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## **ESSENTIAL INFORMATION PACK – a brief overview of what is included**

### **CONTENTS:**

1. Area Information
2. Health & Medical Information
3. Education – NZ schools overview
4. Nelson Area Schools
5. Tasman & Bays Schools
6. Property in Nelson & Bays
7. Banks & Building Societies
8. Insurance
9. Vehicles – sales & rentals
10. Driving Regulations
11. Travel advice – stopovers, travelling with children
12. NZ Customs – regulations on what you can bring
13. What personal & practical items to bring
14. Up to date cost of living information
15. Job opportunities
16. FAQ
17. Recommendations & contact details

## 1. Area Information

Nelson is a superb place to live and the recent influx of people both from within NZ and abroad are proof to this fact. It boasts a unique 'Mediterranean' type climate and hence is home to grapes, olives, nuts, citrus fruits and apples.

It attracts artists from all over the world and is host to many cultural events throughout the year. It is still relatively small in comparison to the larger cosmopolitan centres in NZ which means it retains a friendly atmosphere.

The scenery and surrounding areas of Nelson boast some of the finest beaches in NZ and it attracts tourists all year round. There are lots of activities to suit all age groups and interests and the Nelson region has 3 national parks that offer a range of diverse activities.

'Nelson City and Tasman District Councils are committed to ensuring a vision for the region where both short and long term community well-being drives all activity; where the economy is strong and diversified; and the environment is enjoyed, cherished and protected.

Our pride and identity, in part a product of a rich heritage, is strengthened by a creative and thriving cultural scene, and innovative, expansive business and industry sectors delivering a robust economy. Diversity in that economy lends further stability to the region. Fresh, new, emerging industry clusters like aviation and information technology are creating additional opportunities as the foundation industries of fishing, forestry, agriculture and horticulture continue to be successful on the international stage'. (Nelson Mayor - Paul Matheson, Tasman Mayor – John Hurley)

### Regional Statistics

Nelson City Population 44000

Nelson Region Population 82920

Sunshine Hours 2400

Annual Rainfall 988mm

Average summer temp. 23 C

Average winter temp. 13 C

## 2. Health & Medical Care in New Zealand

New Zealand's healthcare system is widely regarded as one of the best of the OECD countries. New Zealand citizens are entitled to a wide range of free and government-subsidised healthcare.

### Accident insurance - ACC

### Help for people on low incomes or with high health needs

- Community Services Card
- High Use Health Card
- Prescription Subsidy Card
- Disabilities

✓ [move2nelson can give further advice on specific health & medical issues as requested](#)

### **3. The education system in New Zealand**

- General overview
- Early childhood education
- Kindergartens
- Education and care centres
- Play centres
- Home-based care
- Playgroups
- Children with special needs

#### **Types of Schools**

- Primary Schools
- Intermediate schools
- Secondary schools
- State Schools
- Integrated Schools
- Private Schools

#### **Tertiary institutions**

- Universities
- Polytechnics
- Colleges of Education
- English Language Programmes
  
- Private Training Establishments
  
- Industry Training Organisations
  
- Distance learning

### **4. NELSON, STOKE & RICHMOND SCHOOLS**

Nelson City has many excellent schools and a reputation for high educational achievement. Nelson & Tasman offer a wide range of educational opportunities with most primary schools offering camps and inter school sporting events. Nelson offers an annual science fair to give students an opportunity to compete with other students in science investigations. There are a range of different schools to cater for the cultural & religious diversity of the local population.

