



**ADVANCE GLOBAL
AUSTRALIANS**

2025 REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Insights into Global Australians
Experiences, Attitudes & Intentions



Report Contents

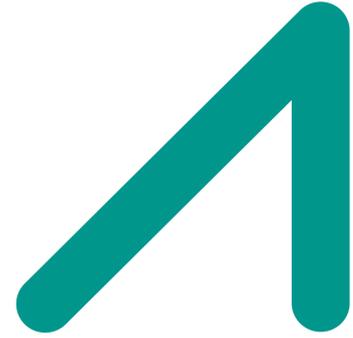


Section	Subsection
1. Introduction	Purpose of the Report Our Mission & Goals
2. Executive Summary	Key Findings and Insights
4. Motivations for Moving Abroad	Analysis by Region Career Opportunities Cultural and Personal Growth Employer-Driven Relocations Family Considerations
5. Experiences of Living Abroad	Quality of Life Comparison to Australia by Region Cost of Living: housing, eating out, transportation & groceries Social Integration Work Life Balance What is Love Most Where Aussies Feel Safest Where Aussies Feel Most at Home Biggest Challenges Encountered
7. Returning to Australia	Family is the Biggest Motivator Majority to Want to Return, but Lack Concrete Plans Barriers and Concerns: Cost of Living, Housing & Jobs Biggest Worries Before Returning The Experience v. The Anticipation of Returning
9. Diaspora Connection & Reintegration	Australians Shy About Achievements Universities and Institutions Engagement Where Support is Needed Obstacles, Opportunities & Solutions
8. Australia's Global Image	Perceptions of Australians Abroad Recognised Areas of Excellence Opportunities for Enhancing Reputation Perceptions of Australia Perception of Globalisation
11. Call to Action	Priorities Beyond The Political Cycle Harnessing The Power of our Greatest Asset: Our People
12. Roadmap	Solutions & Next Steps in 2025

Advance Global Australians Report 2025

The *Advance Global Australians Report 2025* delves into the experiences of Australians living abroad, focusing on their connections with the Australian community and their perceptions upon returning.

The report's findings are based on 15 minute survey conducted by research company CoreData and interviews with 500 Australians across the globe from September-October 2024 with a focus on community engagement and its broader implications for Australians and the nation.



**ADVANCE GLOBAL
AUSTRALIANS**



**Connecting Globally,
Empowering Locally**

One million
Australians
currently
live & work
overseas



Insights into

1

Top triggers and motivations for Australians moving overseas and returning home

2

Key challenges, opportunities & needs by region

3

The power & influence of Australia's diaspora to engage in key markets

4

Global perceptions of Australia & its people

5

Key priorities for the nation toward 2030

6

Why Australia's diaspora matters & should not be ignored

As Australia strives for a better & more prosperous future for the next generation

Our Mission



Australians living overseas, have lived overseas or work globally from Australia referred to as 'global Australians' represent a significant and dynamic demographic.

They often serve as informal ambassadors of Australia, fostering international connections and play a key role in the country's position on the globe stage.

Advance Global Australia's mission is to connect Australians globally and empower them locally. Championing and advocating for Australia's people, expertise and culture globally for the benefit of all.

Founded in 2002 by the then Consul General in New York Ken Allen AO, Advance Global Australians has provided services, events and valuable opportunities in key global cities across the world. Prime Minister Albanese is the Patron of the organisation as have been all the Prime Ministers since Advance Global Australians was established.

A non-partisan, independent and not-for-profit organisation representing Australian people globally and amplifying their impact - including expats, re-pats and flex-pats (those notionally based in Australia and travelling frequently for global roles).

Through our entities across the AMER (North, Central, and South America), APAC (Asia and Pacific) and EMEA (Europe, the Middle East, and Africa) and our extensive industry, government, corporate and academic networks - we galvanise our talent pool for the economic, cultural and social advancement of Australia.

A valuable ecosystem of people, business, education and organisations to support the Government around the globe. United by a shared mission and goal of advancing Australia globally.

2024 was the first year Advance Global Australians did not receive any funding from the Australian Government.

The organisation is forging partnerships with organisations to support global Australians and to address the issues and opportunities raised in the 2025 Global Australian Report.

Our current programs include: The Global Australian Awards, The Ambassador Program and The Global Australian Leaders Circle. We hope to launch the Global Australian Mentorship Program and Global Australian Landing Pad Program.

Membership of Advance Global Australians is free for Australians. Our organisation relies on sponsorship, donations, fundraising events and Global Leaders Circle to operate.

