

Apprentices and trainees in Australian small and medium sized enterprises

Brett Freeland

*Research Officer - Core Research and Evaluation
National Centre for Vocational Education Research Ltd*

Small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) are major employers in Australia. In 1996-1997, 94 percent of Australia's net employment generation was attributed to (SMEs). Therefore to understand the implications of the changing nature of work on employment in Australia it is necessary to be aware of the changes that are taking place in these enterprises. In particular it is important to identify the characteristics of SME's that influence their propensity to employ apprentices and trainees.

This project provides valuable insights into the characteristics of SMEs who are training apprentices and trainees. In addition, the study reports on the post-training employment outcomes and career paths of apprentices and trainees employed by SMEs during their contracts of training. Findings are presented on the basis of the gender, age, industry, occupation and geographic region of the apprentices and trainees. The project utilises data from a range of sources including the National Data Collection of Apprenticeship and Traineeship Statistics and the TAFE Graduate Outcomes Survey, managed by NCVER, and the ABS Business Longitudinal Survey.

Topic area: The changing nature of work- implications for VET policy and practice

Key words: apprentice, trainee, Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs), employment outcomes

Contact details:

252 Kensington Road
LEABROOK SA 5068

Ph: 08 8333 8480