

# Why Brisbane is best



Queensland's capital ticks all the boxes for Karen Bleakley and her family...

When it comes to choosing where to move in Australia, there is so much to think about... Climate, jobs, houses, lifestyle, living costs... Not to mention finding a city where you feel at home.

We were lucky to have done some travelling in Australia before we moved, but we still found it difficult to decide on a city. After an agonising few months, we



Karen and her children in front of Brisbane's Story Bridge

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chose Brisbane. We've been here for almost four years now and we feel that it was definitely the right move for our family. To help us make the decision, we made a list of what was important to us:

#### 1. House prices

We wanted somewhere with affordable housing because we wanted more space for our family. We also wanted a house with a pool and to be close to the beach.

#### 2. Climate

We didn't want to move somewhere that got too cold during winter as weather was a big reason for our move. We didn't want to move somewhere too humid either.

#### 3. Jobs

We needed somewhere with an international airport. My husband's career was in military aviation, but as a permanent resident he wouldn't be able to get security clearance for a similar role so we needed somewhere offering commercial aviation work.

#### 4. Location

We wanted to move somewhere with plenty of travel opportunities for weekend breaks. And we wanted somewhere we could hop on a short flight to get to other cool places for holidays.

#### 5. City life

We wanted to move to a cultural city where we could attend festivals, concerts and shows. We also wanted somewhere our kids would have plenty of learning opportunities for the future.

We absolutely loved Perth and as I had family there it was our first choice initially. But when we started reviewing our wish-list, we quickly realised that Brisbane offered everything we needed.

Brisbane has affordable housing in the outer suburbs. Despite everyone saying that Brisbane doesn't have any beaches, it really does. They aren't huge sweeping beaches, but there are some pretty beaches to the north and south of the city, and it is in-between the Sunshine Coast and Gold

Coast, so it is easy to get to the bigger surf beaches for days out. It also has some amazing islands just off the coast too.

It offers a great climate all year round (it does get humid at times but those are the days that air conditioning was invented for!)

We found the job options were better for my husband and we felt Brisbane is well connected for day trips, weekend breaks and holidays.

As a city, Brisbane offers everything we hoped it would – it is a compact, clean, friendly city that offers an endless programme of events, gigs and festivals. It is growing and evolving and I can see so many opportunities for my kids here as they grow up and go on to study.

Writing a wish list helped us make our decision. Brisbane proved to be the perfect choice for us and it has delivered everything we dreamed of and more. 🇦🇺

■ **Karen Bleakley helps families take the stress out of moving to Australia at [www.SmartStepstoAustralia.com](http://www.SmartStepstoAustralia.com).**