Health Care and Social Assistance jobs on the rise

This story was published on 10 September 2018. If you wish to use this content, please contact media@employment.gov.au to confirm that the information is still current.

Jobs in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry continue to show the strongest growth and this looks set to be a continuing trend.

In good news for Australians, employment is increasing in most industries. According to the Labour Force Survey by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, in the year to May 2018 employment increased in 15 of the 19 broad industries.

Industries recording the largest employment growth were:
- Health Care and Social Assistance (up by 57,700 or 3.6%)
- Construction (up by 50,900 or 4.5%)
- Manufacturing (up by 47,700 or 5.1%)
- Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (up by 43,200 or 4.3%)
- Retail Trade (up by 30,900 or 2.5%)

Health Care and Social Assistance is also the largest employing industry in Australia, with 1,680,900 workers in May 2018 (13.4% of total employment).

The industry was the largest growing in terms of employment, over the past year — up by 57,700 or 3.6% — and has been the largest growing industry over every year (to May) since 2015.

Over the year to May 2018, employment grew in seven of the eight sectors of the Health Care and Social Assistance industry, with the largest recorded in the Hospitals sector, up by 34,000 or 8.1%.

The main sectors within the industry recording large jobs growth were Hospitals (up by 34,000), Residential Care Services (32,500), Other Social Assistance Services (30,800) and Allied Health Services (25,600).

Bucking the trend, employment in Child Care Services fell by 7,100 in the same period, the only sector within the Health Care and Social Assistance industry to have experienced an employment drop. But employment in the sector remains 17,800 — or 12.7% — above the level recorded two years ago. Jobs continue to be supported by increased demand for child care services, before and after school care services, child-minding services and family day care services.

Employment Growth (‘000s) – Healthcare and Social Assistance Sectors – year to May 2018

Labour Market Analyst Ivan Neville said employment growth in the industry is part of a long-term trend, driven by population growth and our ageing population.

‘Employment in this industry has also been boosted by the roll out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme,’ Ivan said.

‘All signs point to ongoing jobs growth in the sector. Projections indicate Health Care and Social Assistance jobs will grow by a further 14.9% -- or 250,300 -- over the next five years.’

Employment (‘000s) in Health Care and Social Assistance

‘This is the largest growth projected of all 19 broad industries and more than twice the 7.1% growth projected across all industries,’ Ivan said.


Correct at time of publication

Last modified on Monday 10 September 2018 [87095011]