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Are the cold, wet and windy winters combined with the financial stress of the recession getting you down?

Worried about being one of the thousands in Britain loosing their job?

Australia could be the answer to all your worries.

By Imogen and Sarah-Louise

Australia has always been a hot spot for immigrates because of the hot climate and laid back attitude to life but in recent years the number has risen significantly from just over 30,000 in 1992-93 to 177,600 in 2006-07.

Up to 1/3 of UK citizens said they would like to immigrate to another

country, Australia being the top destination according to a survey conducted by migrationexpert.com.

Currently, Australia has a skill shortage and are looking for nurses, trades people and business professionals to contribute to their economy, which fits the UK citizens perfectly as the construction industry is gradually collapsing and businesses are failing too.

Trades people will almost be in demand immediately and constantly from when they choose to start advertising.

The new changes made in the immigration laws and systems could result in many people from the UK becoming more eligible to immigrate and more desirable to the Australian Government.

If you're under 45, speak English and have qualifications in one of the priority professions, which can easily be found online, you will be qualified for and most likely be granted a skilled visa.

Last year, 98,000 skilled



25,000 of them were to British citizens.

As for an area to settle in, Sydney yes



Main reasons to immigrate to Australia

- **Excellent health care provided by Medicare free public facilities**
- **Enjoyable weather throughout the year**
- **High standard of education and Australian universities are amongst the best in the world**
- **A multi-cultural country with English is the main language**
- **Crime rate is much lower than UK or USA**
- **Freedom of religion, majority of Australian's are Christian**

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may be obviously first choice, the fast paced city that is very

hours flight to Adelaide which is the next major city.

popular however has the highest average property price than any other Australian city. Perth is widely suggested for families, it has been described as a "mini- Cali-

City	Average House Price June 2008
Sydney	\$542, 500
Perth	\$496, 000
Melbourne	\$450, 000
Brisbane	\$437, 000
Adelaide	\$416, 000

To contact a British office on Australian Work Permits (+ 4 4) 8456580410

They're Taking The First Steps...

fornia", The weather is brilliant all year round, its economy is fast growing and it has relatively cheap housing. The only down side is that it is over 3

A family of three from the Downpatrick area have already been researching how eligible they are to get into Australia. Husband and wife, Shane and

And really love it.

The family see it as a big adventure, Sharon said, "I'm not 100% sure on going, I'd miss home. "We both still have plenty of work so it wouldn't be for a few years.

"I'd rent our home out for a year while we travel out there and have made our minds up completely."

Shane is all for going as he finds it full of opportunity and activities for their son, as well as a big demand for both Shane and Sharon's skills, plasterer and hairdressing which comes under trades people and that is indeed what Australia is calling out for.

What really appeals to the family is the huge family orientation that Australia has, everything is child and family friendly, the weather will enable them to enjoy exploring their new surroundings with their extended family to the full potential.

The family in Ireland are pleased and support them in their decision but don't hold back in saying that they will be greatly missed and instead of being able to pop in for a cuppa tea in the mornings, Sharon's sister will be planning a trip half way around the world every few years for a visit.



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