

# WORKING HOLIDAY VISA SUCCESS REPORT

Testimonials of people living and working in  
Australia right **NOW**



## Including:

- Genuine experiences
- Advice & tips
- WHV statistics &
- Top 5 jobs for backpackers!

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# INTRODUCTION

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So, you've been wondering what it might be like to pack your bags and set up home for a short while in Australia? Or perhaps you've even booked your plane ticket and are counting down the days until you land in Oz. You've imagined the evenings spent watching sunsets on the beach with newly made life-long friends and weekends exploring this vast and awe inspiring country.

However, Australia is becoming an increasingly expensive place to live. So in order to fully enjoy everything that there is on offer, you would have worked out by now that you'll need to get work out there as soon as possible. Here at Jobaroo, we understand the anxiety that comes from leaving your home country and arriving without the financial security of a job. Not knowing how you're going to fund your time here can be a worrying and daunting prospect. This report aims to encourage you to not let fears get in the way of your Australian adventure. We have interviewed genuine backpackers

from all over the world, who are living and working in Australia right now. These people have been there, done that, and are proudly wearing the t-shirt on Bondi beach as we speak. They have shared their own employment experiences and generously imparted useful information and advice to help you with the potentially overwhelming job seeking process. These honest accounts also disclose the unfortunate pitfalls that sadly can arise, making sure that you don't have to go through these unnecessarily stressful situations yourself.

We hope that these real-life accounts will help encourage you to take that leap, and for you to have a much better idea of where the best opportunities are for your own experience of living and working in Australia.

For fun and inspiration, we have also included the top 5 best jobs for backpackers! ■

## THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE REPORT

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**Quinn Askeland**

A native Queenslander, passionate traveller and founder of Jobaroo, Quinn Askeland has over 15 years of experience rooted in the recruitment industry. After working as a recruitment consultant in the UK, Quinn identified a severe lack of helpful information for backpackers seeking employment back at home in Australia. Keen to fill this void, he set about creating a useful resource to offer valuable advice to travellers looking for work and so Jobaroo was born. Since then, Quinn's mission has been to deliver genuinely helpful and unbiased advice to backpackers looking for work in Oz. On his days off, Quinn can be found on his mountain bike, scaling various peaks throughout the world.



**Molly Clifford**

Hailing from the cooler climes of England, Molly Clifford is a graphic designer and blogger, and is rarely seen without her electronic appendage: her camera. After circumnavigating 20,000km around Australia in a rusty station wagon, Molly has recently (and reluctantly) returned from her year of living and working in Oz. Molly's Australian occupations ranged from making macchiatos in Melbourne to labouring on a flower farm with a few stints of stripping unsavoury hostel beds thrown in. With the last few grains of sand in her hair, and the memories of sunsets and ocean breezes still lingering, Molly looks back on her time in Australia with great fondness and a lifetime's worth of photographs.

## ROBYN, 21 FROM CANADA

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How long have you been in Australia?

Just over 6 months.

Where in Australia did you find work?

Melbourne.

What did you do at home before coming to Australia?

I worked mainly in hospitality, in cafés and bars.

How long did you work for?

I had a few jobs, that all started and ended at different times, but in total I worked for 6 months.

Did you travel to Australia with anyone or independently?

Independently.

How did you find this work?

Through friends and housemates I met whilst living there.

Where in Australia have you been?

Melbourne and Sydney.

“ Don't be afraid to try your hand at something new – there are many opportunities there if you look for them. ”

What were you getting paid for your work?

Between \$20-\$30 (catering assistant) an hour, depending on the job.

How did you get around the country?

I flew between states but used public transport in the cities.

What was your worst experience from working in Australia?

The absolute worst working experience I had whilst backpacking in Australia, or ever, for that matter, was a door-knocking job. I had been in Melbourne for about a month and was getting desperate. I found an add on Gumtree, went to an interview, everything seemed legitimate and I felt excited. I had never done a job like this before, and was eager to challenge myself. After spending

What did you do at home before coming to Australia?

Foundation course in Art & Design, volunteered as a teacher's assistant, worked in a coffee shop.

What type of work did you find in Australia?

I worked in a bar, for a catering company, and also as an admin assistant in a hospital.

## ROBYN, 21 FROM CANADA

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8 hours a day, 6 days a week walking around from house to house in the roasting Australian sun, doors slamming in your face more often than not, my enthusiasm soon faltered. I lasted about 3 weeks. And to make matters worse, I never got paid. The company, which claimed to sell 'green energy', went bankrupt and I, along with several of my co-workers (all backpackers, too) got left high and dry (and sunburnt). I would advise to be VERY wary of sales jobs you come across offering quick-cash and high commissions. Ask what your rights are and to see a contract of terms of work before you give them any of your time or energy.

### What was the best experience from working in Australia?

Whilst working for a Melbourne-based catering company I worked at many venues, both public and private, catering for many different occasions. The greatest of all of these was working behind-the-scenes at St. Kilda Festival, the free annual music festival in Melbourne. I served food to top acts such as Basement Jaxx and Grandmaster Flash. On breaks I was allowed to wander the festival, listening to music from the side of

the stage (we were given back-stage passes). It was awesome!

