

Future directions of the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme

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Australian Government



What is the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme?

The Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme allows eligible women and men from Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu to take up jobs in rural and regional Australia when there are not enough Australian workers.



Fiji



Kiribati



Nauru



Papua New
Guinea



Samoa



Solomon Islands



Timor-Leste



Tonga



Tuvalu



Vanuatu

What kind of work is involved?

Workers fill unskilled, low-skilled, or semi-skilled positions for seasonal jobs (up to 9 months) or for jobs between one and 4 years.



Support for Workers

The wellbeing of Pacific and Timor-Leste workers is of central importance to the Australian Government and to its Pacific and Timor-Leste partners.



What's new? Recent announcements and new priorities

Staged implementation of the PALM scheme

Features introduced on 4 April 2022:

- A single visa for up to four years
- More support staff for workers and employers
- Removal of sector restrictions for seasonal work
- Piloting a new pathway for aged care workers
- Commitment to deliver a new PALM scheme Deed and Guidelines and improved IT Platform

Incoming Government Priorities



“Australia is here to listen to and collaborate with our Pacific family.”

- The Hon. Pat Conroy, Minister for International Development and the Pacific

Incoming Government Priorities

As part of the Government's plan to build a stronger Pacific family, it has committed to improving and expanding the PALM scheme by:

- Reducing upfront costs for employers
- Improving conditions for workers
- More effectively promoting the scheme in the Pacific and Timor-Leste
- Reviewing administration to reduce red tape without compromising worker protections.
- Relocate the Agriculture Visa into the PALM scheme.

Short-term cohort reforms

- Reduce burden of upfront costs on employers
- Extend visa duration from nine to 11 months

Long-term cohort reforms

- Allow PALM scheme long-term workers to bring their family to Australia, commencing early 2023, subject to Australian employer sponsorship
- Consult with employers and Pacific governments to shape its implementation

Women's participation in the PALM scheme

“We have a number of women who are stand outs and are achieving new things all the time like Jacinta Aquarta Da Costa. She has worked with us for 18 months now and has successfully completed a first aid certificate, and is a valued member of our OH&S committee.”

Karen Grant, Blumer Farms



Want to know more?

PALM scheme website

www.palmscheme.gov.au

PALM scheme Facebook page

facebook.com/PALMscheme