A heartfelt thank you to the Advance Global Australians Board Members and Ambassadors, who generously volunteer their time to support this organisation and make a difference for the one million Australians living and working overseas.

As the leading global network of Australians abroad, we have a global reach of 80 countries and Ambassadors across the world.

Most importantly thank you to our wonderful members for sharing your perspectives, experiences and your ongoing support.

There's no doubt Australians are achieving incredible things across the globe.

We are committed to supporting them in seizing the opportunities before them and ensuring they have the resources and pathways to return home whenever they choose.

Our community and membership includes:

- 70,000 Australian diaspora around the globe
- 100+ global leaders who volunteer their time and donate to our cause
- 50 Ambassadors who voluntarily assist Australians locally.



Our Goal



The **Advance Global Australian Report 2025** has been created to offer essential insights into the experiences, challenges, and aspirations of Australians living abroad and those who have recently returned home.

With more than one million Australians playing significant roles worldwide, the report showcases their contributions and highlights potential opportunities.

By examining their reasons for leaving, the obstacles they encounter when returning, and their ongoing ties to Australia, this report facilitates informed actions to tap into the potential of Australia's global diaspora.

Global Australians are not just individuals thriving overseas; they are crucial links and contributors to the growth and global standing of Australia.

This report lays the groundwork for developing targeted programs, policies, and partnerships that address significant issues such as reintegration, career advancement, and the maintenance of cultural and professional connections.

It also underscores the importance of utilising the global expertise, networks, and insights of expatriates to enhance Australia's economic, cultural, and diplomatic influence.

Through these efforts, Advance Global Australians seeks to dispel misconceptions, improve understanding of our diaspora community, and promote knowledge sharing while demonstrating the need for programs, tools, and resources.

We aspire to encourage greater collaboration among **governments, businesses, and educational institutions** to ensure mutual growth and long-term success for both individuals and the nation.

Australia's global talent is not just an asset to the nation—it is a critical driver of its future prosperity, ensuring that the country remains competitive, innovative, and influential in a rapidly globalising world.

Drive Economic Growth

Global talent bridges skill gaps and enhances economic competitiveness.

Foster Innovation

Diverse expertise keeps Australia at the cutting edge of emerging trends and technologies.

Strengthening Global Networks

Australians abroad open up avenues for trade, investment, and collaboration among Australian businesses.

Creating Opportunities

Australians abroad advocate for the nation's values and bolster its global reputation.

Attract Investment

Our peoples' success instills confidence in Australia, drawing in partnerships and foreign investments.

Inspire Future Generations

Global Australian accomplishments motivate young Australians to engage on a global scale and reach for ambitious goals.

Improve Quality of Life

Global Australians create bridges between Australia and the world that benefit everyone.

Improving understanding, informing action & harnessing the potential of Australia's global diaspora



Global Australians offer significant value and opportunities for the country, spanning economic, cultural, diplomatic, and social contributions. By strategically engaging with its diaspora, Australia can leverage this powerful global network to enhance its economy, influence, and innovation, ultimately benefiting the nation at home and abroad.

The *Advance Global Australians Report 2025* paints a picture of a motivated yet under utilised community. Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach from Government, Corporate Australia, Universities and organisations providing services and/or benefitting from Australians who live and work globally. By strengthening our connections with our diaspora community, Australia can tap into the vast potential of its global citizens, ensuring mutual growth and sustained international relevance.

Report Summary - Key Takeaways

- The main reasons Australians moved overseas is for **better jobs and career opportunities**
- The **majority of Australians overseas do want to come home**, but face challenges due to **limited support structures and pathways** to come home.
- UK is where Australians feel most at home, while Australians living in Asia and the Pacific feel safest.
- Most Australians living overseas say the quality of life is better and cheaper than at home - especially in categories like **housing, eating out, transportation, and groceries**.
- Navigating tax and Australian Government policies that affect **finances** is a common struggle for those living overseas.
- The **cost of housing is the top concern** for Australians planning to move home.
- Returned Australians found coming home more difficult than expected. The biggest hurdles include:
 - Building **social connections and networks**.
 - Finding suitable **jobs**.
- Family is by far the most significant reason Australians plan to return home, with social life and healthcare access also emerging as important factors.
- Australia is viewed as **excelling in agriculture, food, wine, and sport**.
- **Australians enjoy a positive reputation** abroad and are considered friendly.
- There is a desire for **greater recognition of Australians'** achievements overseas, but a **real reluctance to self-promote**.
- Looking to 2030, Australians abroad and at home want the government to prioritise the following areas for a better future:
 - **Environment:** Focus on sustainability and addressing climate change.
 - **Quality of Life and Well-Being:** Improve the overall standard of living for Australians.
 - **Education and Talent Development:** Support global talent and innovation.
 - **Innovation and Entrepreneurship:** Foster opportunities for creativity and business growth.

