

## New South Wales Working Holiday Case Study

### ANDREW POLAK

Andrew Polak came to Australia in April 2007 on a 417 Working Holiday Visa from the UK. He had recently finished his law degree at the University of Wolverhampton and was looking for adventure in the form of travel. With limited funds, the working holiday visa seemed the best compromise: the flexibility of travelling with the opportunity to work.

Andrew wanted a change from the usual 'backpacker' jobs such as fruit picking and promotional work so he was fortunate enough to land a role as a Media Officer for the New South Wales Government's Department of Premier and Cabinet. He worked there for nearly six months gaining valuable new skills and experience for his resume.

Andrew travelled around Australia to see Tasmania, Melbourne and the East Coast, after which he was short of money again so went to work for the New South Wales Government's Department of State and Regional Development working in Business Migration and Industry Skills. The irony of it – a Pom working in immigration!

"Sadly, my time in Australia is coming to an end" says Andrew as he contemplates returning to the



*Andrew in the office before his return to the UK*

UK for a few months of the English summer.

"The 417 Visa allowed me to live and work here for 12 months and I've enjoyed every minute of it. The pay wasn't bad either! With the flexibility the visa afforded me, I've been able to see Australia at the pace that I wanted. The attitude to work here is great – a real balance between social and professional life. Australia has so much to offer."

Andrew now wants to take advantage of working holiday visas on his future travels in New Zealand and Canada.

Working Holiday Makers and other temporary visa holders can apply for temporary positions in the NSW Public Service. To search current vacancies and register to receive email alerts go to – [www.jobs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.jobs.nsw.gov.au)