

Moving interstate for work.

Your practical relocation checklist

A new job in a new city? Before you make the move, work through this checklist to help get your career, finances and logistics in order.

This is a planning guide, not a requirement to complete every item. Every move is different, so adapt it to your circumstances.

1 STAGE 1 // Before accepting the role

The opportunity

- ☐ Understand the role, responsibilities and reporting structure.
- ☐ Confirm salary, superannuation, benefits and employment conditions.
- ☐ Ask about the team's workload, upcoming projects and longer-term pipeline.
- ☐ Confirm the expected start date, work location and office attendance.
- ☐ Consider whether the role supports your longer-term career goals.
- ☐ Discuss the move with anyone else affected by the decision.

The financial picture

- ☐ Compare expected take-home pay with living costs in the destination city.
- ☐ Research rents and accommodation options in suitable suburbs.
- ☐ Estimate moving, travel and temporary accommodation costs.
- ☐ Calculate ongoing transport, utilities and everyday living expenses.
- ☐ Establish a realistic relocation budget and emergency buffer.

STAGE 1 // CONTINUED

Relocation support

- ☐ Ask whether the employer offers relocation assistance.
- ☐ Clarify exactly what is covered, any limits and when payments are made.
- ☐ Check whether any repayment conditions apply if you leave the role.
- ☐ Get agreed relocation arrangements confirmed in writing.

2 STAGE 2 // Before you move

Accommodation and logistics

- ☐ Decide whether to secure a long-term rental or arrange temporary accommodation first.
- ☐ Prepare identification, proof of employment and rental references.
- ☐ Research rental requirements in your destination state or territory.
- ☐ Verify rental listings and payment requests before transferring money.
- ☐ Book removalists, vehicle transport or van hire if required.
- ☐ Arrange travel and any necessary storage.
- ☐ Plan for pets, children or other specific household needs.

Getting organised

- ☐ Confirm your employment arrangements and start date in writing.
- ☐ Arrange utilities, internet and essential services where possible.
- ☐ Update your address with relevant organisations when appropriate.
- ☐ Check your commute, parking and public transport options.
- ☐ Organise any necessary leave or timing arrangements with your current employer.
- ☐ Keep important documents and essential belongings accessible during the move.

NOTES

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STAGE 3 //

Your first few weeks

Settling in

- ☐ Familiarise yourself with your new neighbourhood.
- ☐ Test your commute and adjust your routine if needed.
- ☐ Finalise outstanding utilities, registrations and household arrangements.
- ☐ Review your actual expenses against your relocation budget.
- ☐ Check in with your employer about how you're settling into the role.
- ☐ Find local services, activities or groups that interest you.
- ☐ Make time to build your social and professional network.

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STAGE 4 //

Your relocation budget

Note what you expect each item to cost, then record what you actually spent.

EXPENSE	ESTIMATED COST	ACTUAL COST
Travel to your destination	\$	\$
Removalists or vehicle transport	\$	\$
Temporary accommodation	\$	\$
Rental bond	\$	\$
Rent in advance	\$	\$
Furniture and household essentials	\$	\$
Utilities and internet setup	\$	\$
Transport and parking	\$	\$
Storage or other expenses	\$	\$
Other	\$	\$
Total costs	\$	\$

Remember: this table covers one-off moving costs. Your budget should also account for ongoing living expenses, such as rent, transport, utilities and everyday costs, once you've settled in.

Questions and notes

Questions to ask the employer or recruiter

Outstanding relocation arrangements

Important dates and deadlines

Other considerations specific to your move

A FINAL REMINDER //

A good move starts with good information.

Take the time to understand the opportunity, work through the costs and ask questions before committing. You do not need to have every detail sorted on day one, but a little preparation can make the transition easier.

Considering an interstate move?

Vivid Recruitment works with architecture, interior design, engineering and planning professionals across Australian markets. If you're considering your next move, speak with Nick or Lee about the opportunities they're working on and what to consider before making a decision.

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