

## Salary growth stable

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ONE of Australia's main tech industry groups has dismissed claims of an IT skills shortage, pointing to stable growth in salaries across the industry over the past 12 months.

In the latest edition of its *Survey of Salaries and Remuneration Packaging in the Australian ICT Industry*, the Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) reported a 5.2 per cent increase in salaries across the sector between March 2006 and March 2005.

A 4 per cent rise is predicted for the next 12 months.

AIIA chief executive Rob Durie indicated that salary increases in the ICT industry were in a holding pattern, belying claims of skill shortages. "Average salary increases have been close to this level now for three cycles, indicating a measured and stable approach to remuneration management by ICT organisations," Mr Durie said.

The AIIA also reported that real income has risen within the ICT industry, lifting 2.1 per cent in comparison with the Consumer Price Index.

Average salary increases were being fuelled by demand for specific skills, AIIA director Ian Birks said. "For the first time in a long time we're seeing ICT skills based on the Migration Occupations in Demand List, with hot skills including CISSP, SAP or Siebel expertise and calls for professionals experienced in e-commerce or network security," he said.

Any increase in salaries caused by skills shortages was likely to be seen over a long period, Mr Birks said.

The AIIA Salary Survey is based on data collected from more than 33,000 employees of member companies.

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