

Publication: Australia and New Zealand

Date: 1 May 2010

The mass exodus

Australia's strong economy, as well as its attractive lifestyle and culture, is continuing to draw more Brits than ever towards a new life Down Under...

The latest statistics released by the Australian Government reveal that Britain is its largest source of immigrants after New Zealand. More than 23,000 UK residents started a new life in Australia last year. With 108,000 visa places to fill for 2009 to 2010 it seems certain that the exodus of Brits Down Under will continue.

Britain now actually makes up 15 per cent of all new migrants to Australia, a figure which puts UK emigration Down Under well above our European counterparts.

According to emigration specialists, economic factors are playing a major part in driving Brits Down Under.

Paul Arthur, director of The Emigration Group in Chester says that Australia's economy is defying the recession. "Export volumes from the country are on the increase and the economy even grew by 0.4 per cent in the last quarter. This is in stark contrast to many other countries in the world. Australia's robust economy is essentially fuelling emigration as there are still job opportunities for Brits, who are maybe struggling in the UK."

He added: "Sectors such as manufacturing and construction



are on their knee- here, but Australia is still demanding the skills Brits have to offer."

Paul suggests that it isn't just financial reasons driving emigration enquiries. He said: "A move Down Under is a complete life change. Many of our new clients have been motivated by the nose dive the British economy has taken, however, they are also looking for a better quality of life for themselves and their families."

QUALITY OF LIFE

The flood of Brits Down Under should come as no surprise, with Australia considered one of the most desirable places to live in the world. In a recent poll, Australia came second after France in the top

10 places to emigrate to. The poll ranked 194 countries in terms of their quality of life, based on cost of living, culture and leisure, economy, environment, freedom, health, infrastructure, safety and risk, and climate.

Paul said: "Australia generally has something to suit everyone and a lot of people are looking to escape our 'all work no play' culture to find a better work-life balance, somewhere where they can enjoy more quality time, better weather and more of the great outdoors."

Brett Harrison who emigrated from the UK to Sydney said: "My wife Amanda and I spent all our time working in the UK running three businesses. We wanted to spend more quality time with each other and bring our daughter up in a safe and healthy environment.

"Australia has given us the chance to get a better work-life balance and enjoy more quality free time, where we can take full advantage of the great weather and beach life."

Professions that are particularly in demand in Australia tend to be trades people, teachers, engineers and those in the medical profession

Above (from left to right) Many Brits are seeking a better quality of life for their families Down Under; Paul Arthur, director of The Emigration Group, says that Australia seems to offer migrants a better work-life balance

TOP 3 REASONS BRITS MOVE TO AUSTRALIA

- 1 Beautiful sunny weather!** It sounds obvious but for many Brits the weather is a key factor for them in moving Down Under.
- 2 A better lifestyle. Brits head to Australia because they're looking for a better work-life balance and they want to enjoy quality leisure time.**
- 3 The economy.** Australia still has a lot of opportunities for skilled workers, and its economy has fared better out of the recession than Europe and the US. Added to this, the living costs are lower, particularly the property prices, where you get far more for your money in Australia.



Do an online assessment of your eligibility to get a residence visa in your country of choice before you start the visa process.

Choose a registered migration agency to help advise you through the visa process, ideally a company which also offers relocation services as well. They can handle all the issues with finding work, schools and sourcing a new home.

Decide where you would like to live. A fact-finding visit is invaluable, or use the web or word-of-mouth.

Try and research house prices, salaries and the cost of living in areas where you are interested in living.

Discuss your plans with your family and make sure that they are all on board.

Investigate employment and business opportunities for all family members in your chosen destination.

Update your CV to make it suitable for the Antipodean workplace and start your job search using the internet and contacts obtained from your migration expert.

Get your finances in order – consolidate bank accounts, reduce debts and sort out credit references.

Ask for handover files from doctors, dentists and children's schools.

Ensure that you have at least two years left to go on your passport.

to name a few. This changes all the time and can vary from state to state, with certain states demanding different types of skills. Brits with occupations in demand by a state can even get sponsorship which enhances their application status.

CONSIDERATIONS

According to Paul, areas such as Perth, Adelaide and Brisbane tend to be favoured by Brits emigrating.

He said: "Brits tend to favour the smaller cities like Perth and Adelaide as they offer a good choice for families, particularly those looking for a less urban, more laidback lifestyle."

"There are also a lot of Brits there already, so a good support network exists for new arrivals."

Former Derbyshire residents, the Killick family, chose to live in Adelaide after visiting their relations in the city. Chris said: "When we visited family in Adelaide we could see the great lifestyle they were having and thought 'this is for us'."

"It's a great place for families with lots to see and do in the area. Where we live now, all local facilities are within easy reach, it's 15 minutes to a huge shopping centre, we're not far from the beach and the airport is only 25 minutes away. To top it all off, the weather in Adelaide is fantastic, quite a contrast to the UK!"

Chris and Bec believe emigrating to Australia was the best decision for them and their three children. Chris said: "Our work-life balance

here is far better and now we do far more things as a family, from sporting activities to socialising with friends."

Chris is working as a national consumer manager at Allied Pickfords, a similar role to his job in the UK. According to Chris, the best part of his job is getting to travel to places like Brisbane, Sydney, Perth, Melbourne and Canberra on a regular basis.

Chris's wife Bec has gone from being a handresser in the UK to running her own mobile handressing business in Australia. Bec said: "We have had to reinvent ourselves since leaving the UK but once you put the effort in it is easy to become part of the community."

For anyone considering emigrating, Chris recommends first getting professional advice. He said: "The first thing we did when we started considering emigrating was to employ the services of a migration agency. They helped us through the entire process and made everything less stressful."

Chris added: "Other tips I would offer emigrants, are to make sure you have enough funds set aside to see you through the first three months. Plan to have no income for at least one month unless you have landed a job pre-arrival. When you get here put yourself out there and get involved – if you sit there and expect it to happen, it won't!"

The Emigration Group
Tel: 0845 230 4391; Web:
www.emigrationgroup.co.uk

Above (from left to right) Lauren Bradley and Christie Killick love to chill out in the swimming pool when the mercury rises in Adelaide. Ben Killick (far left) ner-son-Bradley and his Auntie Tracey make the most of the sunny weather with a fun family boat trip.