

Unit 2

Taressa (Australia)

Um, so Queensland has, for a very long time, been seen as sort of the backward state. And then there's this competition that happens between Sydney, which is the capital of New South Wales, and Melbourne, which is the capital of Victoria, about being the best Australian city. Um, because of course the actual Australian capital is Canberra and the only people who hang out there are politicians so it's an incredibly boring place ... um ... and has no chance at all. But so Sydney— Sydneyites and Melbournites are constantly in competition with one another about which is best. And Sydney is very business-focussed and Melbourne is very art-focussed but they— they like to sort of think that they can compete on— ... um ... on each other's sort of strengths. Uh, in— in all of my jobs actually I used to think I was incredibly lucky, because I used to travel to Melbourne and Sydney a lot. So it was Queensland— Brisbane, I always felt was the best place to live and then I could go, you know, on work time and work money and ... um ... go to Sydney and Melbourne, all of the time.

Alex (England)

So originally I'm from the North East. I'm from a little town called Whitley Bay, which is not too far from Newcastle. So I'm not quite a Geordie but not too far off, originally. Uh, when I was about, ooh, about five ... um ... my parents moved down to Manchester. And most of my childhood I grew up ... uh ... on the kind of Manchester-Derbyshire border, so ... um ... a— actually a village in the Peak District called Charlesworth which is quite a nice— quite a nice rural — rural place in the Peak District, near a town called Glossop.

So that's where I— that's where I kinda spent most of my— most of my childhood and when I went to university I sort of went back to my— back to my roots and went to university back up in Newcastle. Um, although I don't have too much of a— of a Geordie accent left in me— left in me these days but I went to university back up in Newcastle ... um ... worked— lived in various places mostly in the North of England - lived in Manchester for quite a while. And then probably when I was ... um ... ooh, a long time ago now - probably about twelve, thirteen years ago I moved down to the— to the South of England. So ever since— ever since then, so over the last sort of twelve— twelve-thirteen years ... um ... I've lived around ... um ... well, in Surrey, around— around Woking. Um, and a short time actually I lived in New York as well. I did live in New York for a while for about, for about twelve months on and off.

Yeah, when I— when I moved down from the North of England to the— to the South of England ... um ... I— I guess there was quite a— a noticeable difference in— in kind of culture, in culture and behaviour and so on. I think ... um ... as you said, people from the North are probably quite proud of that and probably always kind of have it both ways. In a way you can be ... uh ..., you know, you can live down here and be a Southerner and then in your heart perhaps still be a bit of a— a bit of a Northerner— a bit of a Northerner at heart. Um, I don't know. I mean, I think people are people wherever you go so once you get kind of beyond— beyond the mass and you talk to individuals then I think— then I think, people are people. But I do— I do notice ... um ... differences in— in behaviour in— you know, in things like driving style, for example. So, you know, in the North— ... uh ... or maybe it's even— maybe it's even, a London thing— a South East-London thing.

But certainly in the North people seem to have a little bit more time, they're not quite so pressured and they're not quite so ... um ... kind of time, time, time, all—all— all the time. Um, I think people around London, people around the South East are obviously ... um ... a lot of people are there for their career and they have their career and their job and they're focused and they're— which is great. You know, that's— that's why a lot of people including myself— ... um ... including myself, move— move down here. Um, but yeah there's, certainly, I'd say, there's a bit more relaxed, slower pace of life away from— away from London and— London and the South East.