

Australian Music Association response to the National Skills Commission (NSC) 2023 Skills Priority List (SPL) Stakeholder Survey

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(This submission was in the form of a survey.)

Your Name:\* Alex Masso  
Phone Number:\* 0424902321  
Email:\* [alex.masso@australianmusic.asn.au](mailto:alex.masso@australianmusic.asn.au)  
Organisation:\* Australian Music Association  
Suburb or Town: Canterbury  
State or Territory: NSW  
Postcode: 2193

**Please nominate the type of organisation you are making a submission on behalf of:**

Industry Group

**Which industries do your members belong to? (please select all that apply)**

- Arts and Recreation Services
- Manufacturing
- Retail Trade
- Wholesale Trade

**Question 1: Please select the ANZSCO occupations that you would like to provide input on.**

*The occupations are listed under the ANZSCO 2021 structure. Please follow this link to the ABS Website for details on the ANZSCO 2021 occupation classifications. You can select as many or as few occupations as needed. When selecting occupations, please ensure that they meet the following criteria: Occupations that are directly relevant to your members Occupations that you have evidence or strong insights to provide feedback on. Tips for selecting your occupations: You can use Ctrl + F to search for key words or ANZSCO codes. You can also use the equivalent search function on your mobile device. You can use the Ctrl button to select multiple occupations. Scroll to the bottom of this page to click to the next page, or return to the previous page.*

399515 Musical Instrument Maker or Repairer

**Question 2: Please select the SPL rating that you recommend for each occupation, and why you recommend this rating.**

*There will be an opportunity to provide documentation to support your recommendations at the end of the survey. Please only provide feedback on occupations that are directly relevant to your members. If an occupation is a shortage in a specific location, please specify the location or provide details. If you would like to review the current SPL ratings for the below occupations please follow this link through to the current Skills Priority List.:*

**What SPL Rating do you recommend for this occupation:**

399515 Musical Instrument Maker or Repairer: In NATIONAL Shortage

*If an occupation is in shortage in a specific location, please specify metro or regional areas, or both:*

399515 Musical Instrument Maker or Repairer: Both

**Question 3: What is the current supply of workers for these occupations as reported by your members?**

*Please SKIP this question if you have not received direct feedback on workforce supply from your members. You can skip this question by scrolling to the bottom of the page and clicking the NEXT button. : Current supply of workers reported by members:*

399515 Musical Instrument Maker or Repairer: Undersupply (not enough workers)

*Please provide any further comments to support your response (you will be able to attach documents at the end of the survey). Please note, there is no word limit for the free text section below.*

There are several categories within this occupation code.

Piano tuners: The industry has identified a skills shortage, lack of training, and an ageing workforce. Our association has supported efforts with piano tuners and wholesalers to establish a Piano Technology course. The Cert IV qualification approval was announced in December 2022. These workers are spread evenly across the country. We have a shortage in a sub-specialisation of this profession, for high end concert pianos, which tend to be in capital cities.

Musical instrument manufacturing. There are several manufacturers, mostly for guitars, they are facing skill shortages which affect their business right now. The ability to support sponsored visas would substantially support some of these businesses. Australia is making world class musical instruments but the skilled workforce is insufficient for these companies to keep up with demand. Most of the musical instrument manufacturing jobs among our members are based in Melbourne.

Luthiers, instrument repairers, including for stringed, wind & brass instruments. There are professionals across the country, we are not aware of shortages in a particular area, but this profession requires highly specialised skills and training that is not available in Australia. There is one Instrument Making qualification (private VET college) in Melbourne, none in other states, no brass & wind instrument repair qualification in Australia.

Electronic instrument / equipment repairs. Anecdotally there is a shortage in this profession that could be addressed by 'skilling up' other professionals eg. electricians.

Overall, the workforce for this occupation category skews 'over 55', with increasingly higher proportions of workers compared to 'all jobs' for the 55-59, 60-64, and 65+ age groups. In all age groups up to age 55, there are fewer (sometimes substantially fewer) workers than the 'all jobs' average. These jobs are specialised but tend to be based on a qualification level of Certificate IV plus experience.

See the following chart for a comparison of Musical Instrument Makers and Repairers to All Jobs across each age category. The average age for this occupation is 51, which is 11 years higher than average. [https://www.datawrapper.de/\\_/4H6Jd/](https://www.datawrapper.de/_/4H6Jd/)

Our members have reported a desire to sponsor skilled workers with visas. There is considerable cost and they would prefer to employ Australian workers if the skilled workers were available. The barriers to this appear to be the minimum salary threshold, which is high relative to a typical instrument manufacturing salary, and this occupation not appearing on the Skills Priority List.

**Question 4: Do your members expect demand for the workforce in these occupations to change over the next 5 years?**

*Please include details of specific events, challenges or trends that your members have cited that may impact the demand for workers in the future. Please SKIP this question if you have not received direct feedback from your members. You can skip this question by scrolling to the bottom of the page and clicking the NEXT button. Future demand:*

399515 Musical Instrument Maker or Repairer: Expect demand for workers to increase in the next 5 years

*Please provide any further comments to support your response (you will be able to attach documents at the end of the survey). Please note, there is no word limit for the free text section below.*

Three factors affecting the demand:

1. The ageing workforce (see previous answer)
2. The backlog of migrant workers due to the pandemic
3. Growth due to high demand for Australian musical instruments.

**Question 5: Have you received direct feedback that your members have used employer sponsored visas for any ANZSCO occupations in the past 12 months?**

Yes

**Question 6: Please select the occupations that members have used employer sponsored visa programs for.**

*Please SKIP this question if you have not received direct feedback from members. You can skip this question by scrolling to the bottom of the page and clicking the NEXT button. : Have members reported using Employer Sponsored Visas for this occupation in the past 12 months?*

399515 Musical Instrument Maker or Repairer: Yes

**Question 7: Have you received any additional feedback from your members regarding their use of employer sponsored visas in the past 12 months?**

No

**Question 8: Would you like to provide any additional comments on your nominated ANZSCO occupations?**

No

**Question 11: Would you like to provide information on any occupations not specifically covered in ANZSCO?**

No