Opportunities Highlighted

- **Strengthening Connections Abroad:** Delivering digital platforms and physical networking and community-building events for expatriates to access resources, participate in discussions, and stay updated on Australian affairs.
- **Keeping Australians Informed:** Through clear, effective & practical information and resources in key areas such as Government policy, taxation, finances, superannuation, jobs, careers and up-skilling, property, education, healthcare and topics relevant to Australians abroad.
- **Promoting Australian Success:** Through storytelling and case studies that illustrate and celebrate the contributions of Australians around the world to build awareness of our country's expertise, foster goodwill and encourage re-engagement upon their return.
- **Creating a Clearer Pathway to Home:** Delivering information on how expatriates can reintegrate into the Australian workforce, educational system & community to plan and make more informed decisions about their return.
- **Reintegration Programs:** Facilitating networking and community building, as well as, delivering advice, tools, webinars/events focussed on in areas such as finance, property, careers, education and local communities.
- **Mentor Programs:** Engaging mentors across the world to share their experience, provide practical guidance and empower others abroad and at home.
- **Leveraging Diaspora for Soft Power:** Beyond individual benefits, a well-connected diaspora serves as an extension of Australia's soft power, enhancing its cultural and economic influence worldwide. A group that should be harnessed for the future growth of Australia.

2025 Global Australian Report Shows



The main reasons Australians moved overseas is for **better jobs and career opportunities**.



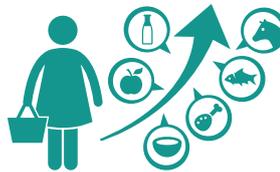
Job and career opportunities are the top reasons Australians enjoy living abroad, followed by culture and lifestyle.



The majority of Australians overseas **do want to come home (95%)**, but only 15% have concrete plans as they face challenges due to **limited support structures and pathways** to come home.



Family is by far the most significant trigger for Australians returning home, with social life and healthcare access also emerging as important factors.



Quality of life is better and cheaper than at home for most Australians abroad - especially in categories like **housing, eating out, transportation, and groceries**.



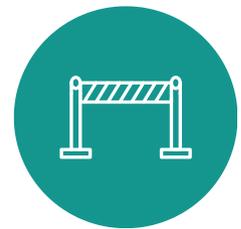
The **cost of housing is the top concern** for Australians planning to move home.



Navigating tax and Australian Government policies that affect **finances** is a common struggle for those living overseas.



The **UK is where Australians feel most at home**, while Australians living in Asia and the Pacific feel safest.



Returned Australians found coming home more difficult than expected. The biggest hurdles include **building social connections and networks, and finding suitable jobs**.



There is a desire for **greater recognition of Australians' achievements overseas**, but a **real reluctance to self-promote**.



Australians enjoy a **positive reputation** abroad and are considered friendly. While Australia is viewed as excelling in agriculture, food, wine, and sport.



Looking to 2030, Australians abroad and at home want the government to prioritise:

1. **Environment**
2. **Quality of Life and Well-Being**
3. **Education and Talent Development**
4. **Innovation and Entrepreneurship**

Harnessing the Power of Our People

Global Australians offers significant value and opportunities for the country, spanning economic, cultural, diplomatic, and social contributions, including:

✓ Economic Contributions

- **Trade and Investment Opportunities:** Diaspora networks open doors for Australian businesses in foreign markets, facilitating exports, investments, and trade deals.
- **Entrepreneurship:** Diaspora members often establish businesses that link Australia with global markets, promoting innovation and international commerce.
- **Global Talent:** Returning Australians bring back new skills, , and perspectives that enrich industries and drive economic growth.
- **Remittances:** Many Australians abroad support organisations and causes back home, contributing directly to the economy.

✓ Global Networking and Influence

- **Strategic Connections:** Diaspora members often hold key positions in global businesses, academia, and policymaking, acting as informal ambassadors for Australia.
- **International Collaboration:** Australians abroad foster collaborations in research, science, technology, and innovation.
- **Cultural Diplomacy:** Diaspora members promote Australian culture, values, and soft power globally.

