



Pacific Labour Scheme

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**Southern Cross
University**



**Bees for
Sustainable
Livelihoods**
HONEY BEES FOR HEALTHY,
WEALTHY COMMUNITIES



**Australian Centre
for International
Agricultural Research**

What are the main differences between the SWP and the PLS?

	Seasonal Workers Program (SWP)	Pacific Labour Mobility Scheme (PLS)
Date started	2012	2018
Administered by	Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Tax	Non-resident	Resident rates
Length of time	Up to 9 months	Up to three years (minimum of 12 months)
Skill level	Unskilled and low-skilled	Semi-skilled

Draft recommendations for Australian Government for Beekeeping to be recognised as an eligible occupation under the Australian Pacific Labour Scheme.



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1. Partnership projects in the Pacific
2. NSW AA conference (Bathurst)
3. PLS meetings
4. AgriFutures ExtensionAus + ABK
5. PNG info days for beekeepers
6. Selection of beekeepers
7. Arrived in November 2019
8. Started work 1 hr. later

Employees - PNG Beekeepers



'It's like a dream come true'

1. Skills development
2. Being in Australia

Skills development, rather than income generation, was a primary motivator to participate in the program.

Employer - Goldfields Apiaries



- Key motivator - limited reliable, hardworking and skilled local beekeepers.
- Beekeepers were keen to start work on arrival and initial two weeks of work was good (needing little training and support)
- Rental market, ready for deployment timing with peak season, challenges with fires then COVID-19, others capacity for year-round employment

Potential commercial beekeeping employers



Potential commercial beekeeping employers



1. No conflict-of-interest for skills development

2. Beekeeping style

3. Pay and leave

Recommendations for improving the PLS for beekeepers



- 1. Develop list of employment ready Pacific beekeeping champions.**
- 2. Develop an online commercial beekeeping training course.**
- 3. Enhance Au industry support for long term employment options.**
- 4. Enhance efforts to inform beekeeping industry of PLS.**
- 5. Evaluate the immediate and long-term outcomes and impacts of PLS.**

Are you eligible to become an approved employer?

Probably

- Is your business in need of overseas labour that can't be met by Australian workers?
- Does your business have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- Is your business able to demonstrate at least 3 years of financial solvency?
- Does your business have a history of compliance with fair work requirements?
- To be eligible, you must be based in rural or regional Australia
- Does your business have established employment and workplace policies and procedures?
- Pacific workers must be employed on the same wages and work conditions as Australians and employed on a part-time (30 hours minimum) or full-time basis (38 hours)
- Are you able to offer employment contracts for a minimum of 12 months and up to 3 years in length?



Prospective employer expression of interest

The Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS) helps meet employment demand in rural and regional Australia. It enables citizens of 9 Pacific island countries and Timor-Leste to take up low-skilled and semi-skilled work opportunities in rural and regional Australia for up to 3 years.

The Scheme focuses on sectors with projected employment growth in Australia, is employer-sponsored, requires labour market testing to ensure Australians have priority for local jobs, and contains protections to safeguard against worker exploitation.

To become an approved employer, you and your entity or business must satisfy a series of checks to ensure that you are reputable, financially sound and operationally able to fulfil the requirements of the Scheme.

This short questionnaire will help the Pacific Labour Facility (PLF) determine whether your business fulfils the minimum requirements for lodging the application. This is also a chance for you to tell us why you would like to join the Scheme, and the benefits it would potentially deliver to your business and community.

This form should take you approximately 15-20 minutes to complete.

PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYER FORM

Fields marked with an * are required

Your name and position *

Contact details *

Email address *

How to apply?

- Call the PLS on +61 7 3557 7750
- Google PLS Prospective Employer Form
- Email me and I'll send you the link
- Email enquiries@pacificlbourfacility.com.au
- Ask the Lockwoods (schooner fee)

Questions?



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