

SOLUTIONS FOR THE ENGINEERS SHORTAGE CRISIS IN AUSTRALIA

1. Encourage high school students to do Maths and physics subjects
2. Give recognition to the engineering degree because medicine/law courses are given highest recognition. Therefore, there is a high demand for medicine/law courses in Uni enrolments even from students who have talents in engineering education – this is a social attitude that can be changed if engineering is recognised for its importance.
3. The student drop-out rate in engineering courses at Australian universities are generally quite high; this could be because the entrance OP/ATAR cut-offs for most engineering courses do not reflect the actual difficulty of the course. Hence, the students with lower OPs/ATARs who chose engineering are not well adapted to actually studying the course. Raising the cut-off will reduce the drop-out rate and also bring engineering to the attention of high achieving students – putting it in league with competitive courses such as medicine and law.
4. Make the duties of an engineer known to high school students – most students may not be attracted to this career simply because they do not understand what it entails. Also, make them aware of the various areas of engineering in which they can specialise – with such a vast number of fields; they are bound to find one they like.
5. Facilitate migrant engineers to get local experience and then to obtain permanent positions. There are jobless engineers migrate to Australia and still looking for jobs without local experience. But, without a job offer, it is not possible to get local experience
6. Offer more job VISAs (457 VISA) to overseas engineers by both private and public organisations.
7. Increase the intake of engineers for migration.