✓ Enhancing Australia's Reputation

- **Positive Global Perception:** Australians are often seen as friendly, hardworking, and innovative, enhancing Australia's image abroad.
- **Showcasing Expertise:** Diaspora professionals excel in diverse fields such as technology, education, healthcare, and the arts, elevating Australia's profile.
- **Global Leadership Advocacy:** Many advocate for Australia's leadership on issues like sustainability, climate change, and social justice.

✓ Cultural Exchange

- **Promoting Australian Culture:** Through food, arts, sports, and community events, the diaspora spreads Australian traditions and lifestyle globally.
- **Cross-Cultural Bridges:** Diaspora communities create bridges between Australia and their host countries, fostering mutual understanding and cooperation.

✓ Building Resilience and Innovation

- **Skills and Knowledge Transfer:** Australians living and working abroad gain valuable experiences in diverse fields, which are shared with Australian businesses, institutions and people upon their return.
- **Global Mindset:** Exposure to international markets, trends, and challenges helps diaspora members contribute to Australia's competitiveness in a globalised world.

✓ Advocacy and Support

- **Political Advocacy:** Diaspora communities often advocate for policies that benefit Australia
- **Emergency Assistance:** In times of crisis, Australians abroad can mobilise support for humanitarian aid and disaster relief efforts.
- **Tourism Promotion:** Diaspora members encourage friends, family, and colleagues to visit Australia, boosting tourism and its economic benefits.
- **Philanthropy:** Members of the diaspora often contribute to philanthropic causes in Australia, funding educational, healthcare, and cultural initiatives.

✓ Knowledge Economy and Innovation

- **Academic Collaboration:** Many Australians contribute to global research initiatives and foster academic partnerships between Australian and international institutions.
- **Leadership in Innovation:** Diaspora members in fields like renewable energy, biotech, and digital innovation enhance Australia's role in these global sectors.
- **Returning Diaspora Contributions:** Expats who return home bring global insights, connections, and entrepreneurial energy to Australian society.

The Case For Action

Findings from the Advance Global Australians Report 2025:

1. Desire to Return Home:

- 95% of Australians abroad want to return, but only 15% have concrete plans due to systemic barriers such as high living costs, lack of job opportunities, and reintegration challenges.
- Family connections, healthcare access, and social life are top motivators for returning.

2. Challenges Abroad:

- Navigating government systems, maintaining ties with Australia, and accessing trusted services remain significant obstacles for expatriates.

3. Opportunities for Australia:

- Australians abroad represent a motivated, underutilized resource with global expertise that can drive innovation, sustainability, and entrepreneurship.
- Diaspora members seek stronger connections and recognition from home, including support for self-promotion and their global achievements.

4. Strategic Needs:

- Clearer pathways for returnees to reintegrate into Australian society.
- Stronger advocacy and policies to address housing, job market challenges, and social support systems.

Findings from the IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook 2024:

1. Global Competitiveness:

- Australia ranks lower than leading nations in key areas like government efficiency, innovation, and infrastructure.
- Competitiveness requires fostering innovation, attracting talent, and addressing sustainability challenges.

2. Economic and Social Opportunities:

- Smaller economies with a focus on sustainability, equality, and global collaboration outperform larger ones.
- Investing in human capital, green innovation, and global connectivity is essential to remain competitive.

3. Talent Retention:

- High living costs and lack of professional opportunities make it challenging to attract or retain skilled talent.
- Supporting expatriates' contributions can help Australia address skill shortages and improve its global standing.

The Impact of Action

For Australia:

- 1. Economic Growth:** Leveraging the expertise and networks of Australians abroad can drive innovation and entrepreneurship at home.
- 2. Global Influence:** Celebrating achievements and fostering connections enhances Australia's soft power and reputation as a global leader.
- 3. Talent Retention:** Addressing barriers for returning Australians helps fill critical skills gaps and ensures Australia remains competitive.

For Australians Abroad and At Home:

- 1. Stronger Connections:** Networking opportunities, mentoring, and recognition initiatives build a stronger sense of belonging.
- 2. Clearer Pathways:** Programs addressing housing, careers, and social reintegration make returning home more achievable.
- 3. Support and Empowerment:** Access to trusted resources, philanthropic support, and recognition of achievements enhances opportunity and potential.

Call to Action

By working together, **government, businesses, and universities** can effectively address the challenges and opportunities outlined in this report, while also contributing positively to the broader community.

