

<b>Student Counsellor</b>		<b>Northern Territory</b>
<b>ASCO Code:</b> 2513-19	March 2007	
<b>Labour market rating</b>	Regional Shortage	
<b>Comment</b>		

### **Occupational demand**

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census data show that there were 15 student counsellors employed in the Northern Territory (NT) in 2001. Employment for the occupation is too small in the NT for the ABS labour force data to provide a meaningful indicator of employment growth for the period following the 2001 census. The NT Government increased their funding allocation for school counsellors by 19 positions for the beginning of the 2006 school year. This increase has been the main influence on demand for this small occupation in the NT.

### **Occupational supply**

Although employers of school counsellors in the NT would like applicants to have teaching experience, psychology or social work qualifications are the core requirement. Charles Darwin University does offer courses in both psychology and social work, however attracting interstate applicants tends to be the key supply source.

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

Few employers of student counsellors had recently advertised vacancies, but only half of those who did were able to fill their vacancies. The urban vacancies attracted numerous applications with a choice of potentially suitable candidates, however remote vacancies did not attract interest from suitable candidates. Although employees would like to recruit people with a teaching qualification, it was rare for successful applicants to have teaching experience in addition to their other qualifications.

Employers filled all but two of the additional NT Government roles by the start of the programme last year. A remote schools position has, so far, not been filled and has remained vacant for the entire period. Turnover is not considered to be a problem for the profession, with employees tending to be quite stable in their roles.

### **Labour market outlook**

Demand for student counsellors is expected to remain reasonable stable (following the significant increase in 2006). The few vacancies that arise (due to job turnover or gradual demand growth) are expected to be filled, but with the difficulties in remote areas expected to remain. The occupation is therefore expected to remain in regional shortage over the coming year.