



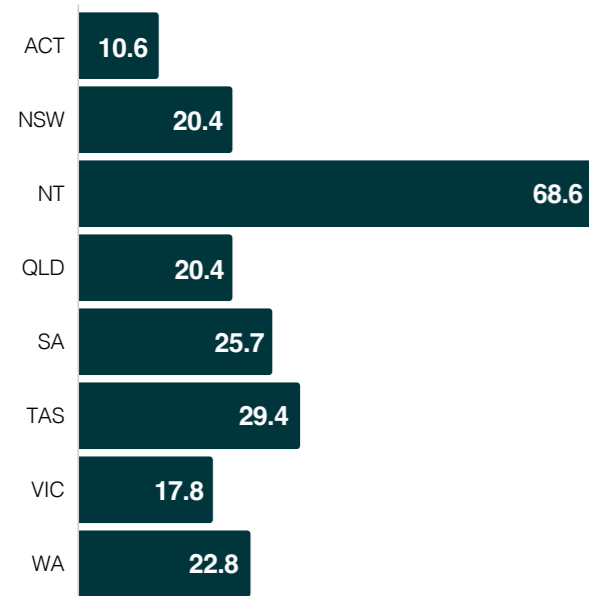
State of the Industry - Collision Repair

Enrolment in collision repair training programs has been increasing, which may help alleviate the supply shortage in the future.

Enrolments and completions in the collision repair Certificate III Automotive Body Repair Technology increased to 2,326 and 586, respectively, in 2024.¹ Most students who completed the Certificate in Body Repair Technology subsequently secured employment as vehicle body builders (51%).²

The collision-per-capita data highlights significant differences in road safety across Australian states and territories. The Northern Territory has the highest rate at 69 collisions per 10,000 people. The more populous states like Victoria (18) show comparatively lower rates (Figure A17). The number of fatal collisions has risen significantly over the past four years, increasing by 20% from 2020 to 2025.³

Figure A17: Road collision rate per capita by Australian state and territory as at June 2025

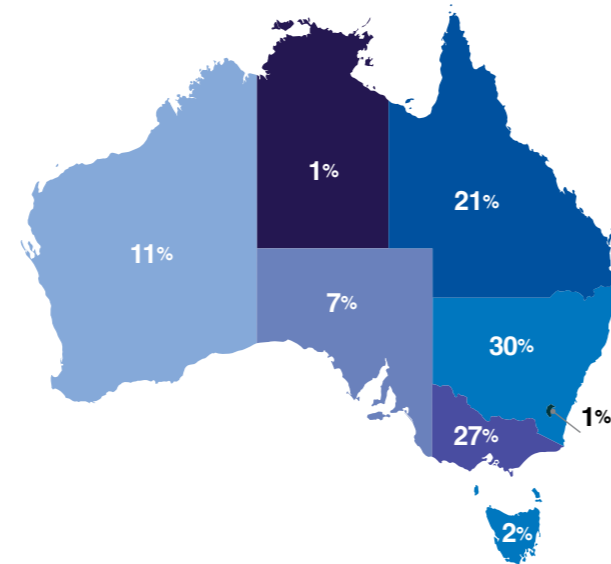


Source: Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts, "Fatalities 2026-01", 18 February 2026, ABS, "National, state and territory population June 2025", December 2025; Note: The collision rates shown are calculated per 10,000 residents to allow comparison between states and territories of different population sizes.

The industry faces critical skills shortages

Most body repair businesses are concentrated in NSW (29.9%), followed by VIC (27.4%) and (Queensland) QLD (21.2%) (Figure A18). In 2023, 67.8% of collision repair businesses were trying to recruit more staff.⁴ Around 51% of technicians in collision repair are primarily sought for their expertise in panel repair and strip-and-fit (Figure A19), as these areas are in higher demand than other specialties.⁵

Figure A18: Motor Vehicle Body, Paint and Interior Repair business concentration, 2025



Source: IBISWorld, "Motor Vehicle Body, Paint and Interior Repair in Australia", 2025.

