



Brush up your skills, not your porky pies

Some people applying for positions are overstating their experience, writes **Daniel Hoy**

CHANCES are the pants of 32 per cent of the people you work with are on fire.

That is the number of Aussie workers who admit to lying to make their way up the career ladder.

An Australian study by training organisation Upskilled has revealed that 32 per cent of people admitted to exaggeration, inflation or outright lies about previous positions, training and qualifications.

The research also shows it is not only the workplace

where Aussies are stretching the truth.

A further one in three confesses to embellishing their job role and level of qualifications to impress friends, partners and family. This figure rises to 60 per cent among 16- to 24-year-olds.

"Not long ago, it was easier to slip through the radar when submitting a CV full of lies," careers expert Warren Frehse says. "Today an employer will scan the web looking for evidence.

"The business network-

ing site LinkedIn is one where an employer will check. If you have a profile there, an employer will cross-check with your CV."

Lying on a resume or in a job interview is a sackable and, in extreme cases, criminal offence.

"The fact that Australians are feeling the need to lie about their professional skills highlights the need for more access to education and training," Upskilled spokesman Mark Sexty says. "A big problem is that many see professional train-

ing as unattainable.

"Many people are oblivious to the fact that they could equip themselves with valuable skills with generous assistance via government-funded schemes that could cover the full cost of their training.

"With the planned injection of funding in this area recently announced, hopefully more Australians will take up the opportunity of professional training, so that they can have a career which matches their potential," Mr Sexty says.