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Australian Skills Group Newsletter

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Skills Shortage Threatens Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Industry

As heatwaves continue to impact large parts of Australia, the air conditioning and refrigeration industry is facing a critical skills shortage that could leave homes and businesses struggling to stay cool. With approximately 1.5 million units sold each year, the demand for installation, maintenance, and servicing is greater than ever.

Jobs and Skills Australia has confirmed there are currently over 500 vacancies in the national air conditioning and refrigeration industry, with nearly 150 of those in Queensland alone.

The state's licensing structure has contributed to the issue, with electricians holding lower-level qualifications often being booked for cooling jobs instead of fully qualified refrigeration mechanics.

While electricians can install air conditioning systems up to a certain kilowatt capacity, they are not licensed to repair or service them. According to industry experts, only professionals with a Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC) license should be working on air conditioning systems.

Without immediate action, the country risks being unprepared for the increasing demand on cooling systems as extreme weather conditions become more frequent.

Australian Skills Group (ASG) is committed to addressing this shortage by offering pre-apprenticeship programs in electrical trades. By equipping future tradies with the essential skills and knowledge required for the industry, ASG is helping to bridge the skills gap and ensure a steady pipeline of qualified professionals. If you're looking to kickstart your career in the electrical or refrigeration industry, explore our training programs today!

