

A LAND OF CHOICES



Most regions in New Zealand are looking for healthcare professionals, and those on the skills shortage list will find a job in any location they choose, *writes Alex Kincaid*

Working in healthcare in New Zealand isn't dissimilar to working for the NHS in the UK. We both have a free healthcare system for everyone in the country, and the option for private health insurance that covers elective health costs. New Zealand's gem, and main differentiator, is our no-fault government funded insurance scheme called ACC. There is nothing else quite like ACC in the >>



Paediatric healthcare professionals continue to be in demand



Physiotherapists are on the skills shortage list



New Zealand boasts beautiful locations in which to enjoy an outdoor lifestyle



Above: Registered nurses can get a job offer secured before moving to NZ

world, which makes working with them not quite like anything else either.

One of the biggest differences we find with healthcare in New Zealand is the time factor when it comes to seeing patients. Instead of waiting weeks for an initial appointment, and then weeks after that for a follow-up, our healthcare staff are seeing people anywhere from between one to seven days post-injury and then they could see patients twice a week for the next six weeks, if needed.

The ACC scheme in New Zealand allows for great patient-centred, multidisciplinary, continued care, which is often stress-free.

GROWING SECTOR

There is growth in the healthcare sector in New Zealand, and for a few reasons, it will only grow stronger as a market over the next few years.

'The ACC scheme in New Zealand allows for great patient-centred, multidisciplinary, continued care'

One of the main driving factors in the New Zealand healthcare market at the moment is wages and seeing those wages increase for their staff.

Due to strong union presence in key sectors, the wages of many sectors have risen by at least five per cent over the past few years.

In particular, allied health, psychology, care and support workers and doctors have all reached settlements on collective agreements for public health that will be mirrored in the private sector as well.

The rise of the minimum wage by over NZ\$1 an hour, plus the rise of the 'living wage' movement have all caused

dramatic increases in healthcare wages over the past five years.

STAFFING IN HEALTH

One of the major problems faced by employers in New Zealand now is the competitive landscape when it comes to hiring skilled healthcare workers. There are not enough New Zealanders to fill the number of vacant jobs, which means that we need to employ overseas migrants to fill the surplus of roles.

This is a great thing for people who are looking to move to New Zealand, as this gives you the perfect opportunity to find a job and earn some good money while

you do it! The roles that are on the skills shortage list in New Zealand include:

- Clinical Psychologist
- Radiologist
- GP
- Radiation Therapist
- Laboratory Scientist
- OB/GYN
- Medical Physicist
- Physiotherapist
- Psychiatrist
- Registered nurse

- Sonographer
- Surgeon
- Veterinarian

If you, or someone in your family, is employed doing any of these roles, your move to New Zealand will be easily facilitated, and you should be able to gain a job offer before you move over.

Most healthcare jobs are in demand in New Zealand, so even if you aren't on that list, making applications through SEEK or TradeMe (a New Zealand job

