

SUMMARY

Recent Trends of Japanese Working Holiday Makers in Australia

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This study examines a new trend in Japanese working holiday makers (WHM) in Australia. There are very few previous studies on this topic, and some of the literature portrays a stereotypical image of WHM. Their purpose seems very ambiguous. They are likely to be inconsistent and seem to have no specific goals, etc. Therefore, in this study, four cases are introduced to present a new trend in WHM: 1) one floor staff member working at a Japanese restaurant who was very keen on enjoying café culture while working; 2) two fruit pickers who worked hard for over three months to get a “second visa,” which would allow them to extend their stay by one more year; 3) and one housekeeper who worked very long hours for almost five days a week (12 hours each day) at a low wage, but was happy because she was studying to be a nursery school teacher at a university and found housekeeping to be an ideal job. In all four cases, the subjects’ positive purpose is apparent, and they do not appear to reflect any stereotypical negative purpose.

In addition, this study presents a new trend in the current concept of WHM. Some WHMs choose to minimise their living cost by using the HelpX or Au Pair programs, both of which are based on unpaid and volunteer work. These new programs provide WHM attractive opportunities to stay as long as possible in Australia at a very low living cost.