

Audiologist	Australia
ASCO Code: 2399-11	July 2007
Labour market rating	Shortage
Comment	

Employer and industry comments/current labour market

A survey of employers who had recently advertised for Audiologists was undertaken for this report. The Australian Standard Classification of Occupations defines the tasks of an audiologist as administering and interpreting a wide range of audiometric tests to determine hearing efficiency and site of detected hearing problems, interprets audiometric test results and other medical, social and behavioural diagnostic data. Evaluates total response pattern and acoustic tests, prescribes appropriate hearing aids, may conduct research in to the auditory system or design and implement educational programs and research procedures.

ASCO includes audiologists at the skill level 1 showing the entry level for this occupation is a bachelor degree or higher qualification, registration or licensing is required. Employees were seeking applicants with degrees in audiology and most did not require post graduate experience.

It was very difficult to find advertised vacancies for audiologists and this resulted in the survey being based on a small sample size with no vacancies in Tasmania or the Australian Capital Territory. Most of the vacancies surveyed were in the public sector and employers suggested private sector organisations often head hunted audiologists rather than advertising. Employers nationally reported filling almost 20 per cent of vacancies surveyed. Regional employers and metropolitan employers both reported difficulties recruiting audiologists, with only one in five positions being filled, despite a number of employers advertising Australia wide as well as in New Zealand where audiology corresponds with Australian standards.

On average employers received slightly less than four applicants per advertised vacancy, with less than one considered by employers to be suitable per vacancy. Slightly more than 70 per cent of applicants were from overseas. Some employers considered that overseas applicants were unsuitable as their qualifications are not recognised in Australia and to gain recognition they are required to undergo a year of supervision in a work placement and then sit exams.

Employers also commented that lack of audiologists available to supervise overseas trained professionals may be problematic. A number of government organisations contacted believed they experienced difficulty recruiting as they were unable to match the pay and conditions offered by non-government employers.

Labour market outlook

There is no evidence to suggest the labour market for audiologists will change significantly over the next six months.