

Animal Health
seven

A Guide to Moving & Working in Australia





About the guide

Since 2003, the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has reported an increasing shortage of rural vets in the country. Today, the problem is now a national one - impacting both rural and city practices. Despite that Australian veterinary courses continue to produce roughly 500 to 550 new graduates a year, there still remains a national shortage of vets that are qualified and have three to five years' clinical experience necessary for practice work - especially those who have experience working with livestock.

After seeing the devastating impact this shortage has caused, we feel that our services can be beneficial in helping the Australian vet industry. Hence, we at Seven Animal Health have decided to open an office in Australia for the sole purpose of helping British veterinarians, vet nurses and other animal health professionals, who are interested in making the move, explore their options and find employment in Australia. If you have thought about making the transition and want to know more information, this guide has been put together especially for you! in it you'll find everything you need to know about moving to and working in Australia.



Background of the Australian Veterinary Workforce

Shortages & Economic State

Veterinarians are currently included on the Australian Department of Jobs and Small Business' [Skilled Occupation List](#), which is a list provided by the government that details which professions are in demand in Australia and therefore more likely to be granted a visa to move to and work in the country.

The average number of applicants per practice vacancy in the country has halved since 2014 and the average number of 'suitable' applicants per vacancy has fallen from 2.5 in 2012 to 1.6 in 2017. Areas with a particular shortage include New South Wales, as well as all rural areas where vets with livestock experience are required. Specialists, such as those with surgery or emergency care experience, are also highly in demand as well as all vets with more than three years' experience - a lack of experience is the main reason cited as to why candidates are currently being assessed as unsuitable for vacant roles.

Benefits of Working in Australia

Due to the current shortage, many Australian practices are increasing their wage offerings to attract experienced candidates. Thus, British vets with the correct experience can expect to command high salaries. The shortage also means that finding a job is currently easier in Australia than it is in the UK.

In terms of living conditions, many expats in Australia cite the possibility of a much higher quality of life than they were able to have on the same salary in the UK. For example, house prices tend to be a lot lower and you can get a lot more for your money in Australia than you can in the UK, specifically in terms of space and land.

Of course, we can't let the beautiful surroundings and weather go unmentioned, plus, lots of expat vets cite the huge variety of wildlife in Australia as making their job a lot more exciting too!



Moving to Australia - How we can help!

We offer a free, trusted service that helps UK and EU animal health professionals fulfil their dream of working in Australia. By strategically resourcing our experienced team in the UK as well as our multilingual consultants in the Australian office, we can help you find the right role in your preferred location.

From organising interviews to visa application assistance, our services can provide you with everything to get you ready for your dream job in Australia including:

Job Search & Visa Assistance

Job Search: As we receive information about new roles, you will be the first to know! Finding work on the other side of the world might sound daunting but we're here to help you every step of the way.

CV Writing: Having our own dedicated Australian office means that our recruitment experts know exactly what Australian veterinary practices are looking for, making us informed and prepared to help you tailor your CV to your ideal role.

Interview Prep: Upon securing an interview, our experienced animal health consultants will help you prepare for success, including how to handle Skype interviews and emphasising the experience that will get you hired.

Registration: All vets with veterinary degrees from the UK are eligible to register with the [National Recognition of Veterinary Registration](#) without

further testing . We can provide you with any help you need throughout the registration process.

Visa Application: There are three ways in which you can [apply for a visa in Australia](#):

- General Skilled Migration - a visa designed to meet skilled shortages by attracting skilled migrants under 50
- Employer-Sponsored visa - for those who have found employment already
- Working Holiday visa - for migrants under 30 who might want to try living in Australia for a year to begin with.

Whichever route you want to take, our consultants can help you choose the most relevant visa for your needs as informing you about costs, processing times, checks, maintenance, skills assessment fees and health surcharges.

Travel & Accommodation

Of course you'll need to get to Australia and have somewhere to stay when you first arrive! Whether you want to start off renting or purchase a property, we can help you with every aspect of the travel and accommodation process including:

Booking Flights to Australia: We can help you find the best deals on the most affordable flights to Australia. As an initial suggestion, [Skyscanner](#) and [Travel Supermarket](#) are particularly good for comparing rates!

Reserving Temporary Accommodation: You might find that you want to start with temporary accommodation when you first arrive so that you have a base for viewing more permanent options. We can connect you with short-term accommodation providers wherever you'd like to start.

Finding Permanent Accommodation: If you'd rather buy before you go or you need help purchasing or renting long-term once you're in Australia, we can advise you on relevant property laws and tenants agreements as well as assisting you throughout the process.

Transport From Airport: We can help with every last detail of your journey down to transport from the airport to your new accommodation, from hiring cars to finding buses or taxis.

Transitioning and Adapting Your Family: Of course, no matter how wonderful the country is that you're moving to, there will always be a period of transition and adaptation to your new life. This can be especially difficult on kids or other family members, so we'll be by your side throughout to make sure you and your family adjust as easy and happy as possible.

Transitioning and Adapting Your Family

Living Costs: We can help you estimate your new living costs before you move, to make sure you're as prepared as possible when you get there.