### What advice would you give to help other backpackers starting out in Australia?

Don't be afraid to try your hand at something new – there are many opportunities there if you look for them. ■

**TIP:** Talk to people! You never know who you will meet or how they may help you. I met my Australian housemate (who I lived with for the full 6 months I was there) whilst staying in a hostel in LA!

## ANDRE, 23 FROM FRANCE

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**How long have you been in Australia?**

For over a year as I'm on my second year visa.

**Did you travel to Australia with anyone or independently?**

Independently.

**Where in Australia have you been?**

The Northern Territory, Queensland and the south of WA.

**How did you get around the country?**

Mostly I have hitchhiked.

**What did you do for work at home before coming to Australia?**

I worked as a landscape gardener.

**What type of work did you find in Australia?**

I have worked as a delivery driver for Australia Post, and also as a removals man.

**Where in Australia did you find work?**

The postal delivery position was in Darwin, and the removals position was in Brisbane.

**How long did you work for?**

For 6 months in total.

**How did you find this work?**

For the postal job I was approached in the

street. I was handing out CVs and was asked if I was looking for work, which I was! For the removals job I got it through the hostel I was staying in.

**What were you getting paid for your work?**

Removals work was \$15 an hour and \$36 an hour for the postal job.

**What was the worst experience from working in Australia?**

I haven't had a bad experience so far-I'm lucky!

**What was the best experience from working in Australia?**

I was very fortunate that I was allowed to use the delivery van for myself at weekends.

**What advice would you give to help other backpackers starting out in Australia?**

Don't worry too much because great opportunities may come your way. All of my jobs I have got I was approached for, simply because I was in the right place at the right time. Not only that but I had some amazing experiences with the people I met through work. Sometimes life just works out like that. ■

## SUSAN, 27 FROM GERMANY

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How long have you been in Australia?

For almost a year.

What type of work did you find in Australia?

Gastronomy, Service (bakery, café).

Did you travel to Australia with anyone or independently?

With my partner/boyfriend.

Where in Australia did you find work?

Brisbane (South Bank).

Where in Australia have you been?

New South Wales (Sydney), Queensland (Brisbane, Sunshine Coast, Fraser Island, Whitsunday Islands National Park), Northern Territory (Alice Springs, Uluru NP, Kata Tjuta NP), South Australia (Coober Pedy, Adelaide), Victoria (Melbourne, Grampians NP, Great Ocean Road) Tasmania (Island-trip), Western Australia (Perth, Busselton, Albany, Esperance).

“ Working in hospitality is always a good start, especially if you want to get better with the English. ”

How long did you work for?

Approximately 6-7 months.

How did you find this work?

By handing in my CV personally.

What were you getting paid for your work?

At the bakery – approx. 18 AUD per hour and at the café – 10 AUD per hour. Both paid more on Sundays.

How did you get around the country?

Guided Tours, Plane, Train, Public Bus, Public Transport in Cities.

What advice would you give to help other backpackers starting out in Australia?

Working in hospitality is always a good start, especially if you want to get better with the English language. ■

What did you do for work at home before coming to Australia?

I was doing an apprenticeship in management, assisting in audiovisual media.



## MARK, 26 FROM THE UK

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How long have you been in Australia?

7 months.

Did you travel to Australia with anyone or independently?

With my girlfriend.

Where in Australia have you been?

Melbourne, Noosa, Perth and around south Western Australia.

How did you get around the country?

We mainly used public transport to get around the cities as we don't have our own car but we rented a car to travel round south WA. We have even taken a couple of short domestic flights with Jetstar and Tiger Airways, as sometimes they are much cheaper than bus or train tickets.

What did you do for work at home before coming to Australia?

My main job was working as an administrator for a financial company but I also had a variety of jobs to save up enough money to come away such as gardening and decorating.

What type of work did you find in Australia?

I found a temporary admin job.

Where in Australia did you find work?

Melbourne.

How long did you work for?

5 months.

How did you find this work?

I signed up with a few recruitment agencies and applied to as many jobs as I could online using websites such as Seek. Eventually, 2 weeks after applying, a recruitment agency contacted me to arrange an interview with them.

What were you getting paid for your work?

\$23.20 + Super. This was more than double the wage that I was on back home in the UK.

What was the worst experience from working in Australia?

My least favourite aspect about getting the work was having to attend a group interview. I thought about not going but I really needed the job. It turned out, like most of these things, that it wasn't as bad as I feared it might be and was put forward to the second interview immediately.

“ My advice would be to apply to as many jobs as you can. ”

## MARK, 26 FROM THE UK

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### What was the best experience from working in Australia?

There were a lot of perks working for a large company such as after work social events which meant that I got to know my work colleagues well and made the work more enjoyable. My job started quite early but meant that I was finished by half 3 so had the rest of the afternoon and evening to enjoy the weather and everything Melbourne had to offer.

### What advice would you give to help other backpackers starting out in Australia?

My advice would be to apply to as many jobs as you can. I found online to be the best way for office work but it might be beneficial to approach smaller businesses in person. Also to be patient as it took a few weeks before I received a reply. Overall it took me about 1 month to get a job.

The job I worked required a police check before I could start. Some jobs do require this so make sure that you have the necessary paperwork ready to send off and be prepared to wait as it took just under 2

weeks before the police check came back and I was able to start work. ■

**TIP:** An alternative to a paid job is Help Exchange. In exchange for a few hours work a day you receive accommodation and meals for free. There is a huge variety of work available such as farm work, construction projects and gardening. This is a great experience and a great way to save money whilst looking for paid work.

