



Australian Government

PACIFIC SCREENING SUPPORT PROGRAM

COVID-19

REPATRIATION FACTSHEET

Information about supporting Seasonal Worker Programme (SWP) and Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS) workers to return to their home country.

WHAT CAN EMPLOYERS DO TO HELP WORKERS PREPARE TO GO HOME?

Provide up-to-date information

SWP and PLS employers can help workers find up-to-date information on their visa status, flight schedules and country entry requirements. Due to COVID-19, these details can change with very little notice.

The Pacific Labour Facility (PLF) and Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE) will continue to provide weekly email updates to employers. The following websites may also be helpful:

Department of Health – state regulations, hotspots and travel restrictions: <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions/coronavirus-covid-19-domestic-travel-restrictions-and-remote-area-access>

Department of Home Affairs – leaving Australia: <https://covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au/leaving-australia>

Check worker visa requirements

A bridging visa or redeployment with another employer may be required until a worker can travel home. Employers can liaise with DESE or the PLF (contact details on final page), or call the Department of Home Affairs on (131 881) or visit this website: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/>.

Help workers register for travel

Employers can help workers confirm their home country's travel, vaccination, quarantine and other entry requirements. Country liaison officers (CLOs) and the PSSP are also available for assistance and advice.

Please note: it may take up to 6 weeks to obtain approval for workers to travel.

There are currently 7 CLOs available to advise SWP and PLS program participants. There are currently no appointed CLOs in Fiji, Vanuatu, Nauru, PNG and Tuvalu.

Country	Title	First name	Surname	Preferred name	Phone	Email address
Samoa	Aufa'i Mr.	Fulisiailagitele	SALEUESILE	Aufa'i	0406 506 274	fulisia.saleuesile@mcil.gov.ws
Solomon Islands	Ms.	Bernadine	PARKE WEAVING	Goopy	0478 666 029	swpboostsupport@pasifikih.com
Tonga	Rev.	Sione	VAKA	Sione	0434 179 150	spvaka@yahoo.com
Tonga	Rev.	Paula	TALAKAI	Paula	0472 753 367	paul.talakap@gmail.com
Timor Leste (Labour Attaché)	Mr.	Tomas	DE ARAÚJO GUTERRES	Tommy	0459 337 125	tls.labourattache@gmail.com
Timor Leste (Labour Attaché)	Ms.	Cathy	MOLNAR	Cathy	0480 208 270	tls.program.coordinator@gmail.com
Kiribati	Ms.	Akineti	MOATAAKE	Agnes	0422 926 573	akineti.moataake@employment.gov.ki

For further information, please contact the PLF Passenger Screening Support Program (PSSP) on (1800 512 356) or (pacscreening@pacificlabourfacility.com.au).

Support workers until their departure date

Employers should advise workers and provide welfare support up to their departure date. Please help workers understand any end of contract requirements, repatriation costs and tasks they need to complete before and after returning home.

Help workers book COVID-19 vaccinations

Employers should encourage workers to book COVID-19 vaccinations as early as possible, as some vaccines require several weeks between doses. This is important for workers returning to countries where vaccination is a condition of entry. Please contact the relevant CLO (details above) or otherwise contact the PSSP.

While everyone in Australia can access free COVID-19 vaccinations, only some clinics provide them for people without a Medicare card.

For more information, please visit the Department of Health website: <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/getting-vaccinated-for-covid-19/getting-a-covid-19-vaccine-if-you-are-not-eligible-for-medicare>.

WHAT DO WORKERS NEED TO DO?

With the help of employers, workers must undertake pre-flight COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests, serology tests and COVID-19 vaccinations (if applicable), and any other required medical clearances.

Workers must also make any travel and in-transit accommodation bookings they need to return home. The PLF, DESE and PSSP can support these activities if required.

Workers should contact their CLO, labour sending unit or the PSSP to make sure they know about any changes to repatriation requirements.

What support is available from country liaison officers?

CLOs can assist with translations and in-language advice. They can also advise on registration of interest and repatriation approvals, assist with repatriation planning and help address employer or worker concerns.

What support can the Passenger Screening Support Program provide?