This collaboration will not only benefit returning Australians and expatriates but it also makes business sense and will strengthen Australia's position as a globally competitive, inclusive, and innovative nation. Such a partnership will not only demonstrate leadership and support returning Australians and expatriates, but it also represents a strategic business move.

This united effort will **strengthen Australia's position as a globally competitive, inclusive, and innovative nation**, ensuring long-term benefits for both the domestic economy and its global influence.

As a not-for-profit, Advance Global Australians is not currently Government funded and relies on corporate sponsorship and philanthropy to operate and support Australians overseas.

Join Us

Join us in delivering strong and supportive networks, impactful events and practical resources Global Australians are looking for abroad and at home.

By supporting our not-for-profit efforts, you will help:

- **Foster Global Connections:** Help build a thriving network of Australians overseas, connecting them with each other and opportunities to contribute to Australia's success on the global stage.
- **Champion Australia's People:** Showcase the achievements and expertise of Australians abroad, enhancing Australia's international reputation.
- **Support Professional & Personal Growth:** Empower Australians overseas to develop their careers, share knowledge, and remain connected to home.
- **Keep Australians Informed:** Through the delivery of clear, practical, and effective information to ensure Australians overseas remain well-informed and prepared. Key focus areas include: Government Policy, Taxation and Finances, Superannuation, Jobs, Careers, Up-skilling, Property, Healthcare, Education as well as Legal, Cultural, and Societal topics.
- **Celebrate Australian Achievements Globally:** Through initiatives like the Global Australian Awards, we highlight the outstanding contributions of Australians in sustainability, technology, cultural diplomacy, and more. These stories foster international goodwill, enhance recognition of Australia's global impact, and showcase the country's leadership on the world stage.
- **Create a Clearer Pathway For Australians to Home:** By providing resources and support help expatriates come home and make informed decisions before they return. Key focus areas include workforce integration, navigating the education system, and rebuilding professional and social networks.
- **Support Smooth Reintegration:** Through tailored programs that ease the transition home by providing networking opportunities, community-building initiatives, and expert guidance. Webinars, workshops, and resources cover essential topics such as financial planning, property advice, career development, and education and training opportunities, ensuring returning Australians are well-equipped for success.
- **Empower Mentorship Programs:** Where Global Australians share their expertise, experience, challenges, insights and offer practical guidance to empower others. These meaningful connections strengthen the global Australian community and support individual growth.
- **Drive Australia's Growth, Competitiveness & Global Impact:** By fostering leadership, innovation, collaboration and a lasting legacy that benefits all Australians.

We are inviting Government, Businesses, and Universities to partner with us to enable the delivery of in-demand programs and events in 2025.

Next Steps

The **Advance Global Australians Report 2025** puts forward a range of opportunities for Government, Corporate Australia, Universities and organisations to help Australians across the globe make the most of the opportunities and overcome the obstacles they face.

Advance Global Australians is inviting these stakeholders to attend, participate in, contribute to or support:

Networking & Community Events Regionally

For our 70,000 Australians+ across diverse industries and regions to access professional opportunities, personal growth, and cultural connections.

Reintegration Program & Toolkit:

Sponsor the delivery of information sessions helping returning Australians navigate housing, employment, and lifestyle adjustments. Assist returning expatriates through the delivery of tailored expert advice on housing, employment, law, tax, mortgages, healthcare, telecommunications, and community integration.

Global Leaders Summits:

Addressing specific sector needs and opportunities from a global perspective with captains of industry and decision makers in key expatriate hubs.

Global Mentorship & Fellowship Program:

Support us in pairing Australians abroad with mentors for career and personal development guidance. We will also paid Australians abroad with employers at home to further their career and bring their skills back with employment.



Global Ambassador Program:

Helping Australians settle where they are around the world and keeping Australians informed about Australian policies, opportunities, and community updates - maintaining a connection to back home.

Global Australian Foundation:

Support the Australian diaspora and disadvantaged Australians through philanthropy and contributing to a brighter future.

Global Service Index (GSI):

Empowering informed choices with tools to evaluate and select trusted services tailored to Australians abroad.

Global Aussie Guide:

Helping global Australians navigate key areas like careers, finance, healthcare, education, relocation, and more, ensuring you thrive abroad and stay connected.

Global Australian Awards

Celebrating excellence & recognising the achievements of Australians making an impact worldwide.

Together, we can achieve more than any one of us could alone. By uniting our strengths, ideas, and efforts across the globe, we create a powerful force for change, innovation, and shared success.



Let's work together!



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Contact Us

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