



# 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



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