



French idea recruits multilingual talent

COMPANY **Polyglot Group**
NAME **Eric Ortolan**

“OUR SUCCESS HAS BEEN CONSISTENT WITH BOTH GEOGRAPHICAL EXPANSION AND A DIVERSIFICATION OF OUR SERVICES, WITH 30 PER CENT OF OUR SALES NOW BEING EXPORTED.”

A human resources and recruitment company that specialises in multilingual and multicultural recruitment has found itself right at home in Brisbane.

Polyglot, which derives its name from the same Greek word meaning many languages, was established by French Director Corinne Bot 12 years ago in Sydney.

Queensland State Manager Eric Ortolan said the Queensland branch opened in Brisbane in June 2005. Polyglot Queensland employs two staff, with two more expected to be hired this year.

He said he and his wife Shzan moved to Brisbane from France in September 2004 so he could work for the organisation.

“I was educated in France, Ireland and Australia, and I have a Bachelor of Arts in International Business,” he said.

“I created and sold three companies in France, and one in Brisbane the first year I was here to develop business between France and Australia.

“With my business background and Polyglot’s growth, it was an organisation I wanted to work for.”

Eric said the decision to move from France was an easy one to make.

“I was running a company in France and I found the bureaucracy challenging so I wanted to go somewhere else where I could use my skills running a business, and that’s what I do here.”

Eric said Polyglot was a niche recruitment organisation in that it was an Australia-wide specialist in multilingual and multicultural recruitment.

“The organisation focuses on developing knowledge about specific cultures and languages,” he said.

“Our clients are the corporate world, and our candidates have one or more cultures and languages as well as English.

“The company has developed its services from bilingual recruitment, to multicultural and multilingual services, to companies expanding internationally.

“Our success has been consistent with both geographical expansion and a diversification of our services, with 30 per cent of our sales now being exported.”

Eric said the Brisbane office had experienced sustained growth, thanks to a combination of the resources boom and sub-tropical climate making the region highly desirable for job seekers.

“There’s lots of construction and big projects happening and the market for skilled people is really good,” he said.

“It’s an unbelievable time.

“We’re involved in a lot of recruitment in the engineering and mining fields in and outside of Queensland.

“We’re also recruiting some French-speaking engineers in New Caledonia and West Africa.”

Polyglot has access to a specialised group of candidates: not only are they highly skilled and qualified, they are multilingual and therefore portable.

“Most of our database has French, German, and Chinese speaking candidates who sometimes speak three or four different languages,” Eric said.

“Our main strength within Polyglot is that we speak 15 different languages, including French, German, Chinese, Eastern and Central European languages, Spanish, Portuguese and Japanese.

“We don’t have a lot of clients, but we develop a special relationship with the ones we have and also with our candidates who appreciate the service, quality and long-term relationship.”

Eric extends his office’s multilingual approach into his own home, with 16-month-old son Orion benefiting from his parents’ practice of speaking two languages every day.

He has also tapped into a rich source of talent for Polyglot through his role as board member of the Queensland Chapter of the French Australian Chamber of Commerce.

“I also play soccer with the Salvation Army and try to be active in events organised by the European and South African Chambers of Commerce,” he said.