The PSSP can provide information and advice on:

- current repatriation flight schedules
- how to register, book and prepare for repatriation flights
- how to register and submit government approvals for workers
- country and state border entry and quarantine requirements
- in-country quarantine bookings (where applicable).

For more information, please contact the PSSP on (1800 512 356) or (pacscreening@pacifclabourfacility.com.au).



Do workers need to apply for an exemption to leave Australia?

Workers do not need to apply for an exemption to leave Australia. However, in many cases they must register with authorities in their home country to obtain travel approval. Please contact the PSSP for more information if required.

Who pays for medical tests, flights, accommodation and quarantine?

Workers must ensure they have sufficient funds to pay for their airline ticket, pre-flight COVID PCR tests, medical clearances, and any domestic travel/accommodation.

If workers have already purchased a return airline ticket and cannot obtain credit, employers may be able to purchase an airline ticket for them and arrange for these costs to be deducted from workers' salaries.

Arrangements currently exist to meet associated costs for SWP/PLS workers' in-country quarantine accommodation and meal costs. More details are available from the PSSP (see details at bottom of page 2).

What type of COVID-19 test do workers need?

A PCR test conducted within 72 hours of flight departure is required for most international travel. These tests usually cost a small fee, and results can take 24-48 hours. Patients who are found to have no COVID-19 symptoms will be issued with a travel certificate/laboratory result.

Each country has a different entry requirement for PCR results, however **most countries will not accept SMS results prior to travel.**

Where can I find a COVID-19 testing clinic?

Please refer to the relevant website below, depending on your location.

QLD	https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/stay-informed/testing-and-fever-clinics
NSW	https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/health-and-wellbeing/clinics
ACT	https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/stay-safe-and-healthy/symptoms-and-getting-tested/where-to-get-tested-in-the-act
VIC	https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/where-get-tested-covid-19
SA	https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/conditions/infectious+diseases/covid-19/testing+and+tracing/covid-19+clinics+and+testing+centres/covid-19+clinics+and+testing+centres
TAS	https://www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/keeping-yourself-safe/testing-for-covid19
WA	https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/articles/a_e/coronavirus/covid-clinics
NT	https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/stay-safe/symptoms-testing

Where can I find a COVID-19 vaccination clinic?

There are many vaccination clinics that will provide vaccinations to people without a Medicare card. This online questionnaire can help direct workers to an appropriate clinic: <https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/eligibility>.

Find out more from the Department of Health about how to access a COVID vaccine if you are not eligible for Medicare: <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/getting-vaccinated-for-covid-19/getting-a-covid-19-vaccine-if-you-are-not-eligible-for-medicare>.

For more detailed information on local vaccination clinics close to where you live, you can visit this list of all COVID-19 Commonwealth vaccination clinics across Australia: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/covid-19-vaccination-commonwealth-vaccination-clinics>.

Otherwise, you can visit your state or territory health website: <https://www.australia.gov.au/states>.

Workers should book in for a COVID-19 vaccination as early as possible, as the appointment may not be available immediately and some vaccinations can require several weeks or more between doses.

How do workers obtain proof of COVID-19 vaccination?

In some cases, workers may need documented proof of vaccination before they return home. The following information explains how those without a Medicare card can access proof of vaccination online or through the post.

- Workers need an Individual Healthcare Identifier (IHI) to access their immunisation history statement online.
- This can be done online using the IHI service through the myGov website.
- Go to my.gov.au and sign in or create an account.
- Workers will need to provide identification details from their passport with a valid Australian visa, or an Australian drivers license.
- Follow the prompts and select IHI service from the list.

Alternatively, workers can:

- ask the vaccination provider to print a copy of their immunisation history statement
- call the Australian Immunisation Register on (1800 653 809) to have an immunisation history statement sent in the post. It can take up to 14 days to arrive.

Is an Australian domestic border pass required for travel?

A border pass/declaration may be required if you are flying within Australia from a hotspot to the departure city for a repatriation flight. Please refer to this Department of health website for more information:

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions/coronavirus-covid-19-domestic-travel-restrictions-and-remote-area-access>.

For urgent or additional support:

SWP workers please contact DESE on (+61 2 6240 5234) or (SeasonalWorker@dese.gov.au).

PLS workers please contact the PLF on (1800 51 51 31) or (support@pacificlabourfacility.com.au).