# Australia rates well for world's most liveable cities: Survey

Australian and New Zealand cities continue to boast world-class quality of living standards and despite the extreme financial conditions experienced over the past 12 months remain attractive destinations for overseas expatriates, Mercer's 2010 Quality of Living Survey has found.

Major Australian and New Zealand cities rank amongst the world's top 36 cities for overall quality of living, dominating the rankings in the Asia-Pacific region for the third year running.

Georgina Harley, head of Mercer's information product solutions business, said governments and multinational organisations rely on quality of living data to ensure they compensate employees fairly when transferring them to international locations.

"Australian and New Zealand cities have maintained their title at the top of the worldwide Quality of Living rankings and cemented their place as favourable destinations for multinationals expanding or establishing a business within the Asia-Pacific region," Harley said.

"Withstanding challenging financial conditions over the last 12 months, our cities have proven to an international workforce that they are a good long-term option for pursuing career development opportunities and for gaining experience in a mature and stable environment.

"The consistently high quality of living ranking of our cities ensure Australia and New Zealand continue to be attractive and viable destinations for both employers and employees. This is good news for the growth of our respective economies and for closing the skills gap still troubling the Trans-Tasman job market," she said.

Mercer's analysis is based on an evaluation of 39 criteria for each city, grouped in 10 categories, including political and socio- economic factors, environmental factors, health and sanitisation, education, transport and other public services. The survey covers 221 cities and cities are compared to New York as the base city, with an index score of 100.

**Mercer Quality of Living Survey - Top 21 Worldwide Rankings, 2010**

| Base city: New York, US (=100) | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Ranking** | **City, Country** | **QoL Index** |
| 1 | Vienna, Austria | 108.6 |
| 2 | Zurich, Switzerland | 108 |
| 3 | Geneva, Switzerland | 107.9 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 4 | Vancouver, Canada | 107.4 |
| 4 | Auckland, New Zealand | 107.2 |
| 6 | Dusseldorf, Germany | 107.2 |
| 7 | Frankfurt, Germany | 107 |
| 7 | Munich, Germany | 107 |
| 9 | Bern, Switzerland | 106.5 |
| **10** | **Sydney, Australia** | **106.3** |
| 11 | Copenhagen, Denmark | 106.2 |
| 12 | Wellington, New Zealand | 105.9 |
| 13 | Amsterdam, Netherlands | 105.7 |
| 14 | Ottawa, Canada | 105.5 |
| 15 | Brussels, Belgium | 105.4 |
| 16 | Toronto, Canada | 105.3 |
| 17 | Berlin, Germany | 105 |
| **18** | **Melbourne, Australia** | **104.8** |
| 19 | Luxembourg, Luxembourg | 104.6 |
| 20 | Stockholm, Sweden | 104.5 |
| **21** | **Perth, Australia** | **104.2** |