## KATHI, 22 FROM GERMANY

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How long have you been in Australia?

For 7 months.

Did you travel to Australia with anyone or independently?

Independently.

Where in Australia have you been?

The East Coast, from Melbourne to Cairns and Western Australia.

How did you get around the country?

By coach and bus mainly.

What did you do for work at home before coming to Australia?

I worked in my Uncle's restaurant as a waitress.

What type of work did you find in Australia?

I worked as a casual food and beverage attendant, where I waited at events.

Where in Australia did you find work?

Melbourne.

How long did you work for?

Just 2 months.

How did you find this work?

I applied online through Seek.com. There were lots of agencies advertising for that type of work.

What were you getting paid for your work?

I was on a casual wage of \$25 an hour.

What was the worst experience from working in Australia?

I worked for 2 weeks on a farm, and that was enough for me!

What was the best experience from working in Australia?

I got to work for major events like the Melbourne Cup, which was really fun and I got to see some famous faces!

What advice would you give to help other backpackers starting out in Australia?

For waiting it is essential to have experience first. If you have silver service experience, that is very well paid. Luckily back home I worked as a waitress, so it was really easy for me to find work-especially in Melbourne where there are so many restaurants and cafés. ■

“ For waiting it is essential to have experience first. ”

## LILIAN, 25 FROM IRELAND

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**How long have you been in Australia?**

Just over 16 months.

**Did you travel to Australia with anyone or independently?**

I travelled with my boyfriend.

**Where in Australia have you been?**

New South Wales (Sydney, Mungindi); Victoria (Melbourne, the Great Ocean Road); South Australia (Adelaide, Coober Pedy, Barossa Valley); Northern Territory (Alice Springs, Uluru and Kata Tjuta National Park, Darwin, Humpty Doo); Queensland (Cairns, Whitsunday Islands National Park, Fraser Island, Brisbane, Airlie Beach, Mission Beach).

**How did you get around the country?**

We got around Australia mostly by bus, although we did have a car for a short time too. We also had a rental camper van for our trip on the Great Ocean Road and we took a train from Sydney to Moree. We only ever took one domestic flight the whole time we have been in Australia which was from Cairns to Darwin.

**What did you do for work at home before coming to Australia?**

Before leaving for Australia I had just

graduated from university with a master's degree in journalism and media communications.

**What type of work did you find in Australia?**

I've had a lot of different jobs in Australia. I've worked as a: grape picker; station-hand/cook on a cattle station; grape-vine pruner; kitchen-hand in a deli; farm cook on a wheat farm; cashier in a roadhouse; and kitchen-hand/ housekeeper in a fishing lodge. I also had some other odd jobs that just lasted a couple of days, like packing up stock after a trade fair and de-fitting (basically sweeping and clearing out) the first ever JB-HI.

**Where in Australia did you find work?**

I've found work in every state that I've visited in Australia. The grape picking job was in the Barossa Valley, South Australia (best known for being the home of Jacobs Creek). The cattle station job was in outback Northern Territory and was about four hours from Alice Springs (which was also the closest proper town!). The vine pruning job was in Heywood, Victoria. The kitchen-hand job in the deli was in Melbourne. The farm cook job was near Mungindi, on the border

## LILIAN, 25 FROM IRELAND

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of New South Wales and Queensland. The roadhouse job was in Dingo, Queensland. And finally, the fishing lodge job was near Humpty Doo in Northern Territory.

### How long did you work for?

Altogether, I've worked for about twelve out of the 16 months I have been in Australia.

### How did you find this work?

I found work through various methods. I found the wheat farm and roadhouse jobs through Gumtree. I found the vine pruning job through the Harvest Trail website. I found the grape picking job by just asking around the local area to find out who was hiring and see if I could get any phone numbers. However, the best method for finding work, for me, was through hostel notice boards. Through hostel notice boards I found the cattle station job, the deli kitchen-hand job, the job at the fishing lodge, as well as the other two odd jobs I mentioned earlier.

### What were you getting paid for your work?

My wages varied greatly between jobs. My lowest paid job was at the deli in Toorak

where I was paid \$14 per hour, although it did go up to \$15 per hour within a month. My highest paid job was at the roadhouse where I was paid \$22 per hour, and \$35 to \$40 per hour for over-time and public holidays. The cattle station job worked out a bit differently in that we were paid \$400 per week, as well as getting free food and accommodation, which is pretty

decent and you can potentially end up saving a lot of money this way. -The vine pruning job was also a bit different in that we got paid by how much work we actually got done. Because I wasn't particularly fast at vine pruning, this ended up being the worst job, in terms of pay.

### What was the worst experience from working in Australia?

Over the 16 months I have been in Australia, I have only really had one bad working experience and that was when I worked on the cattle station. I enjoyed the work and found the way of life very interesting, but there were only six of us living at the station and it was in the middle of nowhere.

## LILIAN, 25 FROM IRELAND

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In situations like this, you really need to be able to get on with and trust the people you're living and working with.

Unfortunately, this wasn't the case for us and we only stayed at the cattle station for 3 weeks, although it felt like 3 months! I wouldn't want to put anyone off working on a cattle station as it is a fantastic, once in a life-time experience, but if you don't trust or feel comfortable with the people you're working with, it can be difficult.

