

The \$265,000 job that no one wants

26th February, 2016



There is a job available in the small New Zealand town of Tokoroa, but no one wants it. The job is for a doctor and it pays US\$265,000 a year. For the lucky doctor who takes the job, there is no night work, no weekend work, house prices in the area are low. Also, he or she would work just four days a week and get 12 weeks' annual holiday. The town's current

doctor Alan Kenny is leaving and cannot find anyone to replace him. He has been looking for a replacement for two years but has had no success. Four medical recruitment companies also failed to find a replacement. Dr Kenny thinks the problem is that the job is in the countryside and everyone wants to live and work in the big cities.

It is not only New Zealand that has problems trying to get doctors to live in rural areas. It is also a problem in many other countries too. Last year, Dr Kenny had to cancel a family holiday because he could not find anyone to replace him. Dr Kenny is from the UK and has been a doctor in Tokoroa for 30 years. He said he has a great lifestyle and he wouldn't swap it for city life. At the age of 61, he wants to retire and pass his patients on to someone younger. He told a local newspaper that his job keeps him busy all day and that he loves his work. He is worried about how he can find a new doctor. He said: "I would like to stay but I hit my head against a brick wall trying to attract doctors."

Sources: *New Zealand Herald* / *sky.com* / *NZdoctor.co.nz*

Writing

City living is better than countryside living. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

job / available / doctor / night week / weekend / house prices / replacement / cities / rural / family holiday / lifestyle / swap / retire / patients / someone younger / wall

True / False

- The job is for a doctor in the capital of New Zealand. T / F
- The job means the doctor will have to work at weekends and nights. T / F
- A doctor has been looking for his replacement for two years. T / F
- The doctor said everyone wants to work in the countryside. T / F
- New Zealand isn't the only country where doctors want to work in cities. T / F
- The doctor cancelled a family doctor last year because he was ill. T / F
- The doctor said he would not swap country life for city life. T / F
- The doctor said he hit his head against a brick wall looking for doctors. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. lucky | a. way of life |
| 2. low | b. yearly |
| 3. annual | c. difficulty |
| 4. replacement | d. concerned |
| 5. problem | e. fortunate |
| 6. rural | f. scrap |
| 7. cancel | g. woo |
| 8. lifestyle | h. cheap |
| 9. worried | i. countryside |
| 10. attract | j. successor |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- Why do you think it is so difficult to find someone for this job?
- What is your ideal job?
- What do you think of the benefits of this doctor's job?
- What are the bad things about being a doctor?
- Is city living better than country living?
- Would it be better for a doctor to live in the countryside?
- What advice do you have for Dr Kenny?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

1. it pays
 2. house prices in the area
 3. 12 weeks' annual
 4. failed to find
 5. live and work
 6. live in rural
 7. Dr Kenny had to cancel
 8. he wouldn't swap it
 9. his job keeps
 10. hit my head against
- a. are low
 - b. a replacement
 - c. him busy all day
 - d. areas
 - e. holiday
 - f. a family holiday
 - g. a brick wall
 - h. in the big cities
 - i. for city life
 - j. US\$265,000 a year

Discussion – Student B

- a) What is it like living in a rural area in your country?
- b) What do you think of doctors?
- c) What do you think of your lifestyle?
- d) Do you love your job?
- e) What more can Dr Kenny do to find a replacement?
- f) At what age would you like to retire, and why?
- g) Why is Dr Kenny hitting his head against a brick wall?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Dr Kenny?

Spelling

1. There is a job ablaveila
2. 12 weeks' nnuaal holiday
3. ...but has had no sesucsc
4. Four laemcid recruitment companies
5. find a Inaeprcmet
6. the job is in the sniycteruod
7. trying to get doctors to live in laurr areas
8. ncealc a family holiday
9. he has a great slefyile
10. he wants to reiter
11. He is ewroird about how
12. trying to ctttara doctors

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. b	4. j	5. c
6. i	7. f	8. a	9. d	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Location

You think location is most important for a job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a nice boss, chances of promotion or holidays.

Role B – Nice boss

You think a nice boss is most important for a job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): location, chances of promotion or holidays.

Role C – Chances of promotion

You think chances of promotion are most important for a job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a nice boss, location or holidays.

Role D – Holidays

You think holidays are most important for a job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a nice boss, chances of promotion or location.

Speaking – Job

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things for a job at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- location
- salary
- holidays
- overtime
- nice boss
- working hours
- bonus
- chances of promotion

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.