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## **BENDIGO - THE SAFEST IN THE STATE FOR EMPLOYMENT**

With a growing population and service economy, Australia's fourth largest inland city, Bendigo, has been declared the safest in Victoria for employment security.

First National Real Estate's Chief Executive Officer Ray Ellis anticipates Bendigo to remain the state's safest city for employment security over the next few years as city dwellers begin to make the move to regional Victoria seeking out housing affordability and a life-work balance.

'Real estate markets are substantially driven by confidence and confidence is inextricably linked to employment security. That's what makes Bendigo such an attractive location for first home buyers to get a foothold in the property market' said Mr Ellis.

'Although house prices have risen from a median of \$295,000 in 2010 to a peak of \$400,000 in 2016, they've since eased somewhat to \$375,000. This means there are excellent opportunities for Melburnians wishing to relocate to Bendigo and population inflows will provide further stimulus for the local economy.

'Bendigo also offers a good spread of employment options with professional positions accounting for approximately 29 per cent of jobs, community and personal services about 11 per cent, managerial positions around 11 per cent, technicians and trade workers approximately 12 per cent, clerical and administrative a further 11 per cent, and sales and labourer positions running to around 9 per cent each.

'Without doubt, Bendigo is a great location to bring up families but it also offers excellent prospects for first home buyers and a wide range of employment options for those who seek to escape the mortgage pressure created by Melbourne CBD prices.'

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