



# 2019 WORKFORCE SKILLS SURVEY



n = 1259 respondents

Businesses in 2019 reported skill shortages equating to more than

# 82,000

jobs state-wide, compared to

# 54,000

 in 2017.

Q - Is your business currently experiencing a skill shortage?

5 or more employees



2019 55.4%

2017 59.8%

Key industries with skill shortages

- Mining 73.3%
- Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing 71.0%
- Transport, Postal & Warehousing 64.5%
- Manufacturing (includes trades & engineering) 62.6%



Q - What are the reasons behind the skill shortage at your business?



- Unable to hire suitable staff 61.8%
- Business expansion & growth 31.9%
- Existing workforce don't have the right skills and/or knowledge 30.9%



Q - What have been the main reasons for being unable to hire suitable staff?

- No applicants 19.6%
- Lack of skills 57.4%
- Lack of experience 48.3%
- Lack of qualifications 36.1%

# 43.4%



of employers expect to experience a skill shortage over the next 12 months.



Q - What strategies, if any, have you used to address the skills shortage?

- Longer work hours 49.9%
- Internal training 36.4%
- Increased wages, salaries or bonuses 33.3%
- Engaged contractors 32.3%

# 54.2%



of employers reported they were currently employing an apprentice or trainee.

Businesses reported providing supervision equating to **100m hours** and an investment of over

# \$2.5 billion

in training apprentices and trainees state-wide each year

# 69.8%



of employers reported having employed a person aged 24 or under in the past 12 months.



**50.9%** felt that those young people were either not at all or somewhat prepared for the work place.

**51.4%** felt that the education system was not equipping young people with the skills, knowledge and capabilities they need.

