



Australian Government



Seasonal
Worker
Programme

The horticulture industry and the Seasonal Worker Programme

This information reflects the changes announced by the Australian Government, effective from 5 November 2018.

A seasonal labour solution

Australian employers in the agriculture sector, including the horticulture industry, unable to find enough local Australian workers to meet their seasonal labour needs can access the Seasonal Worker Programme (SWP).

The SWP provides employers with access to seasonal workers from Pacific island countries and Timor –Leste for up to nine months. Seasonal workers can return in following seasons, providing employers with access to a reliable, returning workforce.

Since the commencement of the programme on 1 July 2012, the horticulture industry has proven that a low-skilled labour mobility programme could not only contribute to economic development in the region, but also provide strong benefits to Australian industry including greater labour certainty and increased efficiency.

What work can seasonal workers undertake in the horticulture industry?

Seasonal workers can undertake a range of low and unskilled work in the horticulture industry, including:

- ✓ sowing
- ✓ planting
- ✓ raising
- ✓ harvesting
- ✓ picking
- ✓ packing
- ✓ clearing

- ✓ fencing
- ✓ trenching
- ✓ draining or otherwise preparing or treating land for the sowing, raising, harvesting or treating of horticultural crops

Employment arrangements

Seasonal workers recruited under the programme earn Australian wages and are subject to Australian employment conditions. In addition to this, employers have a few additional responsibilities – such as contributing to each seasonal worker's airfare to Australia and helping to organise accommodation. For a list of responsibilities, refer to the factsheet on 'Approved Employers'.

How to access seasonal workers

Employers in the horticulture industry with unmet demand for labour can either:

- ✓ contact an Approved Employer who can manage the recruitment of seasonal workers for you and take care of all the administrative arrangements during the seasonal workers' stay; or
- ✓ apply to become an Approved Employer.

To find a current list of Approved Employers, or to apply to become an approved employer, visit www.dese.gov.au/seasonal-worker-programme

Find out more

More information can be found at:

Website: www.dese.gov.au/seasonal-worker-programme and www.homeaffairs.gov.au/trav/visa-1/403-

Email: seasonalworker@dese.gov.au

Phone: +61 2 6240 5234 Twitter: @SWPAustralia

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SWPAus