

## **AUSTRALIA**

March 2009

### **3223-13 Welder (First Class)**

**(review)**

**Review rating:** *No Shortage*

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

A survey of employers who had recently advertised was undertaken in March 2009 for this review. Nationally, 90 per cent of surveyed vacancies were filled within four weeks of advertising, an increase from 60 per cent when the occupation was last assessed in November 2008.

On average, employers received eight suitable applicants per vacancy, increasing significantly from when the occupation was last assessed in late 2008. The large increase in the number of suitable applicants was also reflected in employers' comments. Employers felt they received more interest in their vacancy as a result of the current economic situation. Some employers commented that recent restructuring of surrounding engineering and construction companies, following the economic slow down, increased the availability of qualified and experienced welders.

Lack of relevant experience, problems with location, tickets and licences, work ethic and communication skills were the main reasons cited by employers for unsuitable applicants.

#### **Labour Market Outlook**

There no longer appears to be a shortage of welders in the current labour market. The current uncertainty felt by employers in light of the current economic climate, and slow down in many employers work schedules suggests that the labour market for welders will not be in shortage over the next six months.