### What was the best experience from working in Australia?

My best experience working in Australia was working on the wheat farm in Queensland. The scenery was amazing and there were hundreds of kangaroos and emus roaming around the wheat paddocks, as well as weekly electrical storms which were just insane. The people we worked with were so nice and friendly too, and we met a lot of funny characters. The conditions were great too and we were paid \$15 per hour which included free food and accommodation

and, of course, a few beers after work.

It was the Australia I had always imagined, so I'm really glad we ended up working there. ■

**TIP:** If you're thinking about getting a second working holiday visa don't wait until later in the year to start looking for farm work. Try to get your second year visa work out of the way sooner rather than later. I've met people who have waited until the latest possible date to start looking for farm work and it can be very stressful.

## CHEN, 24 FROM TAIWAN

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How long have you been in Australia?

For 8 months.

Did you travel to Australia with anyone or independently?

With my friend from Taiwan, but she has now gone home.

Where in Australia have you been?

Just in Western Australia, in Perth mainly.

How did you get around the country?

By bus and sometimes I get lifts with my friends who have cars.

What did you do for work at home before coming to Australia?

I worked as a kitchen hand, and had other jobs like working in a cinema.

What type of work did you find in Australia?

I worked as a kitchen hand for a café.

Where in Australia did you find work?

In Cottesloe, Perth.

How long did you work for?

Six months.

How did you find this work?

I looked online at Gumtree for kitchen hand jobs.

What were you getting paid for your work?

I was earning \$18 an hour.

What was the worst experience from working in Australia?

At the moment I am working at a farm for free, so that I can extend my visa. Obviously I would rather I had a paid job, but once it is done I then have another year to earn money in Australia.

What was the best experience from working in Australia?

I worked at a café at the beach so after work I could just spend time looking at the beautiful ocean.

What advice would you give to help other backpackers starting out in Australia?

You need to have a good level of English before you arrive. All jobs will require that you can understand instructions and to communicate. My English has really improved since arriving in Australia, which will mean that I will find it easier to get a job in the future. ■

“ All jobs will require that you can understand instructions and to communicate. ”

## MOLLY, 24 FROM THE UK

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**How long have you been in Australia?**

I have been here 7 months, now.

**Did you travel to Australia with anyone or independently?**

With my boyfriend.

**Where in Australia have you been?**

Melbourne, Queensland, Perth and around Western Australia.

**How did you get around the country?**

We have used public transport in the cities, which has always been very good. It's when you get a bit further afield that you start to rely on infrequent bus services.

**What did you do for work at home before coming to Australia?**

I have had a variety of jobs, most of them with the intention to save for travelling. Mostly I have worked in hospitality and catering, as well as retail.

**What type of work did you find in Australia?**

I worked in a café as a waitress. I was lucky that the café was in the CBD so it was only open during office hours. This meant that I had evenings and weekends free, which was a welcome bonus considering I was working in hospitality.

**Where in Australia did you find work?**

Melbourne.

**How long did you work for?**

5 Months.

**How did you find this work?**

I used websites such as Seek and Gumtree, which became very useful during my job search. Both sites had listings added almost hourly, so I would say that finding work in hospitality was very easy, especially if you have experience. Cafés and bars also advertise for staff in their windows a lot, and so popping in and handing in a CV is an excellent way of making that first point of contact.

**What were you getting paid for your work?**

\$16 an hour. Relatively speaking that is quite a low wage-you can earn much higher in customer service roles. However, the hours I worked (Monday to Friday and an early finish at 4) were the reasons why I was more than happy for this rate. At the end of the day, I was in Melbourne to first and foremost enjoy living there. Having evenings and weekends off meant that I could immerse myself in all of the events that took place and spend time with my boyfriend, whom I travelled with.



## MOLLY, 24 FROM THE UK

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This wouldn't have been possible if I was working the usually unsociable hours in this field. This time was so valuable, that I couldn't really grumble that I was being paid a few dollars less an hour than I could have been paid elsewhere.

**What was the worst experience from working in Australia?**

As with any job in hospitality, there were moments where I was put in my place by my bosses. However, I soon grew a thick skin that no doubt will serve me well for the future!

**What was the best experience from working in Australia?**

Finishing work by the late afternoon, and walking through Melbourne when the sun was shining was a wonderful reminder that I was living in a great city, far away from the grey skies of England. My walk home consisted of passing the bustling Federation Square, over the Yarra river and I would have a palm tree fringed route all the way home. Plus, everyday I'd always see brightly coloured parrots, which never lost its novelty.

**What advice would you give to help other backpackers starting out in Australia?**

Melbourne takes its coffee very seriously. Therefore, most cafés require you to have barista training already, which sadly I didn't

have. As I had no previous experience, many cafés weren't interested in spending the time to train someone. Ideally, it would be good to have learnt before I started in Australia, as baristas are offered a good wage.

Also, when applying for jobs online I mostly e-mailed my CV and covering letter. If there is a telephone number within an ad (mostly for those posted on Gumtree), the best thing to do is call straight away, or better still go and pop in to the café/bar. These jobs tend to go quickly, and so the likelihood that your e-mail may go unread as the job has been taken already. It's good to be forthcoming, it shows that you are keen and ultimately that's what employers like. ■

**TIP:** Dress smartly and have CVs printed ready to give to potential employers when you approach them in person.

## RENATA, 26 FROM THE UK

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How long have you been in Australia?