#### **PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

##### **AUCKLAND POINT**

99 Haven Rd, Nelson

##### **BIRCHWOOD**

Durham St, Stoke

##### **CLIFTON TERRACE**

888 Atawhai Dr, Nelson

##### **ENNER GLYNN**

10 The Ridgeway, Nelson

##### **FOUNDERS**

PO Box 772, Nelson

**HAMPDEN ST**  
Hampden St, Nelson

**HIRA**  
Hira, Rd 1, Nelson

**NAYLAND PRIMARY**  
225 Nayland Rd, Stoke

**NELSON CENTRAL**  
70 Nile St, Nelson

**INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS:**  
**BROADGREEN INTERMEDIATE**  
193 Nayland Rd, Stoke

**NELSON INTERMEDIATE**  
86 Ti

**SECONDARY SCHOOLS:**  
**INDEPENDENT MIDDLE**  
9 Towai St, Stoke, Nelson

**NELSON COLLEGE**  
PO Box 16, Nelson

**NELSON COLLEGE FOR GIRLS**  
PO Box 842, Nelson

## **5. TASMAN & BAYS SCHOOLS**

**PRIMARY SCHOOLS:**  
**APPLEBY**  
RD1 Richmond

**BRIGHTWATER**  
106 Ellis St, Brightwater

**BROOKLYN**  
RD3 Motueka

**CENTRAL TAKAKA**  
RD1 Takaka

**DOVEDALE**  
RD2 Wakefield

**HENLEY**  
54 William St, Richmond

**HOPE**  
Patons Rd, RD1, Richmond

**LAKE ROTOITI**  
St Arnaud RD2, Nelson

**LOWER MOUTERE**  
RD2, Motueka

**MAHANA**  
RD1, Upper Moutere

**MAPUA**  
4 Stafford Drive, Mapua

**MOTUEKA RUDOLPH STEINER**  
PO Box 224 Motueka

**MOTUEKA SOUTH**  
PO Box 359, Motueka

**MOTUPIPI**  
RD1, Takaka

**MOUNTAIN VALLEY**  
RD1, Pokororo, Motueka

**MURCHISON AREA**  
Waller St, Murchison

**NGATIMOTI**  
RD1, Motueka

**PARKLANDS**  
Pah St, Motueka

**RANZAU**  
111 Ranzau Rd, Hope

**RICHMOND**  
14 Cambridge St, Richmond

**RIWAKA**  
RD3, Motueka

**ST PAUL'S**  
PO Box 3402, Richmond

**ST PETER CHANEL**  
423 High St, Motueka

**TAKAKA PRIMARY**  
9 Wadsworth St, Takaka

**TASMAN BAY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**  
RD1, Upper Moutere

**TASMAN**  
RD 1, Upper Moutere

**UPPER MOUTERE**  
Main Rd, Upper Moutere

**WAKEFIELD**  
Edward St, Wakefield

**GARIN COLLEGE**  
35 Champion Rd, Richmond

**GOLDEN BAY HIGH**  
12 Waitapu Road, Takaka

**MOTUEKA HIGH**  
Private Bag, Motueka

**SALISBURY**  
Private Bag, Richmond

**TAPAWERA AREA**  
RD 2, Wakefield

**WAIMEA COLLEGE**  
Salisbury Rd, Richmond

*move2nelson can look at schools for you, tell you what they are really like – no school will undersell itself on its website. We can tell you what the area is like and link up with housing in the same area.*

## **6. Nelson & NZ Housing**

### **Renting a house**

When you arrive in New Zealand it could be a good idea to rent a home initially while you decide where you wish to live.

NZ has a high level of home ownership, the stock of rental housing is less extensive than in most other developed countries. Prices and quality vary and it is always advisable to visit a property personally or have someone else do this for you. Factors such as proximity to transport, shops and schools as well as the general feel of the neighbourhood need to be taken into account.

Demand for good quality rentals is high. It may take some time to find a suitable property and, when you do you will usually have to make a quick decision.

✓ *move2nelson can arrange a rental house for you and assist you in tenancy agreements*

### **Buying a house**

Nelson house prices have rocketed in the last few years and therefore the cheap beachfront bach just doesn't exist anymore.

New Zealanders are keen to build their own houses and land can be cheap to buy depending on the area and the zoning of the land.

Rural 'lifestyle blocks' comprising of custom built homes with several acres of farmland are particularly popular. There are good options for this in the Nelson area but because of the popularity of lifestyle blocks, they are not as cheap as they once were.

New Zealanders are renowned for being proud of their homes. They have one of the highest levels of individual home ownership in the world. Housing stocks are extensive and provide a wide range of architecture, style & size for those seeking to match their home to a particular lifestyle.

City housing ranges from restored villas, dating from the early 1900's to modern suburban homes with large gardens or 'sections' as they are termed in NZ. Apartments are becoming increasingly popular in the cities, they require low maintenance and are more secure to leave if away for periods of time.

Most of the NZ houses are built of wood, brick, stucco or tin. Although many of the newer homes are insulated a lot of the older homes can be very cold & draughty in the winter, most do not have central heating or double-glazed windows. The most popular form of heating is open fires or wood burners.

