

AUSTRALIA

March 2009

3242-11 Vehicle Body Builder

(review)

Review rating: *No Shortage*

Employer and industry comments/current labour market

A survey of employers who had recently advertised for vehicle body builders was conducted for this review. Almost 65 per cent of the surveyed vacancies were filled which is a significant increase compared with the result recorded in 2008 when about one quarter of vacancies were filled. Employers reported attracting greater numbers of applicants. Some successful applicants were experienced workers who do not hold qualifications and employers noted many people within the occupation come from other trade backgrounds such as welding or panel beating.

Employers received almost five applications per vacancy and considered slightly less than one applicant per vacancy to be suitable. Some employers noted they are seeing more workers approaching them for employment than in previous years with a few stating they were being cold cased by experienced, trade qualified body builders. Although a suitable applicant to vacancy ratio of less than one would generally be indicative of a shortage, many unsuitable applicants were qualified body builders.

A few employers commented that some motor body building business have closed in recent months or reduced staff numbers and business hours. Employers also stated they are receiving greater interest in positions from people who do not have experience in vehicle bodybuilding.

Labour Market Outlook

Employer comments suggest that the labour market for this occupation may change over the next six months with higher numbers of vehicle body builders seeking employment due to economic conditions. This may indicate a positive shift in recruitment for employers.