

Workskills Fact Sheet Number 1

EMPLOYMENT IN THE MINING INDUSTRY

To get work in the mines is a process of research and hard work. You must identify the targeted positions you wish to apply for and research those opportunities.

There are many web sites you can register with and companies you can call. A mining company *should not* charge you to pay for registration with them.

As you can imagine due to the location of the resources being mined, many people find they must relocate to find opportunities within this industry, although flying in and out over extended periods has become more common in recent times as companies seek to attract more workers.

WHERE CAN I REGISTER MY INTEREST?

Here are some useful websites where you can register for employment:

- <http://www.thiess.com.au/>
- <http://www.bhpbilliton.com/home/people/Pages/default.aspx>
- http://www.riotinto.com/index_careers.asp

<http://www.miningemployment.com.au/>

As an alternative it's always a good idea to check with local labour hire companies operating in the locations you're interested in. Look for them on the web or Yellow Pages.

USEFUL QUALIFICATIONS AND LICENCES

- Heavy Rigid licence
- Heavy Combination Licence
- White Card
- Machinery operation tickets, including: dump truck and excavator drivers and backhoe operators

- Forklift
- Any trade qualification
- Engineering qualifications
- Geology qualifications
- Hospitality qualifications
- Management experience

SOME IDEAS ON HOW TO GET STARTED

- Save time by doing online applications and registrations
- Ring and follow up with the companies you have registered with. Get the name of the person who is able to assist you. Ask questions about what qualifications will assist you to get a position, do they hire people who are not in the state at the time, how often do they recruit and what process do they use?
- Research the costs of obtaining qualifications
- Research relocation costs

USEFUL THINGS TO KNOW

- Were you aware that the Government offers a relocation package to eligible clients? This assists you to move to the new workplace in an area that has better job opportunities than where you are currently. Talk to your Workskills Case Manager about relocation assistance and whether you may be eligible

More information can be found at:

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/JSA/EmploymentServices/WorkExperience/Pages/Relocation.aspx#relo>

- Entry level positions in the industry are often referred to as 'Nippers.' This may give you something to ask recruitment companies about if you feel you're in that category
- You can often get shorter term contracts within the hospitality and industrial cleaning area if you wish to test out the environment, working conditions, location suitability etc. before you decide to permanently relocate.