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PLUS! Expert migration advice for your move and all the latest visa news

“We love the lifestyle here”

The fantastic weather and family-orientated culture make Perth the ideal place to live for **Victoria O'Neill** and her family...



Victoria, Harry and Ellie in Fremantle

My parents had recently moved to Perth, and after enjoying a fantastic holiday there ourselves the year before we thought we would make the move as well. I had visited Perth a number of times, and had also been to Adelaide in South Australia to visit my husband's sister and her family.

We left the UK on 14 September, 2001, and moved straight to Perth. Our son was 10 months old at the time we moved. We didn't use an agent as I was born in Australia and have dual British and Australian nationality, so my husband Darren, who is British, applied for a spouse visa. I didn't know there were migration agents out there then!

We lived with my parents for the first three months whilst we looked for a house to rent. After renting a house for six months we then found a house in the suburb of Attadale, near Fremantle, and we moved there in August 2002.

We financed our migration from the sale of our house in the UK and savings, and this went towards our shipping costs, flights and visa.

We applied for the spouse visa in March 2001, and we had the visa granted the week before we left, in September. Immigration asked for additional information, which we sent to them, but after not hearing from them for a short time I followed this up to see what was happening, as our flights were booked and everything was in progress for the move. Immigration advised me that they hadn't



NAMES
The O'Neill family are: Victoria (41), Darren (45), Harry (10), Ellie (10) and Heddi (22 months)

Moved FROM
Solihull, West Midlands

Moved TO
Attadale, Perth

OCCUPATION
In the UK, Victoria worked as a PA and Darren worked in sales. In Australia, Darren still works in sales while Victoria works as a Registered Migration Agent and director of Sure Migration.

FURTHER INFORMATION
Sure Migration can help process your migration visas to Australia quickly and reliably. For more information visit the website: www.suremigration.com

Share your story!

If you are heading Down Under to start a new life and are willing to share the story about your move with us, we would love to hear from you! Simply email us at editor@australianmagazine.co.uk



Harry, Ellie and Poppy with Great Nana at the kangaroos at Bunbury Wildlife Park



Harry, Ellie and Poppy on holiday in Bali

received anything, so I fixed the case officer a copy and he approved the visa in time for us to leave. It was a stressful time! At the same time as migrating we were planning our wedding, selling the house and arranging a christening for our son.

LIVING THERE

We chose to live in Attadale as it was an area close to where my parents lived, and after looking at a lot of areas it was somewhere with a house that we could agree on after nine months of looking.

Our house cost us A\$455,000 (£247,204). It has four bedrooms, two bathrooms, a study, swimming pool and outdoor entertaining area.

Our house has at least doubled in price since we got here, but this is only going to be a benefit if we sell and move somewhere cheaper.

The weather in Perth is fantastic. The summer is a guaranteed summer, with months of beautiful weather. The winter is cold, but only because our houses are built for the warmth.

Our lives have changed a lot since moving here. For a start, I am now helping others to make the move to Australia. For the past eight years I have been working as a Registered Migration Agent and have now set up Sure Migration.

Our family has grown since moving here, which would have changed our life wherever we lived. We all love the outdoor lifestyle in Perth. We often spend our weekends on the jetski in the summer, or catching up with

Victoria, Harry and Ellie
on a boat in Fremantle

REAL LIFE PERTH



friends and family at the local park. We love to eat out as a family at our favourite restaurant in Fremantle, Sandrino's. It is a great restaurant with good food, a great atmosphere and it is child friendly.

I work from home, and around my children, as I have a 13 year old, 10 year old and a 22 month old. Harry is in secondary school, Ellie goes to the local primary school, which is across the road from our house, and Hollie goes to daycare two days a week, so I can work.

On the days when Hollie is not in daycare, I will work when she is asleep and in the evenings. Our weekend normally starts on a Friday afternoon, down at Point Walter, catching up with friends and their children.

NO REGRETS!

We found it easy becoming part of the community here. With having children it was easy to meet people

‘ We often spend our weekends on the jetski, or catching up with friends and family at the local park ’

We met some of our friends through different activities we did when the children were young, such as playgroup, swimming and later through their schools.

