

Your Friends and Family

Emigration often means that you will not see your extended family or your friends for long periods of time. For many this is the main reason for returning, simply that they do not appreciate how important their friends and family are to them.

A person's ability to adapt, move forward, and make new friends in a new culture is often a deciding factor in a person's happiness abroad.

This section investigates the closeness of your friends and family ties and what they mean to you.

? How would you cope without seeing your family on a regular basis?

? If you still have elderly relatives close to you, how would you feel about leaving them? What would you do if they became ill?

? If you have children how would emigration affect them?

Your Friends And Family cont...

? How would you cope without seeing your old friends on a regular basis?

? How could you ensure that you make friends in your new location?

When you have answered these questions, and only when you have answered these questions read the "Further Thoughts" on the next page.

You can then proceed to the next section

Further Thoughts

Your Friends and Family

? How would you cope without seeing your family on a regular basis?

One of the biggest reasons why people return is that they do not realise how much their friends and family mean to them and how much support in life that they gain from their friends and family.

The first thing to recognise is that your friends and family often give you something that is important to you in life. I.e. they meet a value that is important to you such as a need for security. If you take that away then you are unlikely to be happy.

? If you still have elderly relatives close to you, how would you feel about leaving them? What would you do if they became ill?

Another aspect of family, which should not be discounted, is an elderly relative, such as your parents, perhaps even your grandparents.

If you are moving relatively close to home, from for example the UK to France then it is relatively easy to travel back if they became ill. However if you are immigrating to New Zealand, it will cost you a great deal of money and will take a long time to travel back.

So the thought must cross your mind about how you would deal with such a happening, and also how you would cope with the thought that because you were so far away you missed the chance of seeing your relative for one more time.

? If you have children how would emigration affect them?

Effectively the older a child the more they will be affected by emigration, a 6 month baby will accept it as normal, the older the child is the more you will have to consider the effect it will have on them. Even a 6-year-old child will be affected to a certain extent, although they will also accept their new surroundings relatively quickly.

A teenage child who has developed their own life outside from your own, may not want to move and lose all of their friends, or move in the middle of their examination course.

You must take this into consideration, as without total agreement within your family over this decision it would be unlikely that everyone would be happy about the decision to move.

? How would you cope without seeing your old friends on a regular basis?

? How could you ensure that you make friends in your new location?

The final equation in this section is your friendships. As already noted your friends provide you with something that is important to you, they give you something that you value.

Now friendships will change, if a friend is a very close friend they will accept your decision and support you in it. Although you must be aware that they may be scared about losing you as a friend and want to try to persuade you not to go. This may not be the best decision for you.

If you look back say 10 years can you say that you have the same friends now that you had then? What does this say about you and your suitability to emigrate?

If you had the same friends then perhaps this is going to be very difficult for you, as you are likely to miss them more and also on the flip side you have not made a great deal of new friends over that time.

Moving is all about letting go, and moving on to pastures new, if you are not very good at doing that maybe this would be a reason to stay rather than go.