



Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme

The PALM scheme contributes to the economic development of the Pacific region and Timor-Leste by generating remittances and building skills that workers can use when they return home. It also helps address labour shortages in rural and regional Australia in agriculture and some related manufacturing sectors.

The PALM scheme builds on strong partnerships between Australia and the region and creates links between people and businesses.

Pacific labour mobility is central to Australia's commitment to shared prosperity

As at August 2024, there are **30,805 PALM scheme workers employed in Australia**

The PALM scheme makes a valuable contribution to **economies across the region**, with PALM scheme workers in Australia sending home on average AUD1,500 each per month

Remittances from labour mobility make a **significant contribution to GDP** in many PALM scheme sending countries

Countries make a sovereign choice about their participation in the PALM scheme and **each country can define the terms of their engagement** in the scheme

Workers are entitled to the **same workplace conditions** as Australians, and employers can only participate in the scheme if they agree to additional obligations (for example, minimum hours, accommodation and welfare support)

Country liaison officers provide culturally proficient support for workers, and the **Community Connections partnership** works to create better relationships between workers and their local communities

Australia is further expanding and improving the PALM scheme, including:

- Strengthening oversight of domestic operations as part of improved support for workers
- Responsibly growing the scheme and better supporting participating countries and workers
- Supporting more than 1,500 PALM scheme workers to attain formal qualifications over five years
- Increasing support for PALM scheme workers to access their superannuation savings when they return home
- Providing access to Medicare, Childcare Subsidy and Family Tax Benefit for up to 200 families who will participate in the Government's family accompaniment pilot
- AUD8 million partnership with the International Organisation for Migration to better support PALM workers and their families throughout their labour mobility journey



Photo: PALM scheme worker from Papua New Guinea



HOW WE DELIVER

We are working with Pacific and Timor-Leste partners, Australian employers, industry, unions and workers, on how best to expand and improve the PALM scheme to ensure it benefits all those participating

For more information: palmscheme.gov.au/resources