A fairly recent development in heating houses in NZ is the versatile and cheap to run heat pump which also acts as air conditioning in the summer. Solar power is becoming more popular and seen as a good option to save water heating bills.

- ✓ [move2nelson can assist with house buying and can recommend trades people to put in solar panels and heat pumps.](#)

## **7. Banks & Building Societies**

There are a range of banking options in New Zealand and it is possible to open a bank account before your arrival. Most have charges for the services they offer unless you have a certain amount of funds in the account. NZ is ahead of the game in electronic banking and many people use internet banking and telephone banking.

There are numerous cash machines ATM's and a lot of transactions are done via electronic funds transfer at point of sale – EFTPOS by using a debit card with a pin number. All the major credit cards are accepted in NZ .

Some of the main banks are ANZ, BNZ, National Bank, Westpac, ASB, Kiwibank and in the Nelson area there is the Nelson Building Society & SBS.

- ✓ [move2nelson can help you with opening a bank account.](#)

## **9. Vehicles – sales & rentals**

Cars are very easy to rent and buy in NZ and with the recent influx of Japanese imports, prices are significantly lower than they were several years ago. You are able to pick up a good vehicle for around NZ\$5000 – NZ\$10000 . They come with a standard 3 month warranty, if you buy from a reputable car yard, and you have the option of buying a longer warranty which is often worth doing but read the small print.

- ✓ [move2nelson can arrange rental vehicles & recommend reliable car sales personnel](#)

## **10. Driving Regulations**

New Zealanders drive on the left hand side of the road – the same as the UK. Some of the road rules are different for example you must always give way to the right. The NZ drivers are not as courteous as British drivers and there is high accident rate given the small population. At the moment you can get a provisional licence at 15 yrs old and need to re apply for a licence at 70 yrs old. You will need to take a test within 12 months of being in NZ – the test is a theory test only and consists of about 40 multiple choice questions.

## **11. Travel Advice & Stopovers**

There are several travel options when planning a trip to NZ . Your personal circumstances will influence what you decide to do in terms of routes, airlines and stopovers. Most people are influenced firstly by price and then will look at options within their budget. Personally if you are travelling with young children a stopover would be very welcome. It is a long flight 23/24 hrs and not many children want to be confined in a plane for that length of time. A stopover will also give you the opportunity to visit a country that you may not have ordinarily visited. We stopped in Singapore and found it a very safe introduction to Asian culture. The children were treated very kindly and there were lots of interesting things to do and see. It is also cheap and if you can get a deal with your travel agent it accommodation can be good quality at good price. Just one word of warning though, if you are a family of 4 you may have to get 2 rooms unless you specifically ask for a family room because the hotel rooms in Singapore are renowned for being compact !

✓ *move2nelson can recommend travel agents to book your trip with.*

## **12. New Zealand Customs – clearance of household effects**

Removal companies, airlines and shipping companies will usually provide arrival papers around the time your effects are imported. Some freight forwarders/Customs brokers or removal companies will also assist you with Customs formalities.

To obtain clearance of the shipment you need to:

- complete an Unaccompanied Personal Baggage Declaration form, which is the declaration for Agriculture and Customs
- arrange an agricultural clearance for the shipment through the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- obtain any permits that may be needed, for example, a Police Permit to Import if you have firearms in the shipment
- arrange for a Customs clearance.

To arrange a clearance once your shipment has arrived in NZ , Customs require:

- a completed Unaccompanied Personal Baggage Declaration
- the agriculture clearance
- permits from other agencies (where applicable)
- your passport
- an inventory of what is in the shipment
- the shipping arrival papers (such as the Bill of Landing, Airway bill, or Arrival Advice).

If you are overseas at the time your goods arrive, you will need to arrange for someone to arrange clearance on your behalf. They are not expected to supply your passport, just your passport number(s): -

✓ [move2nelson can do this for you](#)

info obtained from the NZ customs dept @ [www.customs.govt.nz](http://www.customs.govt.nz)

### **13. Personal & practical items**

My advice is to bring whatever you can as long as it fits into your container or suitcase. Though the pound is strong against the dollar and things in NZ may seem cheap – they are not when you live here. You will always be grateful for those special little things that remind you of home and though you have to be practical it is not worth being ruthless.