Organising Your Working Life: We can help you with any financial advice you need as a new worker in Australia, from setting up Australian bank accounts to getting your Tax File Number sorted.

Establishing Your Home Life: From registering with GPs and dentists to sorting out your driving license and [Medicare card](#), we'll help you and your family get set up for everyday life in Australia.

24/7 Relocation Support: Whenever you need help, our Relocation Support service is on hand 24/7. Having both a UK and an Australian office means that time differences won't stand in our way.

Schools & Childcare Information: If your children are of school age, it's a good idea to start researching schools in the area you want to move to before you get there; most schools will have a catchment map on their website, so this might affect your decision on where to choose accommodation. Once you've moved, you'll need a proof of address to begin the application process as well as your child's birth certificate or passport, and your proof of visa. Some areas might also require an immunisation record. Bear in mind that schools are closed during the holidays so you'll need to contact them in term time and also that the terms are the opposite to the UK - summer holidays happen at Christmas! Read this great guide to [Moving Your Child to an Australian School](#) for more info. If your children are younger than school age, there are a range of different [childcare options](#) available although these can be expensive if private. Check out the [government's childcare website](#) for more information - we can also help you find out anything else you want to know.



Adjusting to Life in Australia: Acclimatising and Cultural Adjustment

While most people assume that our shared language means that life in Australia is much the same as life in the UK, the truth is that Australia has a unique and vibrant culture all of its own. Luckily it's also a culture that is welcoming and friendly, so you should have no problems fitting in. Here are some things to think about:

Laws in Australia

When moving to any country, it's good to have a general idea of the law there and what might affect you. For example, all banks charge a monthly fee for withdrawals, and some states require you to resit your driving test before you can drive there. Many families also get caught out by pet laws. The quarantine process for bringing pets into the country can be complex and lengthy due to Australia's strict biosecurity laws so make sure to research this before you go. We can help you with any other questions you might have, while the [Australian Government website](#) is also a great resource for finding out more about Australian law.

How do Australians make friends?

The good news is that Australians are super friendly, so making friends should be easy. If you're moving over to join a vet practise, you'll also already have a number of colleagues there to socialise with or ask for advice. Your best bet is to be proactive and get stuck in to Australian life. Join message boards before

you go, join clubs or groups when you get there and encourage your kids to sign up for sports or activity clubs where they'll make friends more easily. Reading up on Australian culture and daily life is also a great idea as it'll help you avoid any faux pas.

How to find things to do in Australia and the top “Australian” things to do!

The best way to adjust to Australian culture is to immerse yourself in it! [TripAdvisor](#) is great for finding the best and most “Australian” things to do, while [Lonely Planet](#) is the perfect guide for experiencing life off the beaten track or finding hidden treasures and local gems.

How to (Literally) Acclimatise

Beyond the jetlag, one challenge expats face is acclimatising to the hot Australian weather. While a pretty much permanently warm and sunny climate sounds great, Australian temperatures can be punishing over the summer so it's a good idea at looking at ways to protect yourself and your family when you first move. If you're moving to a particularly hot area, make sure your accommodation has AC!

Mental Health services for people who are having a difficult time adjusting

Of course, moving from one side of the world to the other is not always going to be easy. If you, or anyone in your family, is having trouble adjusting, Australia has a dedicated mental health service that you can turn to for help. If possible, try to get your own health insurance sorted out before you move as this will help cover the costs for any services required.

Interested in making the move to Australia?

Five Questions to Ask Yourself

So you think you're ready to move to Australia? Before you make the final decision, here are five key questions to consider:

1. Have you *really* prepared?

When you think you've read everything possible about moving to Australia - read some more! This is a big decision and it's important to be completely prepared so nothing takes you by surprise.

2. What are your career goals? Do you want to own your own practise one day or move into pharmaceuticals? Is Australia the best place to achieve this goal?

Okay so that's three questions but it's important to make sure you're clear about where you want to be in your career and the sort of progression on offer in Australia. The good news is, with such a shortage of skilled and specialist vets, the country really should be your oyster whatever your goals. The [Australian Veterinary Association](#) is a great resource for researching this further.

3. Does everyone want to move?

While Australia might hold great career opportunities for you, if you've got a family it's important to make sure everyone else is just as happy with the move. A good idea can be to take a family holiday to the area you're interested in so everyone can get a feel for the country and to make the move seems less alien and scary.

4. Can you afford to move?

While housing costs are lower in Australia, living costs can be higher. Before making the decision to move, we highly recommend drafting a yearly budget based on your estimated vet salary (and your partner's combined salary, if relevant) to make sure the move is financially sound.

5. When do you want to move?

While you might be so excited you want to move straight away, it's important to be realistic about how much time the migration process can take. The sooner you get started, the sooner you can book those flights!

Contact Us Today!

If you've read our whole guide and you're raring to go, we'd be delighted to help you make the move to Australia. You can contact us via our contact form, give us a ring on 0333 200 5424, or email us at info@seven-resourcing.com. We're also on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn so there's heaps of ways you can get in touch and let us help you begin your new life.

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