



How is the Pacific Engagement Visa (PEV) different from the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme?

PALM scheme

The Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme is a **temporary** migration program which allows eligible Australian businesses to hire workers from nine Pacific island countries and Timor-Leste when there are not enough local workers available.

Through the PALM scheme, Pacific and Timor-Leste workers take up a range of short-term (up to 9 months) and long-term job opportunities (one to four years) in unskilled, low and semi-skilled positions, enabling them to develop skills and send income home to support their families and communities.

PALM scheme workers are required to depart Australia to reconnect with their families and communities. This is for three months following the conclusion of a short-term placement and six months following the conclusion of a long-term placement before they can reapply to join the scheme.

Pacific Engagement Visa

The Pacific Engagement Visa will be a new **permanent** resident visa program for participating countries across the Pacific and Timor-Leste.

Each year up to 3,000 visas, inclusive of partners and dependent children, will be allocated through a random electronic ballot process. Those selected in the ballot will be able to apply for permanent residence in Australia, subject to meeting eligibility requirements. PALM scheme workers on valid temporary visas will be eligible to register for the ballot.

The Pacific Engagement Visa seeks to grow Australia's Pacific and Timor-Leste diaspora, build on our strong people-to-people links, and encourage greater cultural, business, investment and educational exchange.



Program settings	Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme	Pacific Engagement Visa (PEV)
Purpose	The PALM scheme is a temporary migration program allowing workers to take up jobs in Australia, develop their skills and send income home to support their families and communities.	The PEV is a permanent residence visa aimed at building greater people, cultural, business, and educational links between Australia and the Pacific.
Participating countries	Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu	Countries currently participating: Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu
Number of participants	Demand driven	Up to 3,000 visas each year (inclusive of partners and children)
Application process	Worker registers interest with the participating country labour sending unit and is placed in the country's 'work ready pool.' Employer undertakes a recruitment process. Worker applies for an employer-sponsored visa. Further details: How to apply PALM scheme (for workers) and Recruitment PALM scheme (for employers) .	Eligible nationals from participating countries will be able to register in an annual ballot. An electronic system will randomly select entrants. Successful entrants and their immediate family will be able to apply for a PEV.
Length of stay in Australia	Short-term: up to 9 months Long-term: 1-4 years	Enables permanent stay in Australia
Visa type	Temporary Work (International Relations) visa (subclass 403) Pacific Australia Labour Mobility stream	Pacific Engagement (subclass 192) visa



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Eligibility	21 years and over. Sponsored by a PALM scheme employer. English language (long-term work only), health and character requirements.	Citizen of a participating country. Born in or have a parent born in an eligible country. Aged 18-45 years to enter the ballot (applicants can include partner and legally dependent children in their application). Primary applicant selected through the ballot process. English language, formal ongoing job offer in Australia, health and character requirements.
Employment	Employer sponsored – worker must have an offer of employment from a PALM scheme employer. Under the PALM scheme visa conditions, workers cannot work with any employer other than their sponsor unless approved by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.	Primary or secondary applicant must have received an ongoing job offer in Australia to be eligible to be granted a PEV (job offer not required to enter the ballot). Can work for any employer in Australia. Support will be provided to connect successful ballot entrants with employers.
Duration of work placements	Short-term work: up to 9 months with the requirement that workers achieve a ‘net financial benefit’ during their stay. Long-term work: 1-4 years.	Can work for any employer without restriction.
Location	Employers in the agriculture sector can be based anywhere in Australia, including employers in agriculture-related food product manufacturing. Employers in other sectors must be based in regional or rural Australia.	No geographic restrictions
Skill level	Unskilled, low-skilled and semi-skilled	Any skill level



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Family/dependants	<p>PALM scheme short-term workers: cannot bring family members to Australia.</p> <p>PALM scheme long-term workers: Up to 200 families will be selected to participate in the Family Accompaniment pilot in 2024.</p>	<p>Primary applicant can bring a partner and legally dependent children.</p>
Access to benefits	<p>PALM scheme workers (short-term and long-term) must have health insurance.</p> <p>Participants in the family accompaniment pilot will have access to the Family Tax Benefits, the Child Care Subsidy and Medicare.</p>	<p>Support as available to permanent residents, including access to Medicare, public schools, Child Care Subsidy and Family Tax Benefits.</p> <p>No waiting periods for Austudy or Youth Allowance (student and apprentice), and access to the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) and VET Student Loans.</p>
Mobilisation costs	<p>PALM scheme workers fund passport and health checks.</p> <p>PALM scheme employer funds initial worker mobilisation costs (e.g., visa, flights) which they may recoup from worker through deductions from wages, less a \$300 employer contribution.</p>	<p>PEV holder responsible for all costs associated with moving and settling in Australia.</p>
Pre-departure support	<p>Yes</p> <p>Pre-departure briefings provide culturally relevant information in language about employment and life in Australia.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>A free service will be available to connect applicants with Australian employers and support the visa application process.</p> <p>Pre-departure briefings will provide culturally relevant information in language about life in Australia.</p>



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Arrival support/welfare and wellbeing requirements	<p>Yes</p> <p>PALM scheme employer is responsible for providing an arrival briefing; meeting accommodation standards, sufficient hours of work; and for the wellbeing of workers, including supporting connections to community and sporting groups, churches and diaspora groups.</p> <p>PALM scheme workers receive ongoing support from and through their:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ PALM scheme employers,▪ PALM scheme support service line,▪ Country Liaison Officers / Labour Attachés	<p>Yes</p> <p>Settlement support, including through the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) and the Settlement Engagement and Transition Support (SETS) program.</p>