

## Moving Interstate

At some stage many of us consider moving interstate or even overseas. There are some very practical steps you need to take when researching if this kind of move will be right for you and possibly your family. In this article we will look at an interstate move, but the principles are largely the same.

Jason and Margaret live in the leafy suburb of Ryde in Sydney. Jason works as an Account Executive in a small insurance broking firm and Margaret works part-time as an administrator in the local state primary school. Their three children all attend the local primary school with Peter in Year 7, John in Year 5 and Sally in Year 3.

Jason has been reading advertisements about the benefits of moving the family to sunny Queensland. He is concerned about the rising cost of living in Sydney and his career prospects are limited, so money is tight. With oldest son Peter about to enter a private secondary school next year, the family need to decide *this* year if they want to move, as once Peter has commenced secondary school they feel they would be more reluctant to move. Jason is also concerned about whether the family will be able to meet the costs of the private school fees, especially when the other children start secondary school in a few years time.

Margaret's best friend Judy moved to Brisbane a few years ago and she misses Judy's company. Judy's reports about living in Brisbane are very encouraging.

Jason and Margaret decide that they need to undertake some research and one night after dinner they sit down to plan. Jason suggests that they make a list of all the facts and figures they need and the prospective sources of information. They also decide to list some questions on topics that are less tangible. Here is the list they drew up.

Facts, figures & questions	Information source
Availability of work	Courier Mail job ads (Saturday), explore what's on Seek; interstate recruitment agencies looking for specialists in his field
Salary differentials between the cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Australian Bureau of Statistics website - <a href="http://www.abs.gov.au/">http://www.abs.gov.au/</a></li> <li>□ <a href="http://www.whatareyouworth.com.au">http://www.whatareyouworth.com.au</a> provides comprehensive information on 200 jobs, including interstate sub sample analysis.</li> <li>□ Hays Salary Survey provides a snapshot of salaries and employment market trends across Australia and New Zealand - <a href="http://www.hays.com.au/salary/default.aspx">http://www.hays.com.au/salary/default.aspx</a></li> </ul>
Housing availability and affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ <a href="http://www.allhomes.com">www.allhomes.com</a> (only for NSW and ACT)</li> <li>□ <a href="http://www.reiq.com.au">www.reiq.com.au</a> This website is good for information on costs of buying property in Queensland. It includes information on price of property, borrowing costs, valuation report, transfer (stamp) duty, land tax, legal costs and building and pest inspection reports</li> <li>□ Brisbane city council website - <a href="http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au">www.brisbane.qld.gov.au</a></li> <li>□ Australian Bureau of Statistics website - <a href="http://www.abs.gov.au/">http://www.abs.gov.au/</a></li> </ul>

<p>Education (standards and comparative costs)</p>	<p>The QLD state government website can assist with choosing schools, how to enrol your children in school and has the dates for school holidays - <a href="http://www.qld.gov.au/about-queensland/moving.html#section-education-and-learning">http://www.qld.gov.au/about-queensland/moving.html#section-education-and-learning</a></p> <p>Private school websites</p> <p>University websites (UQ, Griffith, ACU and QUT)</p>
<p>Lifestyle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arts</li> <li>- Sports</li> <li>- Community events</li> <li>- Shopping</li> <li>- Things to see and do</li> </ul>	<p>Talk to Margaret's best friend Judy (and who else do we know up there or whose family members have moved interstate?)</p> <p>State Government website and Brisbane city council website <a href="http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/">http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/</a></p>
<p>Costs of moving and removalist companies</p>	<p><a href="http://www.movemanagement.com.au">www.movemanagement.com.au</a></p> <p>This is a very comprehensive website as it includes information on a wide range of issues about moving interstate. It includes interactive quotation requests, guidelines on planning your move, moving timetables and also includes forms and checklists that could be useful.</p> <p><a href="http://wridgways4-px.rtrk.com.au/moving_overseas.htm">http://wridgways4-px.rtrk.com.au/moving_overseas.htm</a></p> <p>Wridgways is a reliable moving service which offers an online quotation.</p>
<p>What will the kids think about moving away from their friends? How will they adapt?</p>	<p>Talk to Margaret's best friend Judy</p> <p>Talk to the kids to gauge their reaction</p>

