

Departures



New Zealand Australia

FINAL CALL!

IT REALLY IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO RELOCATE
TO AUSTRALIA OR NEW ZEALAND.

In 2008 we set our sights on opening 300 stores across Australia and New Zealand. Today, with 250 practices already doing phenomenal business, we're almost there.

So if you've seen our ads in the past and thought "I'd love to do that some day", time is fast running out.

What's on offer? Nothing less than a genuinely life-changing business opportunity on the other side of the world. If you're an Optometrist, Dispensing Optician or experienced Optical Retail Manager, this is your chance to sign up for a joint venture partnership with one of the most successful names in the market. One that's already made a huge impact in the UK and Europe - and is now doing exactly the same down under.

Solid management experience in a modern, retail-orientated optical outlet is a must. And in return, we'll provide financial assistance with relocation and full support through the visa application process.

There's no time to waste. Call Jerry Dunn, Chris Howarth or David Markham now on 01695 554200 for a confidential discussion. Or email chrish@uk.specsavers.com

We welcome enquiries from everyone and value diversity in our workforce.



MY SPECSAVERS STORE IN THE SUN!

"If someone had told me at the start of 2009 that I would be living in Australia with my own Specsavers franchise by the end of the year, I would not have believed it. But all I can say is that dreams do come true!"

Name: Lisa Garrity

Position with Specsavers in Australia:

Dispensing Director and Joint Venture Partner.

Store location / State:

I'm situated right in the centre of Brisbane
- sunny Queensland's capital city.

Date store opened:

Literally just before Christmas - on 23rd December 2009!

Most recent role in the UK:

I was General Manager at Specsavers Tottenham Court Road store in central London, managing a team of more than 40 people. I have worked in optics for around 18 years, and have been a manager for over 11 of those. Before Specsavers I worked for Vision Express.

What prompted you to apply for partnership in an Australian Specsavers store?

I had already been approved for partnership with Specsavers in the UK with an open mind to relocation. The opportunity of a store in Brisbane was bought to my attention by my Director at Tottenham Court Road and he arranged for me to fly out and meet the team in Queensland.

How long did the whole process take from being approved as a candidate to arriving in Australia to open the doors of your new store?

Around 5 months in all. I agreed everything via the UK in July and flew out to Australia in early September. In between arriving in Australia and my store opening I recruited the team for our store. My store opened its doors on the 23rd December 2009.

Before settling on your store location, Specsavers funded an all-expenses paid 'reconnaissance' trip for you and your partner to acquaint yourselves with what life in Australia would be like - was that a positive experience in terms of helping you to make a final decision about relocation?

Yes definitely, it is hard to imagine what life would be like in another country so the trip was an excellent way of experiencing Australia and getting a feel for the area. We were shown around Brisbane and given some free time to explore. I also had the chance to meet the Queensland team at the Specsavers Regional Development Meeting - which I loved. The other director partners spoke honestly to me about their experiences of Specsavers in Australia - which were overwhelmingly positive!

Can you tell me what the itinerary was for that reconnaissance trip....

We spent 5 full days in Brisbane and I met with Mike Protopsaltis the State Development Director for Queensland on day 2. He showed myself and my husband around Brisbane CBD and the proposed store location.



Day 3, I went out with Mike to visit some of the Queensland stores - so I could chat with other store partners and see some Specsavers stores in action! It was reassuring to see that all the values and processes were similar to Specsavers in the UK.

Day 4, was the regional development meeting, which gave me the opportunity to speak further with other partners and get a feel for the region.

Day 5, Mike met up with us again before we flew back home to answer any last questions we had regarding the project.

Once you had decided to relocate to your new Specsavers store in 'Brissie' what sort of help did you receive?

The wheels were in motion almost immediately! Specsavers organised a company called SIRVA to assist with relocation including moving my belongings from the UK to Australia. Once in Australia Specsavers had organised 4 weeks of accommodation for us, so we could find our feet. SIRVA were in contact with us on the day we arrived and also left a pack of information at the hotel, including everything from tips on driving in Australia and maps of the area to where to find the local take-aways!

SIRVA also help with finding your accommodation to rent or buy - which was great, as you fill out a questionnaire of what you're looking for and they take you to areas and properties they think you will like. They also helped with setting up everything from gas, electric and phone to cable TV - and also can help you find a suitable school if you have children.

Now your store is open, how are the locals, how's it trading?

We have opened right in the middle of Christmas and New Year and the locals are great, really friendly. We were one of the only Opticians open on Boxing Day in the City centre - and we had a great day!

How are you finding life in Australia? From a social and lifestyle point-of-view how does it differ for you from life in the UK?

We love it, Australia is friendly and laid back, with a real social element to the culture and a real passion for sport. It opens up a whole new world of travel - both in and around Australia - but also only a few hours flight from islands like Fiji. The toughest part of leaving the UK was missing friends and family - but I don't doubt that we will make good friends and in fact we have just spent Christmas with 4 people we have only just met!

Australia is also very children and family friendly and the weather is a big plus - unlike the UK you can plan to have a BBQ and not worry about it raining. Even in the winter in Queensland you can still walk around in T-shirts!

And last but not least the beaches. It would be hard to beat the stunning beaches we have here in Queensland that go on for miles and are all on my doorstep.

Can you give a final comment to those Optoms and DOs around the UK considering the kind of move you have made?

I can't recommend it enough - to have the opportunity to relocate and own my own business has been a great experience, which just keeps getting better and better!