

THE
EDUCATION
OF
THE
FUTURE
IS
THE
GREATEST
CHALLENGE
OF
OUR
TIMES



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the new edition of the "Going to Australia" publication. Ireland has a long history of emigration to Australia. Crosscare Migrant Project is a project of the Archdiocese of Dublin and we have been assisting Irish emigrants since 1987. Our experience of working with intending Irish emigrants has shown us the importance of pre-departure information. Therefore when developing this edition of the booklet we were very conscious of a number of factors.

Crosscare Migrant Project is committed to providing up-to-date information in a manner accessible to all. You will note that beside some of numerical figures used in the booklet we have put: (2007 figure). As some of these figures change we will update the "Going to Australia" publication on our website so that you will be able to access the most current, up-to-date information.

Many people who choose to leave Ireland often feel overwhelmed with the amount of issues they have to consider.

Our aim was to try to make the information as simple as possible and so we decided to present the information in 'question and answer' format where possible.

This booklet is designed to provide you with accurate information on Australian immigration procedure, as well as give you an insight into the costs involved in emigrating, for example the cost of medical cover, accommodation etc. This is to help you to make an informed decision as we feel the more information you have the more prepared you will be. The saying "forewarned is forearmed" applies to any person who is making a decision to emigrate no matter what destination they choose.



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Why Australia?

Australia's climate has always been one of the most motivating factors in the decision making process of where to emigrate. The warm sunny climate especially in most coastal regions means that people can enjoy an outdoor lifestyle. Australia is the 6th largest country in the world but has a low population density per square kilometer.

Australia has a natural abundance of beaches, rainforests and amazing rock formations.

Australia is made up of 6 states and 2 territories:



1 New South Wales

Sydney is the capital of New South Wales and is Australia's largest city and home to some of Australia's most famous landmarks which include Sydney Opera House, Sydney Harbour and Bondi Beach. Sydney has a warm climate and has a population of about 4.5 million people. Byron Bay is the world famous, most easterly point in mainland Australia and the first place in Australia to witness the sun rising. The Snowy Mountains as the name suggests offers skiing in the winter and excellent bushwalking in the summer with its wide variety of wild flowers.

2 Victoria

Melbourne is the capital city of Victoria and is also the 2nd largest capital city in Australia. Melbourne is best known for its food and wine and has some of the best restaurants and cafés in Australia and hosts many food and wine festivals. It is situated in the south east of Australia on Port Phillip Bay and has a population of about 3.6 million people.

3 Queensland

The capital of Queensland is Brisbane which has the fastest growing population of all Australian cities. It has a sub tropical climate which makes Brisbane one of Australia's most popular holiday destinations. Brisbane has a population of about 1.8 million people.

4 Western Australia

The capital of Western Australia is Perth. Perth is the only major city situated on the west coast of Australia and is on the banks of the Swan River. Perth has a Mediterranean style climate and has some of Australia's best cultural and artistic centres. Perth has a population of about 1.4 million people.

5 South Australia

The capital of South Australia is Adelaide, which is situated between the Mount Lofty Ranges and the waters of Gulf St. Vincent. Adelaide has some of Australia's best wines and is considered to be the wine and festival capital of Australia. Adelaide has a dry climate which is similar to a Mediterranean style climate. Adelaide has a population of about 1.1 million people.

6 Tasmania

The capital of Tasmania is Hobart which is Australia's 2nd oldest capital city. Hobart is situated on the banks of the Derwent Estuary. Hobart has a population of about 200,000 people. Tasmania is most famous for being a penal settlement as it is the only island state of Australia. There are a lot of National parks situated all over Tasmania which offer fabulous scenery, great walking trails and outdoor activities. Tasmania also has some beautiful waterfalls including Russell Falls.

7 Northern Territory

Darwin is the capital of the Northern territory and is Australia's most northern capital city and is located on the northwest coast of Australia. Darwin is named after the famous scientist Charles Darwin and is Australia's only tropical capital city. Darwin has a population of about 100,000 people. The Northern Territory is the most barren of all the areas in Australia. The soil is mainly a red colour as is the rock formations, the most famous of which is Ayres Rock.

8 Australian Capital Territory

Canberra is the capital of both Australia and the Australian Capital Territory.

The city is home to the Federal Parliament and Australia's national institutions. The climate in Canberra is cooler compared to other Australian cities with Canberra being located approximately 150 kilometres north of the Australian snowfields. Canberra has a population of about 300,000 people.

From an Irish perspective here are some of the advantages and things to think about.

Advantages:

- Warm sunnier climate
- High standard of living
- Lower cost of housing
- Excellent educational system and standards
- Excellent medical facilities
- Multicultural society
- Lower cost of living.

Things to think about:

- Isolation from any family members remaining in Ireland
- There can be geographical isolation depending on the area you are living
- The cost of moving and setting up home in Australia
- Expense of travelling within Australia and to and from Australia
- Imported goods are very expensive
- Dangerous insects and other animals.

How to use this guide...

This guide gives details of the majority of options open to people wishing to move to Australia to live and work, whether for a year or 2 or for longer. It is broken into different chapters some of which may not be relevant to you. Make sure to double-check all information before making a final decision.

What chapters should I look at?

Everyone should read **Chapters 2 - Visiting Australia** and **Chapter 3 - General Information**. They contain essential information about the pre-entry and entry procedures you will have to go through. Not all the information will necessarily apply to you, but make sure you know what you need to do before you leave Ireland.

Go to **Chapters 4 - Working Holiday Visa**, **Chapter 5 - Studying in Australia**, and/or **Chapter 7 - Working in Australia** if you think they might apply to you. You can use the index at the beginning of each chapter to see what section or page has the information you want.

Chapter 6 would be important for anyone hoping to go to Australia to accompany or join family members.

Chapter 8 is very important as it covers healthcare. You should read this through so you know what you are entitled to and where you should go if you need medical attention.

Chapters 9-11 cover accommodation, education and employment. They should be useful for everyone, especially families.

Chapters 12/13 are very important for anyone intending to work in Australia, so read them both to make sure you know what you have to do to get your finances and tax situation organised as soon as possible after arrival.

Chapter 14 is important to read if you plan to drive in Australia.

Chapter 15 and 16 have all the contact details for organisations mentioned throughout the book, as well as useful Internet sites. Have a look at these before you go, as they will be up-to-date and will give you an idea of the current housing, jobs, and general situation in Australia.

Make sure to read Chapter 17 - Dos and Don'ts!

With so much to organise and remember below is a list of the most important things to know before you go.

Within the first few weeks of arriving in Australia you will need to:

- Apply for a Tax File Number
- Register with Medicare
- Open a bank account
- Find or have already found accommodation
- Have some identification with you, for example, passport or birth certificate
- Register with Centrelink
- Get a map of the area and find out about transportation in your area
- Find the contact details for an immigrant-serving organisation in your community
- Try to find a job.

Within the first year you will need to:

- Find permanent housing
- Get a telephone installed
- Register your children in school
- Get a family doctor
- Have your children immunized
- Get an Australian drivers licence
- Take time to relax and participate in community activities
- Understand your rights and responsibilities under Australian law.