

# AUSTRALIA

March 2009

## **3243-11 Vehicle Painter**

(review)

**Review rating:** *No Shortage*

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

A survey of employers who had recently advertised for vehicle painters was undertaken for this review. Of the surveyed vacancies 80 per cent were filled. The majority of employers were recruiting to replace existing staff. Employers received around 12 applications per vacancy and considered more than one applicant per vacancy to be suitable. While employers received large numbers of applications many noted the majority of applicants were unskilled in spray painting. Employers considered applicants to be unsuitable for a number of reasons such as lack of qualifications, lack of experience and poor attitudes or work history.

More than half of the surveyed employers were not intending to recruit in the next six months and some employers who were cold canvassed indicated it is possible they may reduce staff over this period. Employers stated it is not unusual to take on people from other trades who had experience in spray painting although surveyed vacancies were generally filled by trade qualified vehicle painters. Some employers noted they received interest in positions from spray painters with more than five years experience, whereas in the past it was very unusual to receive applications from this group. This may be a sign of tightening economic conditions, with a few employers noting closures of workshops in their area.

### **Labour Market Outlook**

Employer comments suggest that the labour market for this occupation may ease further over the next six months with higher numbers of spray painters seeking employment due to recent economic downturns and associated business closures and downsizing.