

Dear Sir, Madam

I'm yet to understand where does this skills shortage come from, who created. After all, over the last 15 years, manufacturing and plenty of jobs have gone off-shore (mainly to China).

In my working experience the skills shortage is nothing more than an excuse to justify the "457 visas" and tones of overseas personnel (some of them with no engineering qualifications) settling in this country and bringing more and more of their mates at the expense of Australian Engineers and at the expense of Australian taxpayers.

There are plenty of Australian Engineers doing "non-engineering jobs" or registered with Centrelink because "457's" are taking their jobs. And, companies happily get rid of Australian Engineers in favour of the 457's because they know the governments/immigration department/industrial relations simply do not check on them.

How many Australian Engineers have lost their jobs since July 2011?

Where is the point of being a member of Engineers Australia or having to be a CPEng if there are no jobs for us but there are plenty (falsely created) for "457's"?

Engineers Australia and APESMA must live in the real world and favour the Australian Engineers and the Australian workforce (not the 457's) rather than embarking in the "skills shortage" band wagon.

Best regards,
Maria Silva