



The accommodation sector and the Seasonal Worker Programme

This information reflects the changes announced by the Australian Government, effective from 14 September 2021.

A seasonal labour solution

Australian employers based in Western Australia, Northern Territory, Tropical North Queensland and Kangaroo Island or other parts of rural or regional Australia in the accommodation sector unable to find enough local Australian workers to meet their seasonal labour needs can access the Seasonal Worker Programme (SWP).

The SWP provides employers with access to workers from Pacific island countries and Timor-Leste for up to 9 months. Seasonal workers can return in following seasons, providing employers with access to a reliable, returning workforce.

The SWP is an initiative that contributes to the economic development of some of Australia's closest regional neighbours, while also providing labour certainty to employers.

What work can seasonal workers undertake in the accommodation sector?

Seasonal workers can undertake a range of work in the accommodation sector, including:

- ✓ Bar attendants
- ✓ Baristas
- ✓ Food and beverage attendants/waiters
- ✓ Café workers
- ✓ Garden labourers
- ✓ Housekeepers
- ✓ Kitchen hands
- ✓ Public area cleaners.

What locations in Australia are eligible?

As previously for the accommodation sector you can be based in Western Australia, Northern Territory, Tropical North Queensland and Kangaroo Island. This has been expanded to employment in other regional and rural areas throughout Australia.

Employment arrangements

Seasonal workers recruited under the programme earn Australian wages and are subject to Australian employment conditions and legislation. In addition to this, employers have a few additional responsibilities – such as contributing to each seasonal worker's airfare to Australia and helping to organise accommodation. For a list of responsibilities, refer to the factsheet on 'Approved Employers'.

How to access seasonal workers

Employers in the accommodation sector with unmet demand for labour can either:

- ✓ contact an Approved Employer who can manage the recruitment of seasonal workers for you and take care of all the administrative arrangements during the seasonal workers' stay; or
- ✓ apply to become an Approved Employer.

Find out more

More information can be found at:

Website: palmscheme.gov.au

and [Temporary Work \(International Relations\) visa](#)

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