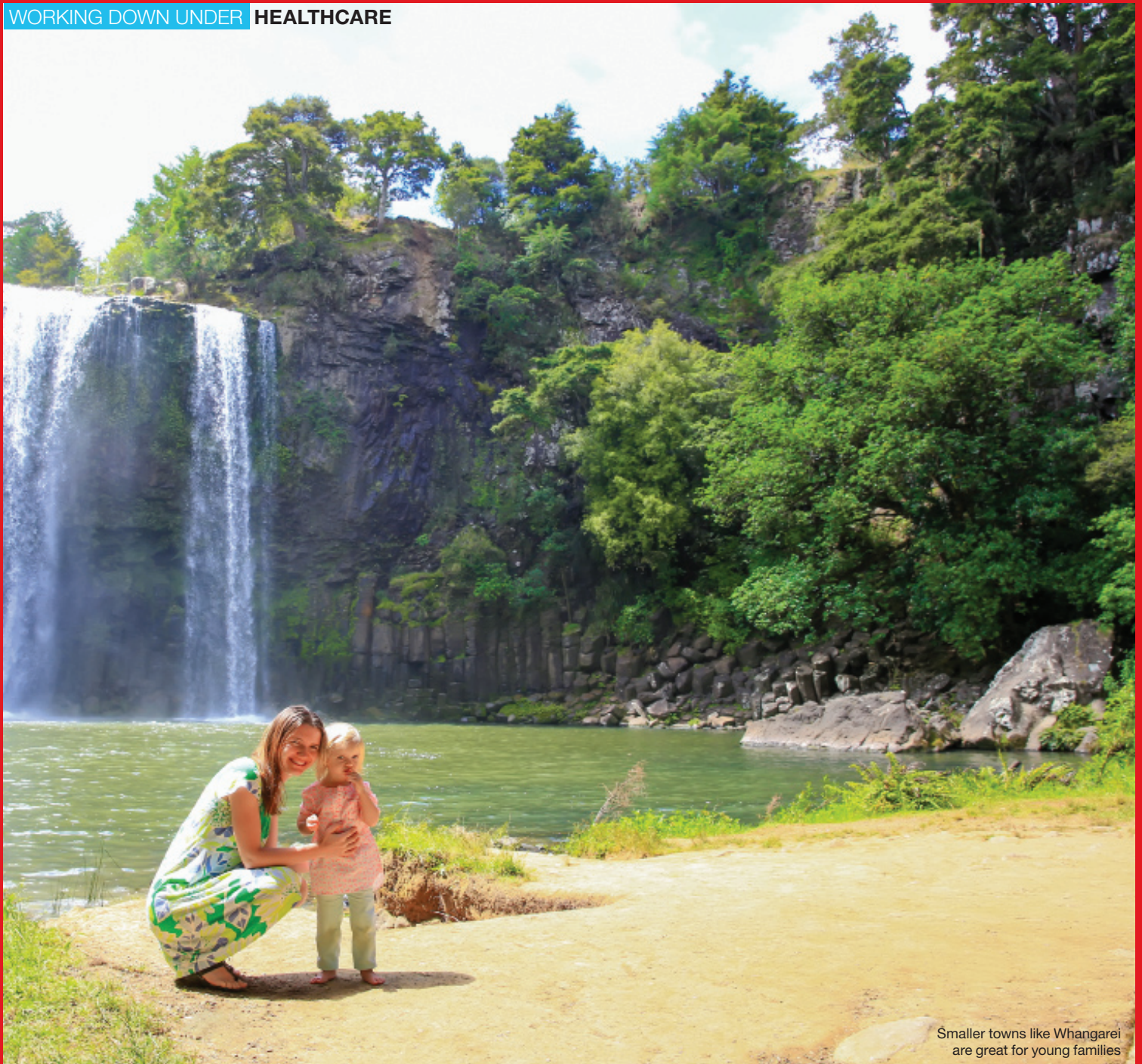
board) is worthwhile, and will most likely get you at least a phone call. All Allied Health staff with at least two years' experience, are particularly sought after.

Across all health professions, people with specialities such as neurology, paediatrics and aged care are in demand, due to the limited places for training in New Zealand and the growing need for those services.

A BETTER LIFE

Isn't it all about the lifestyle though? When you ask immigrants about their reason for choosing New Zealand the main reasons are sun, sand, and a work-life balance. I've lived in New Zealand my whole life, so of course I think there is no better place on earth!

After checking with overseas co-workers, we managed to put together a few of the reasons why New Zealand is a great place to live. They loved the relaxed pace of living and a change to a more >>



Smaller towns like Whangarei are great for young families

balanced work and home lifestyle; having sea, sand, mountains and lakes a few hours' drive away; its safe and friendly towns with low crime rates; having no deadly insects or animals; and they loved New Zealand's beautiful landscape and the opportunities it offers for outdoor activities.

Having a good work-life balance is a priority for New Zealand, and our laws are created with the intent of giving people enough time for rest and recreation.

CHOOSING WHERE TO LIVE

Most regions in New Zealand are looking for healthcare professionals, and those on the skills shortage list will find a job in any location they choose. Something to keep in mind, a smaller population means

specialist areas are more concentrated to larger regions. If you specialise in your area of healthcare, you would be looking at one of the bigger cities like Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch or Dunedin.

Some of the smaller towns have bonuses to entice people to move there, and they can be wonderful places to set up with a family. Small towns like Balclutha, Gore, Tokoroa, Palmerston North and Whangarei are all close to mountains and beaches and are great for young families. New Zealand is also a diverse and

multi-cultural place with a large percentage of the population being Maori, Pacific Islander, Asian, and of course British, Irish and Scottish. Our indigenous Maori culture has a large part in modern NZ culture, with greetings of 'Kia ora' and farewells of 'Nga mihi' being commonplace.

Whatever you are looking for, more sun, more sea, more balance, more relaxation, more challenges or more fun, New Zealand has everything you might be looking for! 🇳🇿



■ Alex Kincaid is the Recruitment Advisor for Habit Group, New Zealand's largest integrated health and rehabilitation provider. We are always looking for talented Allied Health staff! For more information, email hr@habit.co.nz, or visit www.habitrehab.co.nz.