After drawing up this list, Jason and Margaret decided to set some priorities and then allocated the tasks amongst themselves. They decided that the first priority was to see if obtaining a well paid job for both of them was feasible. If finding suitable jobs were not possible, then there would be no point in continuing the exercise. While Jason's best chance of acquiring a job would be in a CBD location, Margaret would need to explore the school system and the location of schools that would need an administrator. This would mean that Margaret's search might have to wait until Jason's job search was concluded and they had established themselves in a suburb. Jason went on-line to search the job ads in the Brisbane Courier Mail - [www.couriermail.com.au/business/jobs](http://www.couriermail.com.au/business/jobs) and on Seek - [www.seek.com.au](http://www.seek.com.au)

Jason also realised that his resume was out of date, far too long and contained lists of past duties which were irrelevant now. Jason decided that he needed some advice on updating his resume. It occurred to him that a recruitment agency with offices in each Sydney and Brisbane might be the best chance of advice about his resume and the Brisbane employment market. Jason decided to do an on-line search for such an agency and soon found that there were plenty to choose from. He then searched the agencies' websites to see whether they specialised in his type of employment category.

Jason found two agencies that fitted the bill, so he phoned them the next day. He decided to use both agencies to help him find a suitable position. He also emailed them his old resume and worked through a revised resume with the agencies. The agencies interviewed Jason thoroughly to understand his needs and background and undertook to send his resume to prospective employers in the Brisbane CBD. and The following week he had three screening interviews for what appeared to be the relevant and challenging roles. Following 30 minute telephone interviews he was flown to Brisbane by the companies involved for face to face interviews. Shortly after, Jason was offered two positions that really appealed to him.

Now Jason and Margaret had to make a final decision – GO or Not to Go? They decided to call a family meeting with the kids. But first, they had to do more research if they were to present a very positive case to the kids that this was the “right” move for the family. What was the compelling case for the move? Margaret phoned her best friend Judy for advice. Judy said that her family were excited by the easy access to the theme parks at the Gold Coast. Her children had also fitted in well with the local kids and the schools were great and less expensive than Sydney. Judy indicated how excited she was at the prospect of them moving to Brisbane and that the kids would have “instant” friends. But Margaret had to obtain more facts about Brisbane, so her own research began in earnest.

By the time of the family meeting, Jason and Margaret had convinced themselves that they had developed a compelling case for moving to Brisbane. Nevertheless they still wanted to involve the children and listen to their feedback before making their final decision. At the family meeting Jason and Margaret put all their cards on the table. Here is how they presented their “compelling argument” for the interstate move:

Why do we want or need to move?

We’ve found that:

- There are better job prospects for Dad in moving
- The climate is warmer
- The cost of living is cheaper in Brisbane

What are the advantages and disadvantages of the move?

- Schools are equally as good as Sydney but less expensive
- We need to move before the children go to high school
- Crime statistics show that there is less crime in Brisbane than Sydney
- Proximity to major theme parks
- Can sell our house in Sydney and buy a better house in Brisbane and still have money left over so we can live more comfortably
- Disadvantages are moving away from family and friends and having to learn about the new city

Where will we live?

- we picked out a nice suburb where we believe we can enjoy the lifestyle
- we are going on an orientation visit so we will all be able to see what the possibilities are
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Who do we know up in Brisbane?

- Best friend Judy and her family. She can introduce us to a wider range of people

What is really exciting for the children about the move?

- proximity to theme parks, backyard swimming pool

The family all went to Brisbane together for their orientation visit. Dad’s prospective company undertook the orientation visit according to best practice and the kids got to go to the theme park and meet with Judy’s family and went for a very cool bus ride around Brisbane to see the sights.

They also looked at a number of really nice houses built on stilts called “Queenslanders” with huge verandas and lots of living space. Out in the backyards of these properties were large mango trees and swimming pools. After the orientation visit the kids gave the move qualified thumbs up and Jason and Margaret started the process of moving by contacting an interstate removalist company.

Their new company gave them several thousand dollars towards the cost of moving. This is often part of a ‘relocation’ one-off payment. Jason had accepted one of the job’s and arranged to start within two weeks. His new company provided him with temporary accommodation in an apartment building near the CBD and paid for return flights to Sydney until the family was able to move to Brisbane permanently. The company also paid for the family to fly to Brisbane once their new house was available.