

Recreation Officer		Australia
ASCO Code: 2549-19	March 2007	
Labour market rating	No Shortage	
Comment.		

Employer and industry comments/current labour market

The Australian Standard Classification of Occupations defines recreation officer as being at skill level 2 which shows entry as generally requiring a bachelor degree or higher qualification or at least five years of relevant experience. Duties include studying and analysing recreation needs and resources, developing and implementing recreation management policies on behalf of government and community service organisations and providing technical and professional advice to urban planners and others concerned with the provision of recreation facilities. The majority of surveyed vacancies were in local government and a smaller number were in aged care, correctional facilities and schools.

Nationally, about 86 per cent of the advertised vacancies were filled by qualified, experienced recreation officers within six weeks of advertising. However a small number of regional employers advertised more than once before filling their vacancies.

Western Australian employers experienced the most difficulty, filling about half of their advertised vacancies. Employers in Queensland were more successful, filling about three quarters of their vacancies and all the surveyed vacancies in South Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory were filled relatively easily. The vacancy filling rate reported by regional employers was similar to that of metropolitan employers although they generally received fewer applications per vacancy.

Overall most employers surveyed received several applications from suitably qualified recreation officers. On average employers received more than ten applications per vacancy, of which about three applicants per vacancy were considered by employers to be suitable. Primarily applicants were considered to be unsuitable because they lacked relevant qualifications, skills and experience required or did not adequately address the selection criteria.

Most employers were satisfied with the result of their advertising with some commenting that the response was more positive than they had expected. A common factor noted in the unfilled vacancies in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland was that the positions were either temporary maternity leave positions or part time positions. In Western Australia the remote location of some vacancies led to the withdrawal of suitable applicants and the position remaining unfilled.

Labour market outlook

There is no evidence to suggest there will be any significant change in the level of demand or supply to this occupation over the next six months.