White goods are definitely worth bringing apart from fridges & freezers

Carpets and paint are very expensive here so if you can fit some into your container do it. We didn't and are regretting it now.

✓ [move2nelson can provide you with a breakdown on prices for goods in NZ and advise you individually depending on your circumstances](#)

### **14. Cost of Living**

The cost of living in NZ is quite high in comparison to the wages you can earn. Though housing is cheaper than UK and Europe the average weekly shop is on a par with the UK and in my opinion people may find it expensive to live in NZ.

Nelson is renowned for its low pay, similar jobs would attract a higher salary in the bigger cities but it is compensated by the lifestyle and people are prepared to make sacrifices in order to live in this beautiful area. But it is worth bearing in mind that your savings may not stretch as far as you thought they would.

Houses are cheaper here and if you are selling up in the UK you will find that you have a wide choice of property to choose from therefore you will immediately feel a WOW factor.

✓ [move2nelson can provide up to date comparisons for shopping lists at the supermarket and any other goods as required](#)

### **15. Job Opportunities**

This is a big one and it really depends on your individual circumstances. There are a number of big employers in the area – most will require that you have a work permit of some sort or a residence permit before they can offer you work. In some circumstances you may be able to get the residency pushed through on the basis of a job offer.

Nelson area has traditionally been the heart of the apple, forestry and fishing industries – all of whom still employ a large number of people – some of it is seasonal and therefore cannot be guaranteed all year round.

✓ [move2nelson can put you in touch with employers and employment agencies](#)

## **16. Frequently Asked Questions**

(source: [www.nzimmigrationinformation.com](http://www.nzimmigrationinformation.com))

### **Q: May I vote in the New Zealand elections?**

**A:** If you are a permanent resident and have lived in New Zealand for at least 12 months, you are eligible to vote in the local body and national elections.

### **Q: Can I bring my pet (cat, dog, etc.)?**

**A:** Yes, but only after prior approval from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) in Wellington. Quarantine and vaccination requirements exist and are strictly adhered to. No quarantine is required for people bringing in pets from the UK provided they have had the right vaccinations and the paperwork is complete.

### **Q: Should I bring electrical appliances?**

**A:** Yes, but be advised that the power standard in New Zealand is 240 Volts, 50 Hertz. Your appliance might need a transformer or require modification. Please consult an electrician and/or weigh up the cost of conversion plus shipping versus cost in New Zealand. A new power plug will almost certainly be required, which is easy to do and cheaper than buying a new appliance. Some precision instruments may be sensitive to the voltage in NZ and may not work well.

### **Q: Will my television and VCR work in New Zealand?**

**A:** The TV standard New Zealand is PAL B/G. So if the standard in your country is different the answer is probably: No. However, there are so called multi standard TV/VCR's on the market which can handle more than one standard. Some only offer playback and not record in the other system.

### **Q: Do I have to pay duty or tax on my personal belongings upon importation when emigrating to New Zealand?**

**A:** Permanent residents, and those on a Work Permit for 2 years or more, may import ALL personal belongings free of duty and tax into New Zealand, providing the goods have been used and you were the legal owner before the goods were shipped. However, the Customs Department has the right to decide otherwise. Detailed information is available from the Customs Department.

### **Q: Can I import my car, even if it is a left hand drive vehicle?**

**A:** Yes, but in the case of a left hand drive vehicle, prior permission (before shipping it) has to be obtained from the Land Transport Safety Authority office in Wellington. You will be given a licence in your name, not for the car. This means you cannot sell the vehicle, unless it's age is 20 years or more or the vehicle has been converted to right hand drive. Importation for Customs is a separate matter. The vehicle may not be sold within a period of 2 years, otherwise duty and GST will have to be paid. Contact the Customs Department for details. On importation proof of ownership and use is required. On temporary imports, often the deposit of a bond is required. Vehicles for commercial use cannot be imported under the migrant's concession. MAF will require most vehicles to undergo steam cleaning to ensure no infections enter the country.

### **Q: Should I engage an immigration consultant or lawyer to get a visa?**

**A:** That would certainly be advisable, even if you only have your chances/options assessed before starting the process, but is not compulsory. It's like hiring a customs agent to import goods, having a tax consultant or accountant do your tax return, or even you could sue someone to court yourself but most people ask a lawyer to do it. Hiring an immigration consultant is the same. And although they charge for their services in many cases they could save you money, certainly frustration, delays and in the end a negative result.