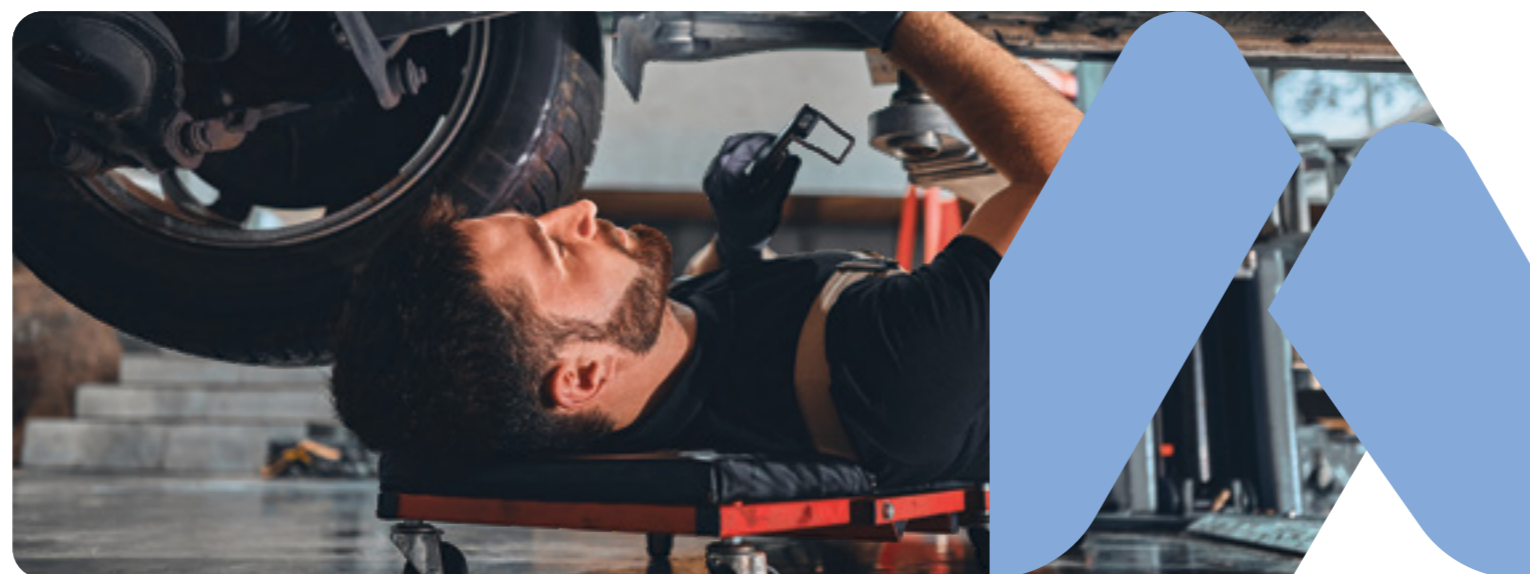
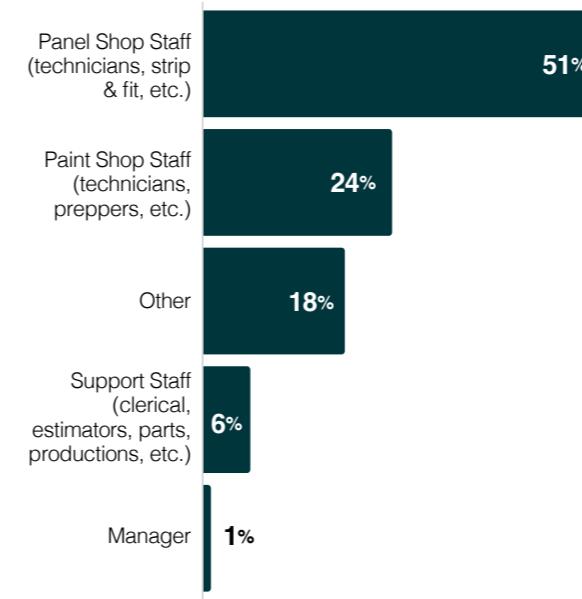


Figure A19: Staff category required in collision repair workshop, 2023



Source: Paint & Panel, "Collision Industry Census Results", 15 May 2023.

