



Fiji and the Seasonal Worker Program

The Seasonal Worker Program commenced on 1 July 2012. The programme is ongoing for the Australian horticulture sector, and is also being trialled in the Australian accommodation, aquaculture, cane and cotton sectors. The trial will conclude on 30 June 2015.

The Seasonal Worker Program is a capped programme. 3250 places are available in 2014-15 and 4250 places are available in 2015-16 to Australian approved employers.

How can I become a seasonal worker?

To apply, seasonal workers need to satisfy the following criteria:

- Be of good character
- Be healthy and fit at time of visa application
- Be a citizen of Fiji
- Have a genuine intention to enter Australia for seasonal work and to return to Fiji at the end of their employment.

Fijian citizens interested in participating in the Seasonal Worker Program should contact Ms Sainimili Mocevakaca, Manager Foreign Employment Services in the Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations on + 679 330 3500 or email sainimili.mocevakaca@govnet.gov.fj.

If you are selected as a seasonal worker you will be employed under the same conditions as other Australian employees.

You will be invited to work in Australia for a single approved employer for a period of between 14 weeks to six months and provided with a minimum average of 30 hours of work per week for the duration of your employment.

Costs for seasonal workers

You are not required to pay any fees to apply to participate in the Seasonal Worker Program. However, candidates who are selected by an Australian approved employer may need to pay for police and medical checks and a visa application charge. Never pay any fees to individuals claiming to offer seasonal work in Australia. If in doubt, check with the Fijian Government Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations.

Your approved employer may deduct the following costs from your pay in instalments when you start working in Australia:

- Return International Airfare – any amount over \$500
- Domestic Transfer – up to \$100
- Visa applications charges
- Accommodation
- Transport to and from work
- Health Insurance
- Food and living expenses (if the approved employer purchases items on your behalf)

Find out more

More information about the Seasonal Worker Program can be found at:

w: employment.gov.au/seasonal-worker-program and

www.immi.gov.au/Visas/Pages/416-swp.aspx

e: seasonalworker@employment.gov.au

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