



What will the Australian Government do to prevent overstaying by Pacific seasonal workers?

The Pacific Seasonal Worker Pilot Scheme (the Pilot) has been designed to provide incentives for compliance with visa conditions. For instance, workers who comply with visa conditions may have the opportunity to return to Australia for future harvest seasons within the Pilot and will also be able to reclaim their superannuation contributions on departure from Australia.

The fact that they will not be able to bring dependents, such as family members over to Australia with them provides further incentive to return home after their period of work has concluded. In addition, a 'no further stay' condition will be imposed on all visas issued under the Pilot.

The Department will closely monitor Pacific seasonal workers' compliance with their visa conditions and provide them and their employers with the appropriate information and support to understand these conditions.

In addition, employers (the approved labour hire company(s)) may be liable for the cost of removal and repatriation of workers who have breached the conditions of their visa. These costs are not to exceed \$10,000. Costs may include:

- (a) locating the sponsored person
- (b) detaining the sponsored person
- (c) removing the sponsored person from Australia (including airfares, transport to an airport in Australia and provision of an escort, if needed), and
- (d) processing an application for a protection visa made by a sponsored person.

In effect, the liable party (in this instance the labour hire company, may be required "to pay to the Commonwealth an amount equal to all costs incurred by the Commonwealth in relation to a sponsored person." This undertaking is currently used in a number of temporary entry subclasses and existing Special Program Agreements.