

Position Vacant:

## Island Caretaker

- Six-month contract AUD\$150,000 package
- Living on Hamilton Island, Australia
- [Get the full job description here](#)

**THE BEST JOB  
IN THE WORLD**

The world will soon know who will get the “best job in the world”. The position is for a caretaker to live on and look after a tropical island off the coast of Queensland, Australia. Duties include relaxing on the island, which is part of the Great Barrier Reef, and writing a blog to promote the area. Other responsibilities are to feed the fish, clean the pool and collect the mail. The job website, [islandreefjob.com](http://islandreefjob.com), tells applicants: “There are over 1,500 species of fish living in the Great Barrier Reef. Don’t worry. You won’t need to feed them all.” The successful applicant will get a salary of nearly US\$100,000 for the six months. Officials from Queensland’s tourism department announced on Tuesday that they were now looking at 50 candidates. Unsurprisingly, over 35,000 people applied for the job.

The next stage in the selection process is to get the list of candidates down to 11. The tourism board will select ten people. Visitors to the website will choose an eleventh person. The public can look at the video applications of all 50 hopeful caretakers. The eleven lucky finalists will then fly to Hamilton Island for a formal interview. The winner will be announced on May 6, and the job starts on July 1. The current shortlist of 50 includes people from 22 countries. They include dancers, chefs, scientists and students and they all want a slice of paradise. Queensland Tourism Minister Desley Boyle said there was much discussion to narrow down the list to 50. He told reporters, “it boiled down to...the motivation and professionalism of the applicants and their 'fit' with the job and Tourism Queensland”.

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- |    |  |       |
|----|--|-------|
| a. | The "best job in the world" is to look after a desert island.          | T / F |
| b. | One of the duties of this job is to catch and cook fish.               | T / F |
| c. | There are 15,000 species of fish living on the Great Barrier Reef.     | T / F |
| d. | More than 35,000 people applied for this wonderful job.                | T / F |
| e. | Website visitors will choose a shortlist of 10 candidates.             | T / F |
| f. | Website visitors can look at the video applications of the candidates. | T / F |
| g. | All of the applicants for the best job in the world are Australian.    | T / F |
| h. | Tourist officials want someone who is motivated and professional.      | T / F |

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article:

- |     |             |    |           |
|-----|-------------|----|-----------|
| 1.  | position    | a. | post      |
| 2.  | look after  | b. | reduce    |
| 3.  | promote     | c. | job       |
| 4.  | mail        | d. | choose    |
| 5.  | applied     | e. | publicize |
| 6.  | process     | f. | match     |
| 7.  | select      | g. | care for  |
| 8.  | current     | h. | method    |
| 9.  | narrow down | i. | went for  |
| 10. | fit         | j. | present   |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- |     |                                     |    |                              |
|-----|-------------------------------------|----|------------------------------|
| 1.  | a tropical island off the           | a. | of fish                      |
| 2.  | writing a blog to promote           | b. | of the applicants            |
| 3.  | over 1,500 species                  | c. | the area                     |
| 4.  | The successful applicant will get a | d. | of 50                        |
| 5.  | over 35,000 people                  | e. | salary of nearly US\$100,000 |
| 6.  | The next stage in the               | f. | of paradise                  |
| 7.  | applications of all 50              | g. | coast of Queensland          |
| 8.  | The current shortlist               | h. | applied for the job          |
| 9.  | they all want a slice               | i. | selection process            |
| 10. | the motivation and professionalism  | j. | hopeful caretakers           |



**3. DREAM THIS OR THAT:** Everyone has a dream this or a dream that. Write about your dream things in the table below. Talk about what you wrote with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you found out.

My dream...	Because	Chances of me getting it / him / her
Job		
House		
Boss		
Partner		
Car		
Holiday		

**4. DREAM JOBS:** Students A **strongly** believe dream jobs do not exist; Students B **strongly** believe they do. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. RESPONSIBILITIES:** Rank the following from the hardest duty to the easiest. Talk about your rankings with your partner(s). Change partners.

- \_\_\_ relaxing on the beach
- \_\_\_ feeding the fish
- \_\_\_ maintaining a blog
- \_\_\_ cleaning the pool

- \_\_\_ reading books by the pool
- \_\_\_ hiking around the island
- \_\_\_ collecting the mail
- \_\_\_ answer e-mails

**6. TOURISM:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'tourism'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.