

Putting Australian employees and job seekers first

Growers who wish to participate in the Pacific Seasonal Worker Pilot Scheme (the Pilot) will need to demonstrate that they have tested the local labour market.

At a minimum this means they will have to:

- have conducted recent domestic recruitment action at market rates of remuneration for seasonal workers; and
- be able to provide information on why Australian applicants (if any) were recruited or considered unsuitable for these positions.

Growers who participate in the Pilot will need to commit to labour market programs for the training and career development of Australians, particularly income support recipients, Indigenous Australians, and humanitarian job seekers, to ensure Australian workers are not displaced.

The Australian Government has a wide range of employment programs all working to help Australian job seekers into employment and to assist Australian employers, including growers, access suitably skilled labour.

Job Services Australia replaces previous employment services such as Job Network and provides new opportunities for Australians to receive one-on-one assistance and tailored employment services. Under Job Services Australia, job seekers will receive individual support in the form of the right mix of training, skills development and work experience. Job Services Australia is designed to increase employment participation, play a greater role in addressing skills shortages and to assist individual job seekers, particularly disadvantaged job seekers to obtain sustainable employment.

Harvest Labour Services (HLS) connect job seekers interested in working on farms with growers. HLS providers assist horticulture growers to meet their harvest labour needs by sourcing both local and out-of-area harvest labour. This labour is provided by resident job seekers and job seekers visiting Australia who hold the appropriate work visas. HLS providers are located in a number of regions around Australia.