

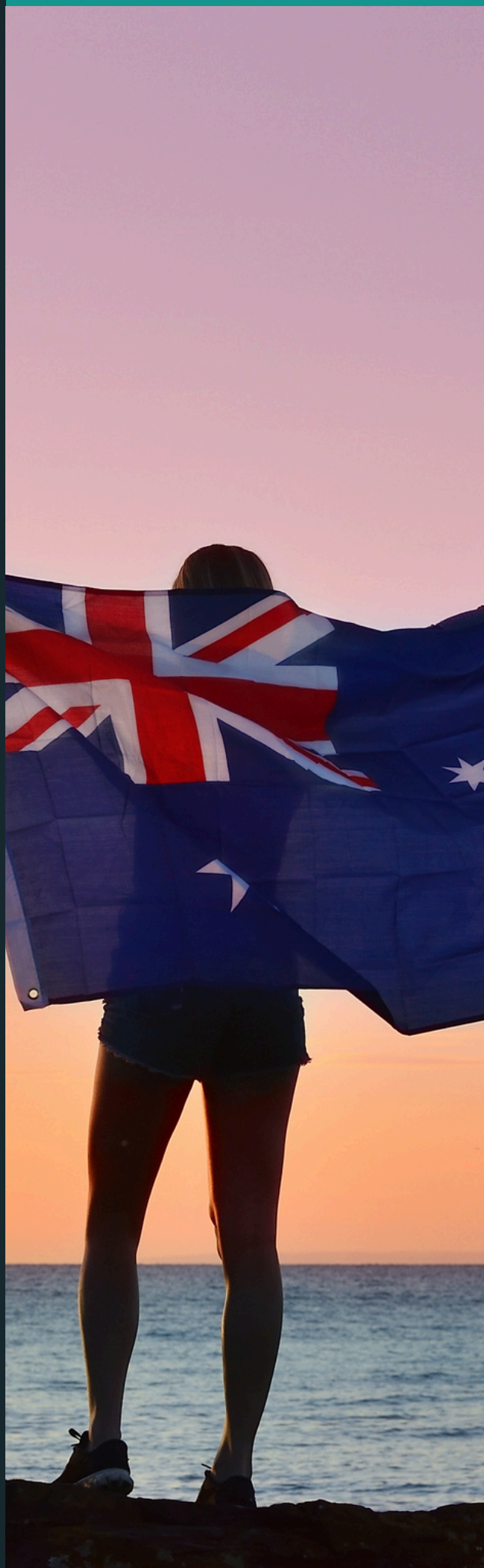


**ADVANCE GLOBAL  
AUSTRALIANS**

**2025 REPORT**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Insights into Global Australians  
Experiences, Attitudes & Intentions



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## 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 a 15-minute survey conducted by research company CoreData and interviews with 500 Australians worldwide from September to October 2024, with a focus on community engagement and its broader implications for Australians and the nation.



# 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

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

4

Global perceptions of Australia & its people

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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, having lived overseas, or working 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 playing a key role in the country's global standing.

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 organisation's patron, as have all the Prime Ministers since it was established.

A non-partisan, independent, 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 frequently travelling 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 Australia's economic, cultural and social advancement.

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

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

The organisation is forging partnerships to support global Australians and 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 the 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.

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 worldwide.

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

There's no doubt that 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 recently returning home.

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

This report examines their reasons for leaving, their obstacles when returning, and their ongoing ties to Australia. It facilitates informed actions to tap into the potential of Australia's global diaspora.

Global Australians are not just individuals thriving overseas but crucial links and contributors to Australia's growth and global standing.

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

It also underscores the importance of utilising expatriates' global expertise, networks, and insights 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 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 people's success instils confidence in Australia, drawing in partnerships and foreign investments.

## **Inspire Future Generations**

Global Australian accomplishments motivate young Australians to engage globally 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



My family wants me to come home. I'd love to but can't afford it without a job to come home to. Our rent and groceries will cost more, and Aussie recruiters are hard to engage from here.



**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 underutilised 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 are for **better jobs and career opportunities**.
- The **majority of Australians overseas want to return home**, but they face challenges due to **limited support structures and pathways**.
- Australians feel most at home in the UK, while Australians living in Asia and the Pacific feel safest.
- Most Australians living overseas say their 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 affecting **finances** is a common struggle for overseas residents.
- 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 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 Australians' overall living standard.
  - **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, 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, and webinars/events focused on areas such as finance, property, careers, education, and local communities.
- **Mentor Programs:** Engaging mentors worldwide 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 extends Australia's soft power, enhancing its cultural and economic influence worldwide. It is a group that should be harnessed for Australia's future growth.

## 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 globally promote Australian culture, values, and soft power.

### ✓ 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 sustainability, climate change, and social justice.

### ✓ Cultural Exchange

- **Promoting Australian Culture:** Through food, arts, sports, and community events, the diaspora spreads Australian traditions and lifestyles 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 they share 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:** Diaspora members 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 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 focusing 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 attracting or retaining skilled talent challenging.
- 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, care, 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 contributing positively to the broader community.

This collaboration will benefit returning Australians and expatriates, make business sense, and 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 the domestic economy and its global influence.

As a not-for-profit, Advance Global Australians is not 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 seek 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: Clear, practical, and effective information ensures** Australians overseas remain well-informed and prepared. Key focus areas include Government Policy, Taxation and Finance, Superannuation, Jobs, Careers, Upskilling, Property, Healthcare, Education, and Legal, cultural, and Social 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 to 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, and 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** proposes a range of opportunities for Government, Corporate Australia, Universities, and organisations to help Australians across the globe take advantage of opportunities and overcome obstacles.

**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 with tailored expert advice on housing, employment, law, tax, mortgages, healthcare, telecommunications, and community integration.

## **Global Leaders Summits:**

Addressing specific sector needs and opportunities globally with industry captains 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 pay Australians abroad with employers at home to further their careers and bring their skills back with employment.



## **Global Ambassador Program:**

Helping Australians settle where they are worldwide and keeping Australians informed about Australian policies, opportunities, and community updates - maintaining a connection 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**

**To request the full report or  
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