auto electricians with skills in heavy vehicle auto electrics with slightly more than 45 per cent of surveyed employers seeking skills in this area. The majority of employers were recruiting to replace existing staff.

Employers in regional areas felt that it was more difficult to attract skilled tradespeople than those in metropolitan areas. However it was noted by metropolitan employers that they were beginning to see larger numbers of auto electricians seeking more stable employment. Both metropolitan and regional employers commented that many auto electricians are seeking remuneration above what they are able to pay, this may be tradespeople entering the labour market from the mineral and resource sector where it is possible to earn above average remuneration. A number of employers also commented that they would not be taking on apprentices in the coming six months as they were waiting to see how recent downturns in the economy were going to affect business revenue.

### **Labour Market Outlook**

Employer comments suggest that the labour market for this occupation may change over the next six months with higher numbers of auto electricians seeking employment due to the recent economic down turns particularly in the mineral and resource sector. This may indicate a positive shift in recruitment for regional and metropolitan employers.