

Welcome to the PALM scheme



The Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme allows workers from 9 participating Pacific island countries and Timor-Leste to work in Australia for up to 4 years. It helps to fill labour gaps in rural and regional Australia and provides Pacific and Timor-Leste workers with the opportunity to develop skills and send money home.

Benefits to Australian businesses

- Enables businesses to fill labour gaps for any sector in regional and rural areas, or Australia-wide for the agriculture sector.
- Provides access to a pool of reliable, motivated, and productive workers who can fill unskilled, low-skilled and semi-skilled positions.
- Workers can undertake seasonal jobs for up to 9 months or longer-term roles of between one and 4 years.
- Seasonal workers can return each year, reducing the need to retrain staff.
- Funding is available for worker training - increasing workers' skills and productivity for employers.

Becoming an approved employer

To become an approved employer (AE) a business must meet eligibility criteria, including a history of compliance with Australian workplace laws, and proven financial stability. Following approval, AEs must undertake labour market testing before seeking to access workers.

A PALM scheme AE will also need to become a temporary activity sponsor through the Department of Home Affairs. Once all the documentation has been provided, it will take at least 3 months to process the application. Recruitment and mobilisation of workers will take an additional 8 weeks.

How are workers supported while in Australia?

PALM scheme employers are responsible for ensuring workers' wellbeing, including supporting connections with the community, sporting clubs, churches and diaspora groups.

The Australian Government also works closely with Pacific island and Timor-Leste Governments, supporting their Australia-based country liaison officers (CLOs) to visit workers and monitor employment conditions.

Workers with concerns or questions can contact their CLO, the Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO), or call the PALM scheme support service line on 1800 51 51 31 (7am – 7pm AEST, Monday to Friday).



Need more information?

Scan the code above to watch an introductory video, or visit the PALM scheme website:
www.palmscheme.gov.au