

Naturopath	Australia
ASCO Code: 2394-11	July 2007
Labour market rating	No Shortage
Comment	

Employer and industry comments/current labour market

The Australian Standard Classification of Occupations defines the tasks of a naturopath as treating internal health problems, metabolic disorders and imbalances, through treatment of the whole person, using natural therapies.

A survey of employers who had recently advertised for naturopaths was undertaken for this report. However, assessment of the labour market for naturopaths was difficult because of the small number of vacancies identified for naturopaths in the survey period. Although there were a number of vacancies which used the title naturopath, employers were seeking people with qualifications in naturopathy to provide advice and sales assistance in retail environments such as pharmacies and health food or vitamin shops rather than for naturopath practitioners. In light of the small number of vacancies, naturopaths were cold canvassed to discuss their perceptions of the labour market, so this report is based on anecdotal evidence rather than firm vacancy-related data.

The small number of advertised vacancies makes analysis of vacancy fill rates and applicant numbers unreliable. Few contacts who participated in the research employ other naturopaths and most suggest the occupation is characterised by high levels of sole practitioner practices with naturopaths working on their own account or renting rooms in other health facilities to provide a complete set of health services in a single location.

The few vacancies which were identified were either filled easily or were unfilled due to differences in hours sought by applicants and those offered by employers. Unfilled vacancies required weekend work or were part-time positions and suitable applicants were seeking full time work or were full time positions with suitable applicants wanting to work shorter hours.

Most contacts believed there is not a shortage of naturopaths and some suggested there is an abundance of qualified naturopaths.

Labour market outlook

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