

# WORK AUSTRALIA



The Australian Government has two visa schemes available for Papua New Guinea citizens to work in low and semi-skilled jobs with Approved Employers in rural and regional Australia.

The Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS) enables workers to take up low and semi-skilled work for up to three years. The Seasonal Worker Programme (SWP) provides access to low-skilled work opportunities for up to nine months in the Australian agriculture sector, and the accommodation sector in selected locations.

VISIT: [www.pacificlabourmobility.com.au](http://www.pacificlabourmobility.com.au) (PLS) [www.dese.gov.au/seasonal-worker-programme](http://www.dese.gov.au/seasonal-worker-programme) (SWP)

## PACIFIC LABOUR SCHEME

- ▶ Available to citizens of Papua New Guinea.
- ▶ Only employers approved by the Australian Government can recruit workers under the Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS).
- ▶ Multi-year and multi-entry visas are for up to 3 years (minimum 12 months) and will be linked to the offer of employment.
- ▶ Papua New Guinea (PNG) workers are protected by the same workplace laws as Australians and receive the same pay and conditions as Australians.
- ▶ Employment opportunities for Papua New Guinean's are likely to be in low and semi-skilled jobs in accommodation (e.g. cleaning, housekeeping), hospitality (food and beverage services) meatworks, agriculture (year-round).
- ▶ Families are not permitted to accompany PLS workers to Australia, however workers are given paid annual leave which they can use to return to Papua New Guinea at their own expense.

## SEASONAL WORKER PROGRAMME

- ▶ Available to citizens of Papua New Guinea.
- ▶ Only employers approved by the Australian Government can recruit workers under the Seasonal Worker Programme (SWP).
- ▶ Visas may be issued for up to 9 months.
- ▶ Papua New Guinea (PNG) workers are protected by the same workplace laws as Australians and receive the same pay and conditions as Australians.
- ▶ Opportunities predominantly in low and unskilled jobs in the agriculture and horticulture sectors in regional Australia (e.g. fruit and vegetable picking and packing), and accommodation sector in selected locations.
- ▶ Work is physically demanding and can be in challenging weather conditions (very hot and cold).
- ▶ Families are not permitted to accompany SWP workers to Australia.

## WHO CAN APPLY?

### WORKERS MUST:

- ▶ Be between 21-45 years old.
- ▶ Hold a valid passport for the duration of the contract.
- ▶ Be physically fit and healthy for the work specified. Some employers require workers to pass a fitness test.
- ▶ Have evidence of polio vaccination.
- ▶ Have a written record for their past employment.
- ▶ Have qualifications and/or work experience required by employers.
- ▶ Have no police criminal record. Workers who have lived in a foreign country for 12 months or more after the age of 16 or worked on a foreign ship for 12 months or more, require a police check from that country.
- ▶ Be of good character.
- ▶ Have an appropriate standard of English for the work required. This standard may be high.
- ▶ Demonstrate a positive attitude to work and a willingness to learn and commit to the employer's values.
- ▶ Must be able to provide reference letters or consent notes from community leaders and spouses.

### IN ADDITION, SOME EMPLOYERS:

- ▶ Require workers to hold a valid driving licence for the duration of the contract.

### TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SWP WORKERS MUST:

- ▶ Be of good character
- ▶ Fit and healthy
- ▶ Aged 21 years and over
- ▶ Have citizenship
- ▶ Intend to return to their home country

### THE PNG GOVERNMENT REQUIRES PARTICIPANTS TO:

- ▶ Be between 21-40 years old for their first mobilisation.
- ▶ Hold a valid passport for the duration of the contract.
- ▶ Have evidence of polio vaccination.
- ▶ Have no police criminal record.
- ▶ Be of good character, no drinking or behavioural concerns.
- ▶ Demonstrate a positive attitude to work and a willingness to learn.
- ▶ Must be able to provide reference letters or consent notes from community leaders and spouses.
- ▶ Be physically fit and healthy for the work specified. Some employers require workers to pass a fitness test.

### IN ADDITION, SOME EMPLOYERS:

- ▶ Require workers to hold a valid driving licence for the duration of the contract.

## HOW DO I APPLY?

- ▶ The Labour Mobility Unit (LMU) in conjunction with the regional administrations will advertise a PLS recruitment registration event. This is usually linked to a specific sector (hospitality, agriculture, meatworks etc.).
- ▶ Attend the registration event, and the regional administration will assess your English competency.
- ▶ If your English is of an appropriate standard, you will be given an application form to complete.
- ▶ Complete the application form. You will need to attach support letters, and education/ work experience documentation.
- ▶ The regional administration will assess eligibility to go through to interview by the LMU and regional administration.
- ▶ Candidates who meet eligibility requirements are included in a PLS work-ready pool.

- ▶ PNG citizens interested must apply through the regional administration where you live. You cannot apply to be part of the SWP in a region where you do not reside.
- ▶ Workers cannot be selected via agents or direct recruitment.
- ▶ All recruitment enquiries must go through the Labour Mobility Unit (LMU). These recruitments will then be referred to the appropriate regional administration.
- ▶ You will be required to complete the application form. You will need to attach support letters.
- ▶ The regional administration will assess eligibility to go through to interview by the LMU and regional administration.
- ▶ Candidates who meet eligibility requirements are included in a SWP work-ready pool.

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- ▶ Employer selects and interviews candidates from the work-ready pool.
- ▶ LMU will notify the regional administration of successful candidates. Regional administration will notify the workers. LMU assists with visa application.
- ▶ Worker undergoes medical, police and immigration checks.
- ▶ Workers, if nominated as a driver, ensure they have a driver's license valid for the duration of the job contract.
- ▶ Workers and family to attend 'family preparedness' sessions.
- ▶ Workers attend pre-departure training.
- ▶ Be ready to travel to and live in Australia.

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