

LRS

DOWN UNDER

01/12

LRS DOWN UNDER • FIFO

MOVING TO PERTH FOR THE WORK.

FIFO, trades and the roles that get your foot in the door — from someone who lives here.

LRS DOWN UNDER | FIFO & TRADES



WHO'S TELLING YOU THIS

HI, I'M JODIE.

UK-trained Mental Health Nurse, now a Perth-based relocation specialist. I moved here with my family, so I've done the hard bits myself.

I'm not a migration agent — I won't give visa advice. What I can do is help you land, settle and get set up once you're here.

START HERE

WHAT FIFO ACTUALLY LOOKS LIKE.

- You live in Perth (or fly from your home city) and work on site — mine, gas, construction — then fly home.
- Rosters are usually things like 2 weeks on / 1 off, 8 days on / 6 off, or 14/7.
- Shifts are long: 11–12 hours is normal, day and night swings.
- You're fed and housed in camp while you're on site.
- The money is good. The rhythm is the thing families underestimate.

IF YOU HOLD A TRADE

YOUR QUALIFICATION USUALLY NEEDS ASSESSING.

Overseas trades are commonly assessed through Trades Recognition Australia or VETASSESS — a document review and, for some trades, a practical or technical assessment.

It's the slowest part of the whole thing, so people tend to start it first.

Requirements change — check the assessing authority directly.



GOOD TO KNOW

LICENCE OR TICKET?

Electrical, plumbing and gas work is licensed in WA — that's a formal recognition process before you work unsupervised.

Most other site work runs on tickets, which you can do here:

White card

Working at heights

Confined space

EWP

HR licence

First aid

Tickets are quick and cheap next to the money they unlock.

THE BIT PEOPLE MISS

YOU DON'T ALWAYS NEED A TRADE.

Plenty of site and camp roles don't need a qualification — they need tickets, reliability and a willingness to work the roster:

Trades assistant

Cleaner / utility

Camp hospitality

Kitchen hand

Housekeeping

Traffic control

Drill offsider

Stores & warehouse

Bus driver

Laundry

For a lot of people, this is the way in. Get on site, get known, move across later.

WHAT THEY ASK FOR

THE USUAL CHECKLIST.

- Construction induction — the WA white card.
- A pre-employment medical, usually including drug and alcohol screening.
- National police clearance.
- A driver's licence — an Australian one is preferred by most sites.
- Proof you're allowed to work here.
- Referees. Australian ones carry more weight, which is why local work first helps.

Every contractor sets its own requirements — always read the ad properly.

SAYING THIS CLEARLY

I'M NOT A MIGRATION AGENT.

So I won't tell you which visa you'll get. Routes people commonly look into:

- A working holiday visa — one possible starting point if you're a British passport holder aged 18–35.
- Employer-sponsored work visas.
- Skilled or state-nominated pathways, where WA nominates certain occupations.

Eligibility depends entirely on your circumstances. Check the Department of Home Affairs directly, or use a registered (MARA) migration agent — not a Facebook group.

PRACTICAL

GETTING YOUR FOOT IN THE DOOR.

- Be in Perth if you can. Most FIFO hiring assumes a Perth start point.
- Get your tickets done locally in your first fortnight.
- Register with the labour hire firms as well as applying to the big contractors direct.
- Take the first roster you're offered — swapping sites later is far easier than getting the first one.
- Say yes to the unglamorous role. Utility and camp work turns into trades assistant work turns into more.
- Keep your paperwork in one folder. You'll be asked for the same six documents repeatedly.

WHERE TO LIVE

PICK THE SUBURB AROUND THE AIRPORT, NOT THE CBD.

On a swing, your commute is a 4am run to the terminal — not a drive into the city. It changes the whole map.

Ellenbrook

Aveley

Midland

Guildford

Baldivis

Canning Vale

Alkimos

Butler



THE PART NOBODY PLANS FOR

THE ROSTER MOVES THE WHOLE FAMILY.

One of you is away. The other is in a new country, with new schools, no family nearby and a house that goes very quiet.

I'm a Mental Health Nurse as well as a relocation specialist, so this is the part I plan for with you — not just the paperwork.

THE HONEST BIT

YOU DON'T NEED THE \$500 FIFO BUNDLE.

You'll see pages selling "FIFO resumes", paid job lists and big starter packages. You don't need any of it.

What actually works is boring and free-ish:

- Get your white card. Buy your own PPE (some sites supply it, plenty don't).
- Apply. Then apply again. Nothing gets handed to you — that's the whole point.
- Register with labour hire firms as well as the big contractors.
- Without a trade, don't expect \$90–\$100/hr on day one. Trades assistant pay is decent, and it's a start.
- Once you're in, get your operator tickets and take the opportunities. That's how people move up.

WANT A HAND?

Send me a message and I'll tell you straight what's worth doing — no bundle, no upsell.

@lrsdownunder