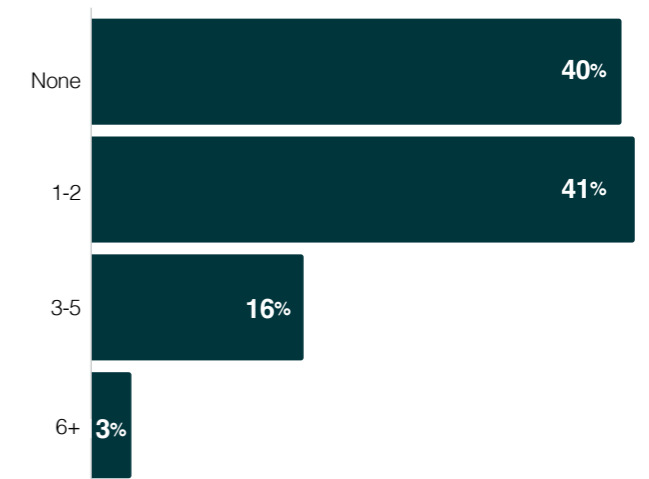
With critical shortages, skilled hours are of high value, and succession planning takes a back seat in these resource-tight environments

41% of collision repair businesses hire 1-2 apprentices, while 40% do not currently hire apprentices (Figure A20). Additionally, 49% of businesses plan to hire no more apprentices in the future. Apprenticeships offer valuable opportunities not just for the apprentice but also for the business's growth. While concerns about investing in training employees who may leave are common, the long-term consequences of failing to upskill staff should be considered. Employees who remain without ongoing development may lack the skills necessary to support business growth and efficiency.⁶

Low fill rates are driving higher lead times for post-collision repairs

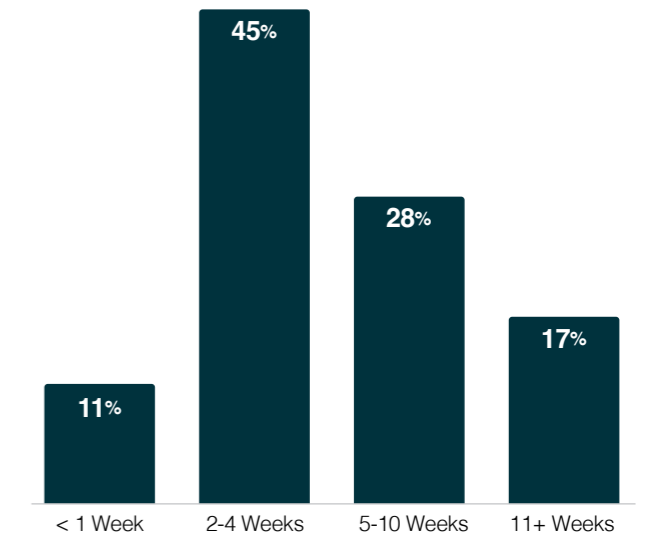
In the Automotive Repair and Maintenance sub-industry, the fill rate stands at 32%⁷, significantly below the JSA shortage threshold of 67%⁸. Combined with 45% of collision repair workshop services experiencing lead times of 2-4 weeks, this indicates persistent supply shortages and operational delays (Figure A21).⁹

Figure A20: Number of apprentices employed in collision repair workshops, 2023



Source: Paint & Panel, "Collision Industry Census Results", 15 May 2023.

Figure A21: Lead time for repairs, 2023



Source: Paint & Panel, "Collision Industry Census Results", 15 May 2023.

¹ AUSMASA, "VET Dashboard", 2025.

² VOCSTATS, "Total VET students and courses 2015-2024", 2024.

³ Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts, "Fatalities 2026-01", 2026.

⁴ Paint & Panel, "Collision Industry Census Results", 2023.

⁵ Paint & Panel, "Collision Industry Census Results", 2023.

⁶ Paint & Panel, "Collision Industry Census Results", 2023.

⁷ Deloitte, "MTAA member survey findings 2024", 2024.

⁸ Jobs and Skills Australia, "2025 Occupational Shortage List Methodology", 2025.

⁹ Paint & Panel, "Collision Industry Census Results", 2023.