Introduction

Skilled Occupations List

The Department of Education and Training is currently updating its advice on the Australian Government's Skilled Occupations List (SOL) for 2016-17.

We are seeking your input on the occupations/industry sectors your organisation represents or that you belong to as an individual. In particular, we are seeking evidence of:

- skill demand and supply imbalance,* both nationally and regionally
- medium to long-term demand and supply trends which may impact upon Australia's employment outlook
- formal licensing or registration requirements.

Note: The SOL is concerned only with 'medium to long-term' skills needs rather than immediate skills shortages. As such, the Department of Education and Training is only seeking to obtain information on longer term trends, rather than immediate shortages and costs. For the purposes of this exercise, 'medium to long-term' is defined as a period of around two to ten years.

* Skill demand and supply (im)balance occurs when the quantity of a given skill supplied by the workforce and the quantity demanded by employers diverge at existing market conditions. Labour market supply and demand for occupational skills are continuously fluctuating. At a certain point in time, there will be labour market imbalances and accompanying skill imbalances if there is disequilibrium between the demand for and supply of skills.

Privacy

All information, including name and address details, contained in submissions will be made available to the public on the Department of Education and Training website unless you indicate that you would like all or part of your submission to remain in confidence. Automatically generated confidentiality statements in emails do not suffice for this purpose. Respondents who would like all or part of their submission to remain in confidence should provide this information in an email to SOLSubmissions@education.gov.au. Legal requirements, such as those imposed by the Freedom of Information Act 1982, may affect the confidentiality of your submission.
### Applicant Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Given Name</strong></th>
<th>Neryla</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Surname</strong></td>
<td>Jolly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organisation</strong></td>
<td>Orthoptics Australia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Contact Details

Please provide the name, position and contact details of a person within your organisation who is willing to be contacted if any further information or follow-up is required.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Given Name</strong></th>
<th>Neryla</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Surname</strong></td>
<td>Jolly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Position</strong></td>
<td>Executive Orthoptics Australia Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact Number</strong></td>
<td>02 9484 2087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Email (receipt will be sent to this address)</strong></td>
<td><a href="mailto:neryla.jolly@bigpond.com">neryla.jolly@bigpond.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Industry

Type of Industry

What are the industry/industries and ANZSCO occupation/s that you or your organisation represents for the purposes of this submission? *  
(select all that apply)

- All Industries
- Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing
- Mining
- Manufacturing
- Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services
- Construction
- Wholesale Trade
- Retail Trade
- Accommodation and Food Services
- Transport, Postal and Warehousing
- Information Media and Telecommunications
- Financial and Insurance Services
- Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services
- Professional, Scientific and Technical Services
- Administrative and Support Services
- Public Administration and Safety
- Education and Training
- Health Care and Social Assistance
- Other Services

Occupation

Occupation

The three dropdowns below accord with the ABS ANZSCO classification of occupations. Selections are required at the 'Occupation Group' 2-digit level and at the 'Occupation Unit (4-digit)' level, but can also be made down to the Occupation (6-digit) level depending on the occupation/s to which your submission relates.

Occupation 1 of 1

Occupation Group *

Health Professionals

Occupation Unit *

2514

Occupation *

251412

For the 2016-17 SOL please indicate advice about your nominated occupation

- [ ] Include
- [ ] Exclude
- [ ] Maintain status quo
Orthoptists are educated at universities in Sydney (Master of Orthoptics) and Melbourne (Bachelors and Masters degree in Orthoptics). Graduates are employed in the Allied Health field working mostly in medical models in public hospitals, private practices, low vision areas and rehabilitation. They are employed across Australia in both metropolitan and rural areas. Their role is different to Optometrists and it makes it difficult for the two professions to be grouped together and/or be controlled by the same guidelines in SOL. Optometry is a Registered profession, Orthoptics is self regulated. Based on the existence of only 2 educational centres there is and always has been a short fall in supply, particularly in state such as Queensland, South Australia & Western Australia. The short fall is being met in some places by training Assistants who can undertake basic skills.

Are there any occupations that you represent where there is evidence of imbalances in the demand and supply of skills in the medium to long-term? Please list them.

- Orthoptists

Is there evidence of imbalances in the demand for and supply of skills in the medium to long-term in non-metropolitan areas?

- Yes
- No

Please indicate in which part of Australia this imbalance exists.

The reported areas in rural areas are Katoomba, Bathurst, Port Macquarie and rural Queensland where vacant positions remain unfilled or are filled for brief periods. Details of employment needs in other states can also be gained.

Are there any occupations which require formal licensing or registration arrangements in order to practice/perform.

- Yes
- No

Please provide details.

1. Administration of drugs in ophthalmic practices and hospitals - each state has different Acts governing this practice.
2. Performance of ocular ultra sound requires registration with the Australian Orthoptic Board.
3. Prescription of spectacles requires registration with the Australian Orthoptic Board.
4. The right to practice in independent private practice requires registration with the Australian Orthoptic Board.
Is it expected that your employment sector will be impacted by any medium to long-term trends which will impact upon demand and/or supply (excluding costs associated with training, labour hire, and international sponsorship)?

- Yes
- No

Please provide evidence (e.g. data source, policy document) which substantiates these claims.

For example:

- New benchmarks for childcare centres mandate increased staff-to-child ratios and higher qualification standards for childcare workers.

As the Australian population ages the incidence of eye diseases such as macular degeneration is increasing and the need for rehabilitation is increasing, so the demands for orthoptists in this area increase.

The development of private education groups eg Eye learning on line that are training Assistants to undertake the role of an orthoptist is a challenge for accurate and appropriate clinical response retrieval.

Additional Information

Please provide any additional information you consider relevant evidence to support your submission. For example, you may know of independent studies about your occupation that supports your advice to us.

Our profession is concerned that Orthoptics is grouped with and therefore managed with Optometry. Both disciplines are in the area of eye care but we each fulfil a different role and provide different services for patients. Orthoptics is Self Regulated and works in the Medical Model eg rehabilitation. We request that our needs be considered separately to Optometry if the best care is to be provided for the Australian Community.

Please add any document that supports your recommendations.

Supporting Document

File: None