

Visit Us at the Working Abroad Expo

Coming up on the 12th & 13th of March at the RDS Hall in Dublin is the Working Abroad Expo. Undoubtedly Ireland's most popular International Recruitment and Relocation event, the Expo is a must regardless of what stage in the visa process you are at. Amanda Skeen, Katherine Gow and John Young will be there to answer all your questions about Skilled Migration and employment in Australia. You can also book further consultations and there will be an additional AMVL Information Evening.

Contact us for more details.

expo
WORKINGABROAD

AMVL Employment Network



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AMVL Staff Help in the Clean Up

After the devastating floods that tore through Brisbane, our staff hit the ground running to help out in the massive cleanup effort.

Pictured is one of the partners of Australian Migration & Visa Lawyers, Bill Gamack, with his son helping in the cleanup and Katrina Dunn, our Marketing & Communications Coordinator.

Katrina is also a member of the voluntary State Emergency Service. We are happy to report that community spirit is alive and well in Queensland with the Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal having raised over \$184,540,718* for the flood victims.

Queensland is fast on its way to recovery.
*Funds raised as at 29 January 2011



2nd WHV Eligibility for Flood Damage Cleanup

Currently, WHV holders, along with other visa holders and Australians, may choose to volunteer their time or seek paid work to help clean up and rebuild Australia following the flood crisis.

If the cleanup work falls within the definition of "specified work" and is conducted in an eligible regional Australia postcode, the work may count towards the 88 days of "specified work" that Working Holiday visa holders must undertake in order to be eligible for a second Working Holiday visa.

Contact us for further information on "specified work", eligible postcodes for regional areas and obtaining a 2nd WHV.

New Points Test - Does it Affect You?

It is proposed that a new points test for skilled migration visa applications will be introduced on 1 July 2011. The changes focus on better English language skills, more extensive skilled work experience, higher level qualifications obtained in Australia and overseas and different age ranges.

Points will no longer be awarded on the basis of an applicant's occupation, but all applicants must still nominate an occupation on the applicable Skilled Occupation List.

We are in the process of getting all our existing clients lodged before the cut off date. If you still have documents outstanding, we ask that you get them to us as quickly as possible. As we have learnt there can be uncertainty with new DIAC systems and if you **qualify now then act now.**

Contact us for more information.

Live in Canberra

The Live in Canberra team will visit London on Thursday 17 February 2011 at 6:00pm and Dublin on Saturday 19 February 2011 at 9:30am and 1:00pm to conduct free information seminars.

This is a great opportunity to hear why migrants often call Canberra "Australia's best kept secret" and hear about the ACT State Migration Plan. Located in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), the city has all the lifestyle amenities and services you would expect of a world-class capital. Canberra's unemployment rate is consistently the lowest in Australia. The pay is good too - in fact, workers in Canberra enjoy the highest average income in the nation.

Places are limited and you must register for this event before Wednesday 16 February. **Contact us** for more information on how to register.

Look out Ireland - Kat's coming to stay!

Katherine Gow is leaving our Brisbane office to go join the team in our Ireland office. Kat will be replacing Kathleen Lucey who will be soon taking maternity leave. Kat has traveled to Ireland many times before and is very much in love with the Irish way.

Have a great time in Ireland, Kat!

Did you Know?

Some 13,000 people from more than 140 countries became citizens on 26 January 2011 as part of Australia Day celebrations.

Snurfing - Will It Catch On???

With the cold snap that gripped Ireland over the Christmas period, the staff at our Irish office got inventive with a new way to get to work.

Christened "Snurfing" (snowboarding & surfing) it was a wonderful way to navigate the treacherous snow and ice covered pavements of Clane Co. Kildare. Apparently there were a few falls and many bruises but we've been assured that they've mastered this new sport and its popularity is rapidly spreading!