For 8 months.

fundraiser, and through an agency for the phone job.

Did you travel to Australia with anyone or independently?

With a cousin at first, then travelled alone.

What were you getting paid for your work?

\$17 / \$19 per hour

Where in Australia have you been?

Sydney/Cairns.

What was your worst experience from working in Australia?

Trying to find work is a thankless and endless task! Lots of places do a 'test' run day where you work for free and have no intention of giving you the job.

How did you get around the country?

Plane.

“ Don't expect to get work which plays to your skills, find any job and enjoy it. ”

What did you do for work at home before coming to Australia?

Retail and general roles with children.

What was the best experience from working in Australia?

Raising \$3000 in one day for a refugee charity.

What type of work did you find in Australia?

Charity fundraising and telecommunications.

What advice would you give to help other backpackers starting out in Australia?

Don't expect to get work which plays to your skills, find any job and enjoy it, the pay is great and it looks amazing on your CV. ■

How long did you work for?

6 weeks in total.

**TIP:** Sign up to as many agencies as you can. Even try to do this before you get there, jobs aren't always easy to come by.

How did you find this work?

Approached on the street to be a charity

## JASON, 25 FROM TAIWAN

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How long have you been in Australia?

For 9 months.

How long did you work for?

Six months.

Did you travel to Australia with anyone or independently?

I travelled here alone but I have met many Taiwanese people since arriving.

How did you find this work?

I looked online at Seek for the warehouse position. The abattoir work I found through a working hostel, which I am now staying at.

Where in Australia have you been?

In Western Australia, in Perth and the south coast.

“ You will find it much easier finding work if you have a car. ”

What were you getting paid for your work?

At the warehouse I was earning \$23 an hour, and the abattoir pays me \$20 an hour.

How did you get around the country?

As soon as I could afford it, I bought a car. In the city, it was fine just to take public transport, but once you leave Perth you really do need a car.

What was the worst experience from working in Australia?

The work at the abattoir is obviously not very nice. Some jobs are worse than others! It counts towards my visa extension, though so I am lucky that it is a paid job.

What did you do for work at home before coming to Australia?

I worked as a sales assistant in a technology shop in Taipei.

What was the best experience from working in Australia?

Just being in such a beautiful and empty country is amazing.

What type of work did you find in Australia?

I worked in a warehouse as a picker and packer, and also in an abattoir.

What advice would you give to help other backpackers starting out in Australia?

You will find it much easier finding work if you have a car. Places are spread out, and public transport isn't the best so it is best to have your own car. ■

Where in Australia did you find work?

In Perth and Albany, five hours south of Perth.

## RENATA ON RETAIL

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Initially I had planned to work in retail, but that soon became a bit of a dead end. In the UK I had years worth of experience, and so I applied for positions in major retail chains as there seemed to be lots of these types of jobs advertised, whether online or in shop windows. I was contacted and interviewed by many recruitment companies, yet when my visa was discussed it soon became clear that was the stumbling block. Visa requirements aren't always listed in job postings but major retailers want staff who they hope to train and progress within a company.

In the UK retail has a high turnover, and so I didn't anticipate that the six month for one employer condition of the visa would be such a hinderance. That said, if you happen to be travelling at Christmas time, retailers do take on staff for three months, and so

they will be open to those applicants on a WHV. Also, independent retail businesses may take on staff on a WHV, but it is best

to avoid applying to major high street brands, despite the fact that you might have a great deal of experience.

The applications for these are usually lengthy-involving filling out forms pledging why you want to work for this particular company etc. I even once had to fill out a psychometric test which took the best part of two hours, and turned out to be a complete waste of time. I could have avoided all of this hassle, had I known that major retailers don't look to take on anyone on a WHV. ■

**TIP:** Apply for independent businesses, instead of major retailers.

“If you happen to be travelling at Christmas time, retailers do take on staff for three months, and so they will be open to those applicants on a WHV.”

## MARK ON ADMIN

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Back home I had taken any job I could in order to save for my travels. This work consisted mainly of temporary admin roles in offices. Initially when I had planned to come to Australia, this type of work was the last thing I wanted to be doing. I was in Australia, and I wanted to be doing something that was so far removed from my life back at home.

Eventually we decided to settle in Melbourne as a starting point. We grew to really like the city and we wanted to stay there and before I knew it, I was looking at ads for temporary admin roles. Despite the fact that I had initially decided not to look for that type of work, I was beginning to realise that there were many opportunities for office-based roles. Not only that, but short contract based work meant that being on a WHV wasn't an issue, and that I had flexibility with

my working schedule, and taking time off wasn't a problem at all.

The pay was also a big factor for considering admin work. Pay rates are generally high (\$23 an hour plus), plus with lots of perks. Not only that, but office work is physically undemanding, and you have evenings and weekends off, too. Not to mention having public holidays off, of which there are many in Victoria! So, although I was reluctant to put on my white shirt and smart shoes again, it actually

meant that I was able to save a lot of money for the rest of my travels in Australia and so I can only look back on it as a fantastic opportunity. ■

**TIP:** Have your CV up to date and ready and apply online as soon as you can. Better still, apply before you arrive in Australia.

