



# Au pairs supporting rural families (whānau)

**Au pairs are jumping gumboots-first into Kiwi culture, providing childcare for dairy farmers near Hawera. The small Taranaki community is now home for several German au pairs who live just kilometres apart.**

They have become saviours for dairy farmers like Rachel and Murray Perks, who no longer have to juggle young children with early starts in the milking shed.

"Now that we have an au pair we can keep our children at home and don't have to take them with us," says Mrs Perks.

The arrival of their German au pair, Veronika Burger, has made life a whole lot easier.

"The best thing for me is that it doesn't knock the children's routine. Instead of getting them up early, they can stay in their own beds.

"It's also really flexible. We come home and see the children during the day, which is something we wouldn't get with other childcare options."

Veronika came to the family in August last year, during a hectic calving season, and quickly slotted into life in the busy, rural household.

"She is part of our family and has formed a close relationship with our children. She keeps them entertained and ensures they are learning all the time."

The Perks family and dozens of other families in the area found their au pair through Au Pair Link.

"It was a really smooth process, we were able to interview different au pairs over Skype and Veronika really stood out. We are very happy with how it has all worked out."

A love of children and the opportunity to travel enticed Veronika to sign up as an au pair.

Veronika says it's a job that has enabled her to make new friends and explore the country, taking in tourist spots and local sights.

"There's a good group of about 20 of us who catch up once a week for dinner, which is a fantastic support. We also plan trips around New Zealand together."

More au pairs can now come to New Zealand due to the partnership between Au Pair Link and PORSE.

The partnership means the number of licensed areas covered by Au Pair Link has increased, to include regions such as Hawke's Bay, Whangarei, Dunedin, Nelson, Blenheim, Invercargill, Gore, Queenstown and Wairarapa.

PORSE General Manager Kerry Henderson says the partnership with Au Pair Link gives families living in isolated areas flexible childcare options.

"Childcare can be very challenging for rural families, juggling irregular hours on the farm with raising young children. By joining with Au Pair Link, PORSE can offer more flexible childcare solutions for rural Kiwi families."

The partnership also has benefits for au pairs, who can take full advantage of the PORSE programme, which includes the opportunity to attend free playgroups, events and outings.

They also have support through home visits, resources and professional development.

**Pictured left to right: Maike, Judith, Veronika, Katja, Ann-Sophie and Johanna. Below: Callum, Veronika, Rachel and Matilda.**



You'll find loads of information here



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## Au Pair Link celebrating 10 years in the community

This year marks Au Pair Link's 10th anniversary making a difference in the lives of Kiwi families and their local communities. The ever-growing demand, with hundreds of families registering their interest annually, has allowed for the partnership with PORSE and allowed Au Pair Link's current service locations to extend beyond Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Taranaki, Wellington, Christchurch and Otago.

Au Pair Link's humble beginnings have grown and developed over a decade to an international service delivering high quality in-home early childhood education and care and bringing over five hundred au pairs from all corners of the world to New Zealand every year.

**Our mission is to link au pairs with families and nurture cultural understanding, positive learning outcomes and life changing experiences. As industry leaders Au Pair Link will continue to shine by constantly providing a high quality educational support programme.**