

25/04/2024

Addressed to;
Australian Government, Jobs and Skills Australia.

**(Draft) Core Skills Occupation List Submission
for occupation ANZSCO 331212 Carpenter**

To whom it may concern,
I am [REDACTED], a 23 year old Carpenter originally from Canada. As a temporary visa holder, currently working in the industry as a qualified carpenter, I would like the following to be considered as my personal submission as a “stakeholder” in this public survey.

In this communication, I will try to convey my best argument as to why the **Carpenter (ANZSCO 331212) occupation** should be included in the new “CSOL” list currently being drafted by Jobs and Skills Australia. Sources stated at the last page of this document.

1. First hand experience;

I have been working first hand in the construction industry in Australia since 2019. First starting as a general labourer slowly working my way up to a qualified Carpenter throughout the years. I have had the opportunity to work on a multitude of building sites across different states, ranging from small renovations to housing developments and large commercial jobs. Amongst all the trades that unite on building sites, carpenters are usually the first trades to get on the job and usually remain on site all the way to the end of said project. Now it is important to note that every person involved in the construction industry, whatever their occupation plays a crucial role in one way or another but with carpenters covering a wide range of skills and labour required in the industry, it is safe to affirm that they are at the CORE of Australia’s building industry.

2. Australia’s housing crisis in relation to the construction industry;

In recent years, Australia has been facing an increasingly worsening housing crisis. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, there were an estimated 122,294 people experiencing homelessness as per the 2021 census **(1)**. With housing vacancy rates averaging a slim 1.0% nationwide and as low as 0.5% in some capital cities as at 04/2024 **(2)**, it is clear that Australia is in great need of housing.

2. Continued...

NHFIC modelling and findings 2022-23 **(3)** suggests that:

- NHFIC estimates that, conservatively, around 377,600 households are in housing need, comprising 331,000 households in rental stress and 46,500 households experiencing homelessness.
- More than 1.8 million new households are expected to form across Australia from 2023 to 2033...
- NHFIC continues to expect a shortage of apartments and multi-density dwellings for rent over the medium-term.
- Strong demand for housing coupled with tight supply of both labour and materials, and bad weather has put significant pressure on the construction industry.

3. Labour shortages within the industry;

As at December 2023, it was estimated that the construction worker shortage reached a deficit of 130 000 people across the country **(4)**. The demand for carpenters is expected to grow by 2.2% over the next 5 years **(5)**. The construction industry in Australia is growing rapidly, with new residential and commercial projects being undertaken every day. This has led to a shortage of skilled carpenters to meet the demand. In Western Australia more specifically, the state government has instated a subsidy program for overseas workers within the construction industry **(6)**. "The State Government is investing in initiatives to ensure locals are training for jobs for the future, but there is a need to retain skilled migrants in WA and for interstate and overseas workers who have the skills needed by WA businesses today.

The new Construction Visa Subsidy Program (CVSP) is supporting Western Australian construction businesses to fill the demand for a skilled workforce". This is a clear indication that the Australian construction industry, more specifically in WA is in great need of the skilled migrants, including carpenters as they are included in the subsidy program.

4. Summary

In summary, I urge Jobs and Skills Australia to take into consideration including the Carpenter occupation on the new CSOL list. It is clear that Australia has been benefiting from skilled carpenters migrating and making great contributions to Australian society. The inclusion of the Carpenter occupation will not only help Australia overcome its current housing crisis by helping build new housing, but also help build tomorrow's infrastructure.

Regards, 

Sources on page 3

Sources and references

(1)

<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-census/2021>

(2)

<https://propertyupdate.com.au/rental-vacancy-rates/#:~:text=National%20vacancy%20rates%20have%20held,stands%20at%2031%2C356%20residential%20properties.>

(3)

<https://www.housingaustralia.gov.au/research-data-analytics/state-nations-housing-report-2022-23>

(4)

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/8457459/australian-construction-boom-threatened-by-skill-shortage/#>

(5)

<https://www.parkerprecision.com.au/blog/carpenters-in-high-demand-exploring-the-growing-need-for-skilled-workers-in-australia/#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20Australian%20Government's,over%20the%20next%20five%20years.>

(6)

<https://migration.wa.gov.au/our-services-support/construction-visa-subsidy-program>