



Australian Government

Australian agriculture visa

Information for Pacific and Timor-Leste workers in Australia

The Australian Government has announced a new agriculture visa, which will be open to various countries to help with ongoing labour shortages in Australia. The new visa will meet workforce gaps that cannot be met by Pacific, Timorese or Australian workers.

The agriculture visa will supplement the Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS) and the Seasonal Worker Programme (SWP). These programs will continue to be the main source of overseas workers for Australia's agriculture industry and other important industries.

Can I apply for the agriculture visa?

If you are a Pacific or Timorese worker in Australia on a PLS or SWP visa, you cannot apply for the agriculture visa.

The agriculture visa is still being developed. The SWP and PLS will continue to help meet the ongoing demand from Australian employers for international workers.

Can I apply for permanent residency under my SWP or PLS visa?

There are currently no pathways to permanent residency or regional settlement under Australia's existing Pacific and Timor-Leste labour schemes.

The agriculture visa is still being designed, and does not currently contain any options for permanent residency or regional settlement.

At this stage, there are no extra advantages available to future agriculture visa workers that aren't already available to Pacific and Timorese workers.

Which countries will be able to access the agriculture visa?

At first, only a small number of countries will be invited to join the Australian agriculture visa program. The first sending countries are not yet confirmed, and more countries may be added over time.

Pacific countries and Timor-Leste will not be part of the agriculture visa. Workers from these countries can continue to apply for visas through the SWP and PLS.

Other considerations

The high standards of the PLS and SWP will continue under the agriculture visa. All workers will have the same rights and protections as Australian workers.

If you are approached by someone advising you to leave your job to move to the agriculture visa, please call the PLS/SWP hotline on 1800 51 51 31 or email support@pacificlabourfacility.com.au.