

David: Moving a family of four to Melbourne...



Melbourne is regularly voted the most liveable city in the world. Geotechnical engineer David Glover has called it 'home' for the past six years. Back in 2011, David lived in Leeds with his wife and two young children. The kids hadn't quite hit school age, and it was 'now or never' if they were to pursue their dream of living in another country. Within just a few months of job searching, David accepted an opportunity at Tonkin + Taylor's Melbourne office.

Since leaving the UK, he feels the quality of life for his family has improved. "I'm working hard professionally, but after a solid day at the office, I have a wide variety of different things to do with my family," David says. "We're a stone's throw away from beaches, mountains, incredible landscapes and dramatic coastlines. We've also got plenty of options in the city centre, with art galleries, bustling laneways, great food and decent coffee."

David found working Downunder pretty challenging at first, but there was no shortage of opportunities for professional and personal development. Having worked predominantly on rail infrastructure in the UK, he found that economic demands in Australia were different, and other sectors were booming, particularly land development. "It was exciting to do something new, to learn about the geological history of Victoria, and to be involved in a variety of projects around the Asia-Pacific region." He also found himself busy organising social club events, including climbing days, trips to Cirque Du Soleil and family BBQs!

David and his family have now bought a home in Melbourne. "The kids are settled at school and we're all set for Australian Citizenship. I'd definitely recommend the move our family made to others."

He'd also encourage people to think about their support networks before they go, particularly if one partner won't be working. "With a new job, you have a readymade network of people, it's harder for the person starting from scratch." David recommends that people plan how they'll manage that side of things prior to leaving home.

Although he misses the dry stone walls of the Yorkshire Dales, David is very settled in Melbourne and regularly keeps in touch with family back home via Skype and WhatsApp. "If anything, I speak to them more now than I did before!"