## MOLLY ON SALES

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One of the most popular jobs for backpackers are those that are sales driven. More often than not, there are many of these types of jobs advertised on sites such as Gumtree, all offering a “fun environment”, lucrative pay and travel around Australia. Of course, to some extent that can be true.

When I first started job hunting, most to the hospitality based roles I had applied to failed to make any contact. Days trickled by and driven by desperation to secure any type of work I applied for various “promotion” roles. Back home, I had several friends who worked in this field, and they all enjoyed good benefits such as working at major events as well as a good salary. Sadly, the type of promotion work I was expecting, i.e. handing out yoghurts in the high street wasn’t the type that seemed to be on offer in Australia.

“ I myself would rather have the security of an hourly wage, so that I knew at the end of the week how much I had in my pocket. ”

Within hours of applying for these promotional roles I heard back from the recruiters, asking me to come in for interview the following day. When I had arrived at the headquarters the next morning it turned out that this was a daylong group interview that was to be a survival of the fittest. We would be given tasks throughout the day, and those that failed to meet the mark were told to go home.

After several hours of carrying out embarrassing tasks and harassing the public, I was offered a position. I was then told that this involved asking people to sign up to monthly charity subscriptions. This was exactly what I didn’t want to do. I’m a naturally inhibited person, and so approaching people with a clipboard I knew would not play to my strengths. I was then informed that I would only earn money if I managed to sign people up, and this was tiered with how high the monthly

## MOLLY ON SALES

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subscription was for. My heart plummeted. Not only that, but I had to fund my own travel, which involved getting from home, to their headquarters in the morning, various locations throughout the city that day and then back to their headquarters in the evening. That was a lot of travel to pay for, without even knowing if I would earn anything that day.

Of course, this type of role relies on hungry, motivated sales people. These people certainly do exist, and no doubt can earn a healthy amount. (Although I am extremely dubious of the “\$3000 a week top earners” that I was encouraged could be me, at the start of my interview.) I have met people that did well from that type of work, and as a result earned good money whilst meeting lots of people at the same time. These companies also know that their staff will drift in and out, so being on a WHV isn't a problem. I even met people who were then sponsored by these companies and so are now on the way to becoming fully-fledged Australian citizens. So, there

are certainly some benefits for the right people. On the other hand I've also met people that worked for weeks for no pay, and have had to fork out on travel expenses for the privilege, so experiences do vary dramatically. ■

I myself would rather have the security of an hourly wage, so that I knew at the end of the week how much I had in my pocket.

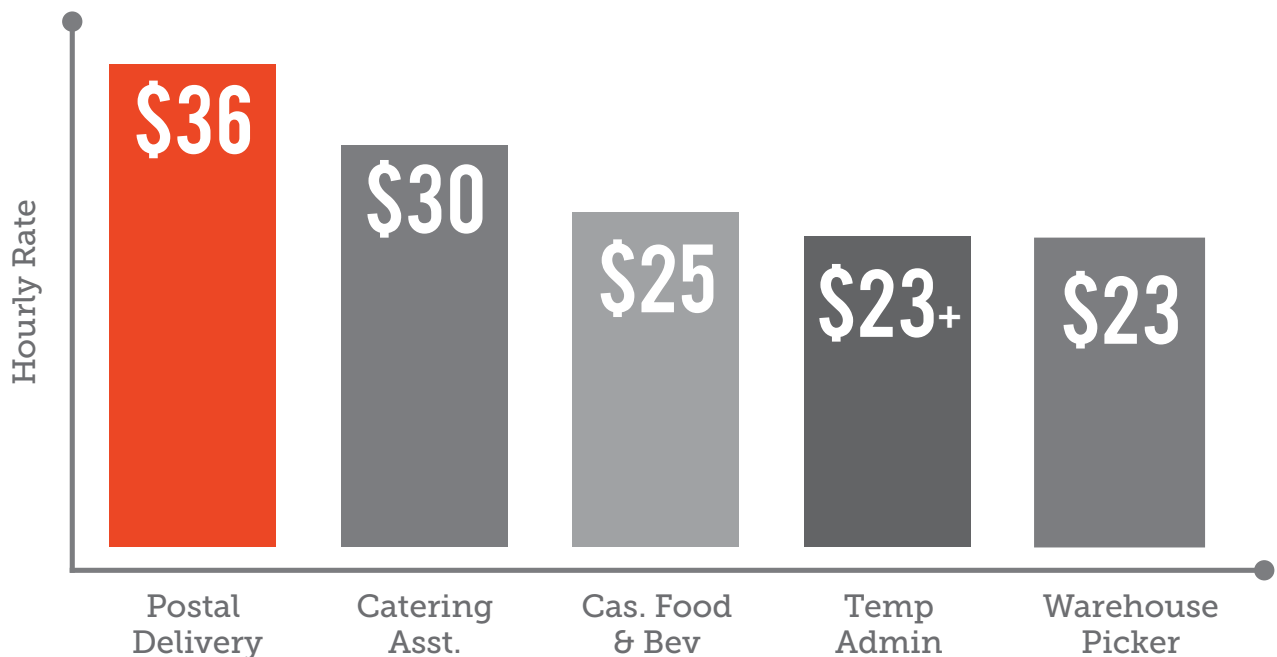
**TIP:** It's worth researching the advertised companies before you apply for them. If they are any good, they will have lots of information on their website, including awards and stories about their employees. If you can't find much about them, then move on and look for another company. If you would like that type of work, but don't want the risk of inconsistent pay, there are some charities that offer an hourly wage, often between \$18 - \$23 an hour, so that's a much safer bet.