**Q: I have been convicted for offences or crime(s). Will this affect my chances?**

**A:** The NZ government is very concerned about criminal convictions. Every case will be decided upon its merit, depending on severity of the crime, the conviction and how long ago it happened. You must declare all criminal convictions. In fact, should it later be revealed that you did have any convictions, your residence or citizenship status may be cancelled.

**Q: What about medical condition(s)?**

**A:** Any medical condition of importance must be mentioned to the examining doctor and on the medical form. Withholding information can be grounds for withdrawing a visa/permit afterwards (even years afterwards). The NZIS Medical Officer will make the final decision on whether entry on the grounds of a medical condition is to be refused or not. The concern is about possible 'danger' to the New Zealand public and consequences to the country's medical / health resources.

**Q: My aunt and uncle already live in New Zealand. Can I claim points for family sponsorship when applying for residence?**

**A:** No. Only direct family members (child/parent/brother/sister) can offer sponsorship to an applicant.

**Q: I was given a 3 months Visitors Visa. Can I extend it?**

**A:** Yes, up to a maximum of 9 months in an 18 month period. You will be required to prove that you have sufficient funds for you to live on, have a valid reason for staying and that your departure is secured by outbound travel having been booked/arranged and paid for. A sponsor in New Zealand may do this for you. The government's main concern is that you do leave the country after the visit.

**Q: Can I use my current driver's licence in New Zealand?**

**A:** Yes, it is valid for up to 12 months after arrival in NZ then you must take the NZ driving test which will be theory only if you hold a full drivers licence from another country (some countries may be exempt). The test is multiple choice and there is a book you can buy that takes you through all the questions.

**Q: Will my qualification(s) be recognised in New Zealand?**

**A:** This will largely depend on the qualification, where obtained and/or how it is assessed versus a New Zealand qualification. The New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) is the government organisation dealing with qualification assessments. Recognition of your qualification does not automatically mean that you may carry out your profession in New Zealand. Occupational or Professional registration (practising certificate), prior or after immigrating, may be required by the industry organisation. If this is the case, then you must obtain registration before you can apply for residence. For example applies to all medical professions, lawyers, architects, electricians, plumbers, and more. For teachers you must complete registration forms and provide lots of evidence of work, it is advisable to do this before you leave the UK as it is easier to get this information while on the spot.

**Q: Can I get government support?**

**A:** NO! Immigrants are not entitled to any statutory benefit payments (unemployment, sickness, etc.) within 24 months after arrival. In fact before being issued a residence visa, applicants must sign a statement that they understand this and also may have to demonstrate how they intend to support themselves for these first 24 months.

**Q: How can I find a job in New Zealand?**

**A:** There are many different ways: personal job search programmes, 'cold calling/door knocking' on prospective employers, mail outs, work wanted advertisements and asking the people around you. There are agencies in NZ that cater for skilled people and it is well worth contacting them prior to arrival, they can often set up work before you arrive and take the strain out of the move. NZ has very low unemployment at present and therefore it is sometimes difficult to get the job you want in the right area.

**Q: I have written to several companies in New Zealand about a job, but I get no reply. Why?**

**A:** Due to a competitive labour market, employers have often the choice out of many applicants and are therefore less likely to be interested in someone who is not in New Zealand, and/or who does not (yet) have a valid immigration status (PR or Work Permit). Unfortunately some businesses do not adhere to the standards of common decency in giving you a reply. There is still a lot of who you know and not what you know in NZ therefore it makes it all the more pertinent to have someone working for you in the area you want to live as they may hold the key to important contacts.

**Q: Does the NZ Government provide us with accommodation on arrival?**

**A:** No. Only those with a legal refugee status receive assistance from the government. You may however seek the help of the former government body, Housing New Zealand, for assistance in looking for a place to live, but in most cases you will be entered on a waiting list and the rents charged for 'state housing' are only marginally less than standard market rental rates. Consultants will assist their clients in these matters via real estate agents or private rental accommodation. There is virtually no shortage of rental accommodation in New Zealand.

## **17. Recommendations**

Some useful website links have been included on the links page and further information can be obtained by contacting us by phone, email or fax.

Phone + (0) 3 5403808

Email [info@move2nelson.co.nz](mailto:info@move2nelson.co.nz)

Fax + (0) 3 5403807

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