Businesses in 2019 reported skill shortages equating to more than 82,000 jobs state-wide, compared to 54,000 in 2017.

**2019 WORKFORCE SKILLS SURVEY**

n = 1259 respondents

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%

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%

43.4% of employers expect to experience a skill shortage over the next 12 months.

54.2% of employers reported they were currently employing an apprentice or trainee.

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.

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.

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