## TOP 5 BEST PAID JOBS FOR BACKPACKERS

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Based on our interviews and average hourly rates, we have identified the top 5 **best paid jobs** for backpackers to be:

1. Postal Delivery Driver
2. Catering Assistant
3. Casual Food & Beverage Assistant
4. Temporary Administrator
5. Warehouse Picker



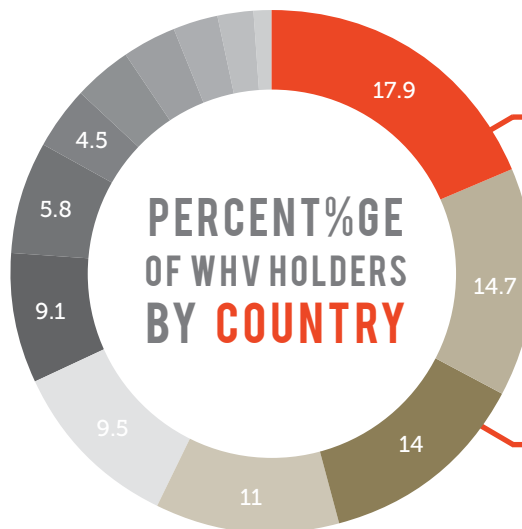
Not only that, but working double time at a roadhouse can earn a staggering **\$35-\$40** an hour!



## WORKING HOLIDAY VISA STATISTICS

### KEY:

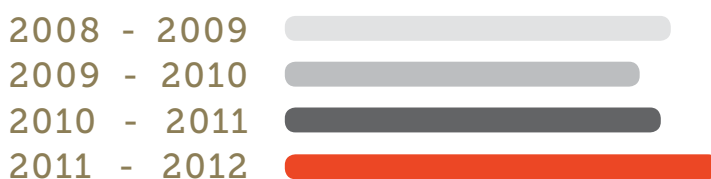
- United Kingdom
- Korea, South
- Taiwan
- Germany
- Ireland
- France
- Italy
- Japan
- HKSAR of the PRC
- Canada
- Sweden
- Netherlands
- Estonia



The UK maintains the greatest proportion of WHV grants

Taiwan is growing to be one of the **biggest** constituents of WHV holders

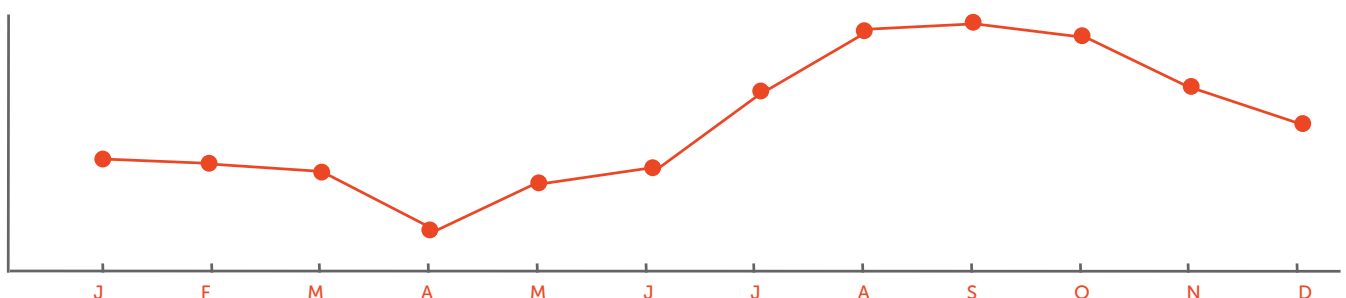
### NUMBER OF WORKING HOLIDAY VISAS GRANTED



**22.7%**

Increase in WHV grants in 2012 compared to 2011

### WHVS GRANTED BY MONTH IN 2012



## WORKING HOLIDAY VISA STATISTICS

The **increasing growth** in WHV applications and grants largely appears to be associated with the **wider economical global situation**.

