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On Air: **Russ Morris** 9:00am - 12:00pm

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Birmingham Tops Emigration List
An analysis of emigration enquiries by a leading specialist has revealed that Birmingham is the top UK city for emigration.

Of the 3980 enquiries The Emigration Group received in the last six months, Birmingham generated just over 3% - more than any other city in the UK. The next city was Manchester at 2.5%, then Chester at 1.9%.

Paul Arthur from The Emigration Group said: "Birmingham is an emigration hotspot in the UK and we've seen high levels of enquiries month on month. The reasons for this are numerous but certainly economic factors are playing their part."

According to Paul, Australia and New Zealand haven't been hit as hard by the recession. He said: "The economy down under has remained more robust in the face of the downturn, with the Australian economy even growing by 0.4% in the last quarter. This is fuelling emigration as there are still job opportunities for Brits, who may be struggling in this country."

"Sectors such as manufacturing and construction are on their knees here, but Australia and New Zealand are still demanding the skills Brits have to offer. In Birmingham we have seen many emigrants with trade or manufacturing backgrounds looking to head down under."

"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 way to achieve a better work life balance, somewhere where they can enjoy more quality time and better weather!"

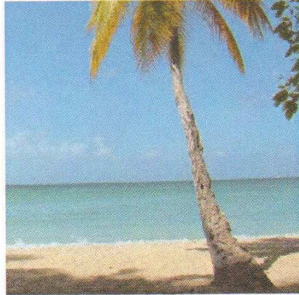
Sharon from Smethwick (who is a teacher) is just about to emigrate to New Zealand with her husband (a civil servant) and their 5-year-old daughter. She told BRMB they are after "a change of life, a change of pace and a change of lifestyle."

She also said: "We want to live where the air is fresher, there is a vastly smaller population, the sea is right on our doorstep, the mountains are round the corner and it's a safer environment for our child."

"We're moving for personal reasons really... we just want a better lifestyle. The population is expanding hugely in Britain at the moment... we're finding when the summer holidays do come we're stuck in traffic jams, or when we get to places we're queuing up for hours."

For Brits interested in emigration to Australia and New Zealand, The Emigration Group is holding a seminar at Chesford Grange Hotel in Leamington Spa, Warwickshire on Sunday 20 September. For more information call 0845 230 4391 or visit www.emigrationgroup.co.uk

The cost is £15 for one person or £25 for two. The Australian seminar starts at 10am and the New Zealand one at 2pm.



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