

NT Occupation Shortage List 2009 and incentives for employers

In April, the NT Government released the *NT Occupation Shortage List* for 2009. This is a list of occupations that are in shortage or experiencing recruitment difficulties across the Territory. The list is evidence based and occupations are only included where sufficient evidence is available. It includes skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled occupations. The list is updated annually.

Professional and related shortages include a wide range of disciplines across the engineering (including building and construction), agriculture, health, teaching (primary, secondary and specialist), welfare, maritime, ICT and environmental sectors. There are 63 occupations on the shortage list.

Trade shortages occupations encompass mechanical services, electricians, the building trades, food industry, agriculture, automotive, hospitality, hairdressing, ICT and many other trades. A total of 49 occupations are listed.

The 2009 NT list has been revised using as a basis updated *State and Territory Skill Shortage List Northern Territory*, prepared by the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), and findings from consultations undertaken by the NT Department of Business and Employment (DBE). Members were invited late last year to contribute to the compilation of the list and no doubt DBE will repeat the offer again in 2009.

The *NT Occupation Shortage List* is a tool used by the NT Government in making decisions relating to occupational shortages, including determining eligibility for funding under the *NT Occupation Shortage Incentive Scheme*. This scheme offers financial incentives for employers who take on an apprentice or trainee undertaking a VET qualification that leads to an occupation on the list.

Earlier this year, the NT Government released 200 *NT Occupational Shortage Employer Incentives* worth \$4,000 each. In addition, there are 80 Disadvantaged Groups Employer Incentives worth \$2,000 each. These are for employers who take on an apprentice or trainee from an identified disadvantaged group such as a recent migrant, an Indigenous Territorian, or a Territorian with a disability.

These NT incentives are **in addition** to the existing federally funded employer commencement and completion incentives.

Further information on the *NT Occupational Shortage Employer Incentives* can be found on the web site; www.det.nt.gov.au/training/employers/incentives/docs/nt_occ_shortages_employer_incentives.pdf

For further information on the federally funded incentives, contact Australian Apprenticeships at www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/employer/incentives.asp

Further information on these topics is available from John Emslie and Hugh Roberts on 8982 8100. Email contacts are”

jemslie@chambernt.com.au

hroberts@chambernt.com.au