

Reject - "not enough local experience"

Sound familiar? Relocating and settling into a new country can be tough. Trying to secure a job on top of that introduces a fresh set of challenges - I should know I've done it!

Hiring managers/ Recruiters will scan a CV for 1-2 minutes before making a decision. Some will see the lack of local commercial knowledge as a drawback and will reject an application instantly. And without a job, it can be difficult to gain that all-important experience. It's a catch-22 many candidates face.

If you're being overlooked for this reason, take matters into your own hands. Get creative.

OFFER YOUR SKILLS/ SERVICES



Become a volunteer. Take a role as close to your profession as possible. Strawberry picking may be fun but obtaining "local experience" in a similar field or discipline will give you more credibility when applying for paid roles.

Register your details with volunteering platforms. Seek also has a volunteering page. www.volunteer.com.au

BE PROACTIVE



If agencies are reluctant to put you forward, speak directly to HR/ recruitment departments within companies. Ask them what skills are important to their organisation.

Build rapport, ask their advice. They will respect your proactiveness and picking up the phone will get you noticed. It may also open doors to a larger pool of jobs (not necessarily released to recruiters).

GROW YOUR KNOWLEDGE



Sign up for training courses. If you are seeing trends in the local market for skills you've not obtained; use your time to gain relevant recognised certifications. Join and contribute to various user groups on social media.

Demonstrating your willingness to broaden your knowledge and learn new skills shows tenacity to grasp new concepts. A skill often sought by employers.

BUILD YOUR NETWORK



Join local Meetup groups www.meetup.com/en-AU Meeting new people will widen your network. You may hear of roles before they are advertised and internally referred candidates are often viewed more favourably.

Find and contact with people on LinkedIn whom you admire and work in a similar field. Ask their advice to crack the local market - they may be open to mentoring you or introduce you to hiring managers.

YOUR CV IS VALUABLE REAL ESTATE



Add any voluntary work, accreditations, links to papers you've written and training courses you've obtained since arriving to your CV. Be proud, these are all good examples that illustrate how you've used this downtime to productively gain as much relevant experience and additional skills as you can.