

“OUR KIWI MOVE”

With its beautiful scenery, outdoor lifestyle and exciting work opportunities, New Zealand ticked all the boxes for one family...

An adventurous spirit and a desire for a peaceful lifestyle drew the Radvarzanganeh family to their new home in New Zealand.

Their love of adventure and new cultures was well catered for through Kasra's career as an engineer. Kasra worked in various engineering and commercial projects around the world including Ipswich in England, Iran, Finland, Germany and China.

Having never visited or met anyone from New Zealand they undertook considerable research and ultimately decided that New Zealand appeared to satisfy their love of nature, desire for a healthier and safer society and a community that respected families.

“Most of what we knew about New Zealand was learned through the media” explains Kasra. “And of course we had seen *The Lord of the Rings* films too!” jokes Peggy.

The family's immigration process took almost two years. “I was determined to do it all myself.” explained Kasra, “I put a lot of time and effort into researching our move and what we needed to organise for our new lives in New Zealand.”

NEW KIWIS INITIATIVE

The resources provided by Immigration New Zealand were particularly useful and he also made a point of checking in with the Auckland Chamber of Commerce,



The family couldn't be happier with their new life in New Zealand

“I MANAGED TO GET INTERVIEWS WITH VERY GOOD COMPANIES...”

which is how he discovered the New Kiwis initiative. Kasra registered on the New Kiwis website in advance of their move so he could gain access to the online advice, ensure his profile was available to NZ employers and prepare for the realities of job hunting in a new country.

Upon arrival, Kasra followed up with the Auckland Chamber of Commerce's employment team and made sure he was booked in for the 'New Kiwis Career Success Programme'.

“Kiwi employers are right to be cautious,” he says. “They should do everything they can to make sure they are employing the right person, but when you talk with other new migrants you realise that while many of us have come from experienced roles in our home country, it can still be hard to get a start here.

Services like New Kiwis helps employers feel confident about trusting applicants who have built up their careers and skills outside of New Zealand.”

The Chamber's employment division helps newcomers become experts in presenting their overseas experience as relevant, maximising their 'value added' and in preparing for and delivering a great interview – New Zealand style.

By accessing services provided by the Chambers of Commerce and Immigration New Zealand Kasra has felt supported in his search for employment.

Kasra credits the New Kiwis programme with helping him present his skills and experience to his best advantage and teaching him the need to adjust his expectations to the realities of the local job market and to always remain motivated and proactive in his search.

“I made it my first goal to just get an interview and although I had many 'with regret' letters I did manage to get a few interviews with very good companies but no offers.

“It wasn't until I had the one-on-one interview coaching provided through the



Parham has settled in well since the move



Kasra now works as a project manager for a large Auckland-based firm

Chamber that things changed. Suddenly I received three job offers from great companies and I am now employed as a Project Manager with BCS Group, who are based in Auckland and have offices all over the world”.

THE BEST DECISION

A year on and the whole family are well on their way to feeling truly settled in New Zealand. With the security of

Kasra's employment, Peggy has been able to focus on family priorities like getting Parham settled into school and making new friends.

Parham has blossomed into a confident child and his everyday successes reassure Peggy and Kasra that moving to New Zealand has been a great decision. Their experiences have taught them the benefits of preparing well, staying positive and keeping challenges in perspective.

■ The New Kiwis initiative is a partnership between Immigration New Zealand and the Auckland Chamber of Commerce. The 'New Kiwi Career Success Programme' is a partnership funded by the Ministry of Social Development. Web: www.newkiwis.co.nz

NEW KIWIS LOCAL // GLOBAL

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