

Smile if you want the job

Isaac Buckley

With limited jobs on offer and the number of highly qualified applicants climbing for each position, it's important that when the right job comes along, you do everything you can to secure the position.

And sometimes, it is the simple things that count the most.

There is never a second chance to make a first impression and Denise Love, general manager at Sarina Russo Recruitment, knows this old cliché is more true when it comes to job hunting.

Love believes that a well-placed smile and firm handshake can make all the difference.

"Job seekers need to be able to develop an immediate, engaging relationship with their prospective employers, and a good first impression is the easiest way to do that," Love says.

She says while this might seem obvious, it is something many people can overlook amid the nerves and to-do lists that come with applying for jobs, updating resumes and preparing for interviews.

"Just think, if you were the prospective employer, which would you rather – a smile or a frown?" Love says.

And while frowning in an interview is obviously a big no-no, another crucial element is presentation.

Love says being genuine and comfortable is also essential.

You might be smiling but, if it's a fake, forced smile, forget it.

"Make sure you are comfortable," Love says.

"Start with being comfortable

with what you are wearing because if you aren't – that will show."

Finally, research into the business and position on offer is critical in the interview process and helps job seekers take more confidence with them into the interview.

"Employers do expect that you have an understanding of what their business is all about."

For prospective employees who sometimes fall short because they feel overwhelmed, Love has some simple advice: "Be yourself, but make sure you get the simple things right.

"All these little things add up to make an overall presentation which will ultimately determine if you get a position."



Job hunters should aim to make a good impression, and a warm smile is a great start.

Picture: LIAM KIDSTON