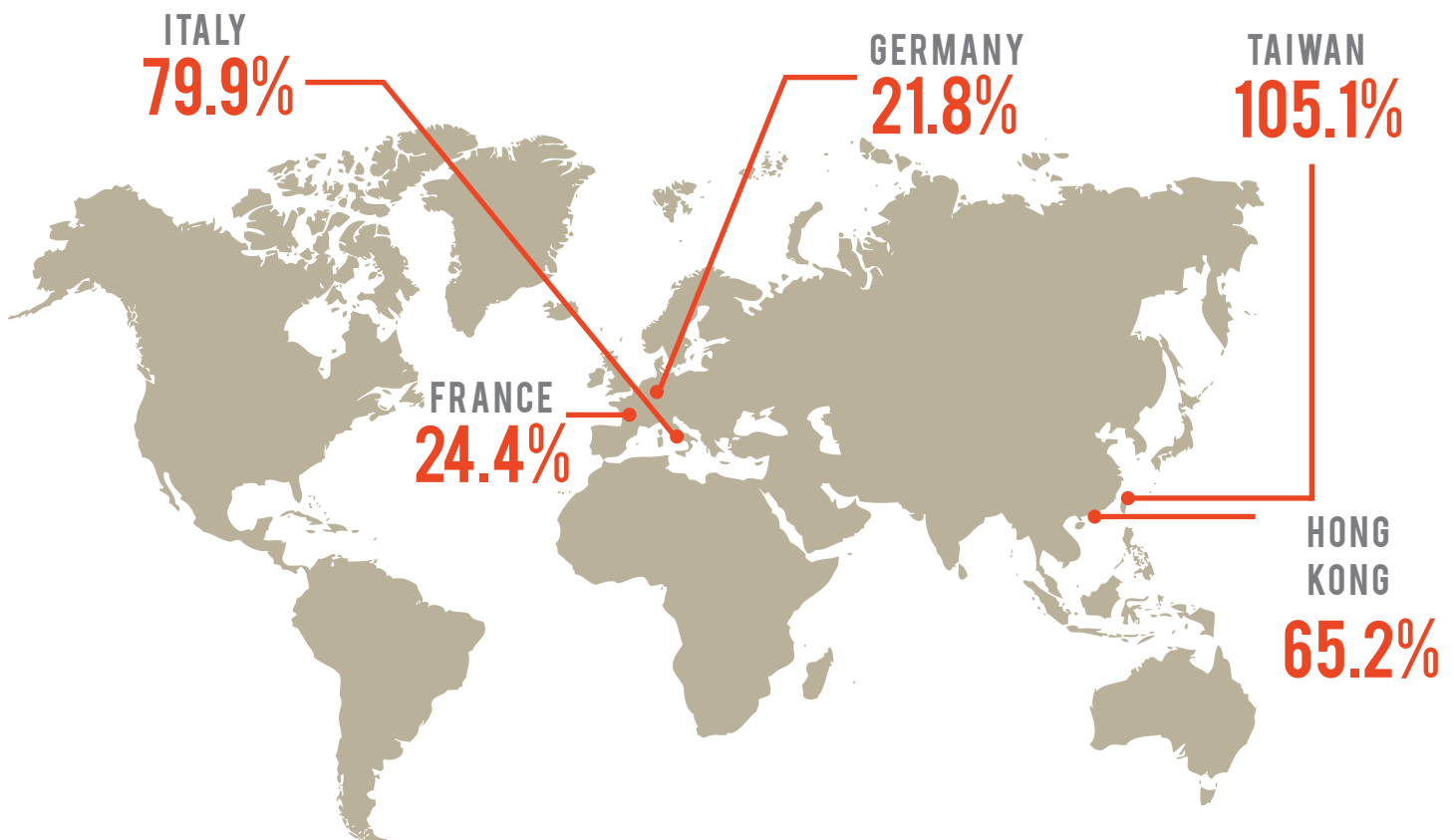
# 239,756

Total Working Holiday Visas granted in 2012

# \$20.88

The average hourly wage of the people asked in this report

### BIGGEST INCREASES IN WHV GRANTS



## SUMMARY

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The backpackers in this report have all stood nervously in your shoes before you. They have all felt those worries that come with deciding to live and work in a foreign and faraway country. However, they are all concrete proof that these anxieties were short lived.

Every backpacker that we interviewed had been successful with their job hunt. From pulling pints in a pub, to delivering post in the outback, these people have all managed to find paid work during their time in Australia. They also demonstrate the huge range and variety of work that is on offer. Not only that, but the accounts prove that there is a lot of money to be earned and saved from working in Australia. With an impressive average wage of just over \$20 an hour, it is no wonder that people decide to flock to Oz for a year.

The type of work you'll be looking for will largely affect how much preparation you can do. With the majority of work, always make sure you have an up to date CV ready. Make it easy for potential employees to see your skills and for them to make contact with you. Being proactive is the best universal advice we can give. Whether that's applying to jobs online, going into places

and handing out your CV personally or even by simply talking to as many people as you can. These are all good ways to make you the desirable candidate and to stand out from other job seekers.

Of course, like any country, there maybe times where finding work has it's difficulties for reasons that are out of your control. Whether that's crop failure in the area you were hoping to do fruit picking, or if the six month restriction comes in the way of your dream job. However, there will always be alternative options: other places to go and other jobs to apply for. Be wise, and trust your instincts when it comes to the people you encounter on your job search, just as you would at home.

So it is possible. All of these people in this report (plus the 239747 others granted WHVs last year) can testify that finding work can be both painless and profitable. Australia offers unrivalled job prosperity, and the fact that the weather and lifestyle are amazing is a welcome bonus. For those of you wanting a year of earning good money whilst having lots of fun in the process, then there really is no better place than Australia. ■

## HOW TO GET THE BEST JOBS

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If you would like to get the **best, well paid** jobs in Australia you might like;

- Want more of the best?

Get our "**16 Tried and Tested Ways to Find Work in Australia**"

(Just part of our Guide...)

- Need help with your **CV/ Resume?**

For more helpful information about working in Australia, visit: [www.jobaroo.com](http://www.jobaroo.com)

If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail Quinn at:  
[quinn@jobaroo.com](mailto:quinn@jobaroo.com)

 [www.Jobaroo.com](http://www.Jobaroo.com)