



Press Release

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For immediate release

Time is running out to make the most of the high Australian dollar.

For many, taking that long dreamed of holiday or a working holiday overseas is a new year's resolution that gets put off year after year. Life gets busy; you head back to work and the next thing you know, its Christmas time again.

Many people resolve every year to travel more or take a working holiday overseas. In recent times this has been quite affordable as the Australian dollar has been strong and this has made overseas travel more accessible to more Australians. However due to the crazy weather of the past few months, this period of cheaper international travel is likely to soon be coming to an end.

A lack of exports and the cost of rebuilding will mean that the Australian dollar is likely to drop substantially in the aftermath of the floods and Cyclone Yasi.

So what does that mean for you? This will mean that it will be more expensive to pack up and head overseas. So now is the perfect time to be booking that trip away. The dollar is holding for moment and if you get in quick you can save yourself some money.

Non-profit work and travel organisation International Exchange Programs (IEP) is urging anyone who is considering taking a working holiday to get their applications underway. By doing this you will save money and actually fulfil that New Year's resolution.

IEP's General Manager Tennille Balaz advises that many elements of travel will be affected by a change in the dollar; *"Getting in early can save you a significant amount of money as many factors are impacted by changes in the dollar. Obviously the costs of flights are a major consideration for any overseas holiday and these will be affected, but smaller costs such as visa fees and exchange rates will be affected and these can add up quickly. Packing up and moving overseas is quite expensive, so any chance to save some money beforehand is worth the effort. So get in early to make the most of the dollar while it is still high."* Ms Balaz said.

Many different locations around the world are available for working holidays. One of the most popular is the UK with many people living and working in London and then travelling across the UK and Europe when they get time off. However the US and Canada are growing in popularity amongst uni students as they are keen to experience the culture that they have grown up viewing on television and are taking advantage of their extended holiday periods.

One very popular option for working holiday makers is to depart for Summer Camp. This program allows people to work as camp counsellors in American summer camps over the American summer. They then have 30 days to travel and explore the US afterwards.

Was a working holiday your New Year's resolution? Or has that dream holiday never been realised because you have been stuck at work all year long? The strong Australian dollar makes a working holiday an affordable option for Australians who want to travel overseas, now is the time to take the plunge and experience a working life overseas.

For more information on IEP's programs please visit www.iep.org.au or call 1300 300 912.

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For more information, images or interviews please contact Simon Lock on the details below.

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