

IMMIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA:
STILL ADVANTAGEOUS TO LIVE IN THE COUNTRY?

Australia is the smallest continent and one of the largest countries on Earth. Its area is 7,692,024 square kilometers, and its population is about 26 million people. The population density is 3.2 inhabitants per square kilometer. There is high standard of living and strong economy in Australia. Female life expectancy is 80 years and male life expectancy is 75 years. Immigrants account for 30 % of the population, the highest proportion in any country with a population over 10 million. Foreign migration has increased from 30,042 people in 1992 to 178,582 people in 2016. But there are positive and negative moments in living in Australia.

The Australian climate is varied, so everybody can find the suitable one. Those who like warm weather can live in the western part of Australia. There are tropics in North Queensland. There is temperate climate zone in the southern part of Australia. The sun shines for 300 days a week. But there are a lot of different dangerous and poisonous animals such as snakes and spiders there.

Perfect knowledge of English doesn't mean complete understanding of the Australian speech because there is a unique accent. Besides some Australian words differ from Britain ones. But even with intermediate level of English, you can live and work there. Also, it's difficult for foreigners to find a good job in Australia. The in-demand professions are IT-specialists, doctors and engineers. Besides it's necessary to bring your resume in person but not to send by e-mail. Minimum wage is about 600\$ a week. People work 38 hours a week. Vacation lasts for 28 days.

Australia is a relatively safe place to live. The crime rate there is much lower than in other developed countries such as the United States and Canada.

The value of real estate is high in Australia. The average cost of renting a flat is about 400\$ a week. A house with three rooms costs about 500–600 thousand dollars. So, people usually buy it in the mortgage with the rate of 2–3 %.

There are two types of medicine: state and private. There is insurance Medicare that allows people to get emergency medical care and see a GP for free. If a patient goes to narrow-profile specialists, examination is free of charge or its cost is reduced. However, dentistry, beautician and physiotherapist services are not covered by the insurance.

To sum it up, there are positive and negative moments of immigration to Australia. Living conditions in Australia differ from the ones in Belarus. It is not easy to change habits and to get used to new climate and conditions. Satisfaction or dissatisfaction depends on a person since pros for one person can be cons for the other one.