

***The Pacific Australia Labour Mobility scheme is highly valued by Australia and the Pacific and Timor-Leste. The new Australian Government is committed to improving and expanding the scheme and has an ambitious reform agenda.***

***This includes making the scheme more attractive to employers facing workforce shortages by cutting red-tape, reducing the burden of upfront travel costs and improving program flexibility.***

## **Flight contributions**

The Australian Government has committed to reducing the burden of upfront costs for employers in relation to PALM short-term/seasonal workers' international and domestic travel costs. Implementation details are currently being worked through and the Government will consult employers and industry prior to implementation.



## **Increasing the flexibility of seasonal placements and relocating the Australian Agriculture Visa within the PALM scheme**

The Government has also committed to increasing the flexibility of short-term/seasonal placements and relocating the Agriculture Visa within the PALM scheme as part of the broader agenda to expand and improve the scheme.

## **Family accompaniment**

Family separation, particularly for long-term PALM scheme workers, has been a long-standing concern for many of our Pacific partners.

The Government has committed to longer-term PALM workers bringing their families to Australia, commencing in 2023.

The Government is currently considering the visa conditions that will apply to families. But has committed to the following key settings:

- secondary visas available for partners and dependent children
- employer sponsorship required to bring family to Australia
- family members to meet health and character requirements
- secondary visa holders entitled to live, work and study in Australia.



By enabling Pacific workers to bring their families we will strengthen the ties between Australians and people across the Pacific and Timor-Leste. We look forward to consulting with employers, unions, community organisations and most importantly our Pacific and Timor-Leste family, to make sure we get this important reform right.

## **Workplace standards**

The Government is committed to improving conditions for PALM scheme workers. This includes implementing the recommendations of the Migrant Workers Taskforce.

## **Reduced Red Tape**

The Government will review administration and regulation of the scheme with a view to reducing red tape for employers without compromising worker protections.

## **Improved consultation with stakeholders and greater promotion**

The Government will improve consultation with farm employers, labour hire firms, industry associations, unions and Pacific community and diaspora groups on the scheme, and more effectively promote the scheme in the Pacific and Timor-Leste in cooperation with Pacific governments.

## **Key statements from the Foreign Minister, Penny Wong, on these priorities:**

*"We made a number of commitments on the Pacific and they were driven by the desire to ensure that the investment, the resources, the energy and the policy framework for the Pacific reflected a uniquely Australian contribution.*

*One of the things we can offer as a member of the Pacific family is access to our labour market.*

*But we did listen to the criticisms, or the concerns raised by some stakeholders, and one of them is the difficulty for people to take their family to Australia. So, we did propose as part of our election policies that for the longer...that we would change those visa conditions to enable people to bring their families with them because many workers and representatives from participant nations had said to us that [this] is a real barrier to people participating."*

[Joint press conference](#) - Apia, Samoa (2 June 2022)

*"The first thing we'll do is listen. Because I think each Pacific country, Pacific Island nation, will have a set of issues it wants consideration of in the context of the design of those labour schemes."*

[Joint Press Conference](#) - Nuku'alofa, Tonga (3 June 2022)

## Key statements from the Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Pat Conroy, on these priorities:

*"I think we should focus less on what China is doing and more about what our Pacific region needs, and our goal obviously is that Australia is the partner of choice for all the members of the Pacific family, and that's what we're focused on: making sure that it's not just about support for infrastructure investment or overseas development. It is about Pacific migration, Pacific labour schemes, our cultural and sporting affinities and making sure that all Pacific nations, if they see a need for security support or economic support, that their natural reaction is to talk to other members of the Pacific family, including Australia."*

*"But it's very important to point – to note that it's not just about visits. It's not just about coming to announce agreements or announce further initiatives. It's delivering those initiatives...making sure that the Pacific labour schemes do become the primary source of temporary labour for rural and regional industries in Australia, and that provides huge remittance flows back to the Pacific and deepens the economic sustainability of Pacific Island nations."*

*Those are the key signs of success for Australia, is the implementation of those initiatives, and that's my overriding task."*

[Transcript ABC Pacific Beat 'Albanese Government's Pacific Priorities'](#)

### Resources

[Pacific Australia Labour Mobility | Policies | Australian Labor Party](#)

[Doorstop interview - Suva | Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs](#)

[Joint press conference - Nuku'alofa, Tonga | Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs](#)

[Joint press conference - Apia, Samoa | Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs](#)

[Transcript ABC Pacific Beat 'Albanese Government's Pacific Priorities' - Minister for International Development and the Pacific](#)