# 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.

**Pacific labour mobility is central to Australia’s commitment to shared prosperity**

## As at December 2024, there were 27,260 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 Program** works to create better relationships between workers and their local communities

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

* Piloting the expansion of the PALM scheme into the Early Childhood Education and Care sector, with a small number of Australian-accredited educators from Papua New Guinea arriving in early 2025
* 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, the Child Care Subsidy and Family Tax Benefit for up to 200 families participating in the Government’s family accompaniment pilot
* AUD8 million partnership with the International Organization for Migration to better support PALM workers and their families

## 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](https://www.palmscheme.gov.au/resources)