My son was diagnosed with osteosarcoma when he was nine, and now he is 13 and doing okay. A lot of our spare time is taken up by fundraising for Sock It To Sarcoma and I have organised a few charity skydives to raise money to help improve research.

I do find that I miss shops such as Marks and Spencers and Next in the UK, but now that they deliver to Australia it isn't so bad! We also miss being so far away from some of our family. I haven't been back to the UK for over six years, and we

have just planned to go back next March to visit the family as most of them haven't met Hollie yet.

I would recommend anyone thinking of a move to Australia to use a registered migration agent. Pay someone else to do all the work and worrying for you!

Immigration change the rules so often, that whilst there are costs involved in using a migration agent, they can save you money in the long run.

When you get to Australia, give yourself a reasonable amount of time to settle. Some people come over and decide after six months that they want to go home, which is not long enough to get used to the changes. 🌿

WHY MOVE TO... Perth

The Western Australian capital offers plenty of work and lifestyle benefits for migrants...

WHAT IT IS LIKE

Perth has a population of one and three-quarter million people, many of whom enjoy a relaxed outdoors lifestyle.

Perth's lucky residents enjoy a Mediterranean climate in which to enjoy some of the world's most beautiful beaches and lush green parks. It is a clean, spacious-feeling city.

It may be one of the world's most isolated cities, with other Australian cities several hours away by plane, but it is one of the closest Australian cities to the UK!

Many British migrants choose to settle in the northern suburbs of Perth, which are around half an hour's drive north of Perth's city centre.

GETTING AROUND

Perth has wide roads and highways. As with any big city, rush hours can be busy but the traffic usually keeps moving.

Most people in Perth drive themselves to work rather than use public transport.

Perth's public transport system is good for getting you into the central city and out again but is not so good for travelling between suburbs.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Western Australia has huge deposits of metal ores and coal, and its resources industry is booming.

Asian economies, particularly China, have sourced many of their raw



Perth's economic growth is showing a marked upturn in 2014.

materials from Western Australia, resulting in high economic growth for the state.

Skilled workers from the UK who decide to migrate to Western Australia can expect to benefit from some of the highest incomes in Australia.

PROPERTY

Almost three-quarters of Perth's houses are detached,

with varying sizes of garden.

The most recent median house price for Perth is A\$610,000 (£331,691) and the median apartment price is A\$692,000 (£376,279). There is plenty of new development going on in the suburbs, with apartment blocks and land releases.

Secret Harbour, south of Perth, is a popular suburb to live for many Brits.

Homes in Attadale, Perth



FAMILY HOME

A\$2,300,000 (£1,250,491)

Located high on the hill, this stylish four-bedroom, three-bathroom home enjoys river views. Living areas include a spacious lounge with arched fireplace, superb family room and dining area, deluxe granite kitchen with central island, built-in bar area and balcony. Other features include a separate theatre, large main bedroom with dressing room and large ensuite, a solar heated pool and plenty of garden space.

CONTACT: Jacky Ladbrook Real Estate
WEB: www.jackyladbrook.com.au



OUTDOOR LIVING

A\$1,590,000 (£864,510)

Beautifully maintained, this family home has a private wall enclosing a delightful outdoor living area with a solar heated pool. Internally, the property boasts extensive timber flooring, a spacious lounge and formal dining room. There is a casual dining area, with a fabulous upgraded kitchen, spacious living areas, plus four bedrooms and a study. It also has a secure double garage and store room.

CONTACT: Ross & Galloway Property
WEB: www.rossgalloway.com



LOVELY VIEWS

A\$769,000 (£418,118)

Positioned in a trendy complex with its own pool is this three-bedroom, two-bathroom townhouse. A large family room and dining area opens to a spacious balcony with views of the city and river. The three spacious bedrooms all have built-in wardrobes, while the large master bedroom has an en-suite bathroom. There is a separate guest bathroom and a guest powder room upstairs.

CONTACT: Coldham Realty
WEB: www.coldhamreality.com

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