



Supporting the agriculture sector and its workforce

Find out how the Australian Government is supporting Australia's vibrant agricultural industry to access the workers it needs, while ensuring the appropriate protection of workers.

Already achieved



Convened Agricultural Workforce Working Group

Tripartite group pursued solutions to attract, skill, protect and retain workers in agriculture and processing sectors and provided strategic input to broader government priorities and processes such as the Migration Review, the Employment White Paper and labour hire licensing.



Delivered Agricultural Fee-free TAFE places

11,951 students have enrolled in an agriculture related Fee-Free TAFE course as at 30 September 2023..



Established Skills Insight as the Agribusiness Jobs and Skills Council

As the Agribusiness Jobs and Skills Council, Skills Insight helps to tackle the sector's critical current and future skills and workforce challenges, working in close partnership with Jobs and Skills Australia.



Expanded and improved the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) Scheme

Increased the number of PALM workers in Australia to 38,207 at 30 November 2023 – meeting and exceeding our commitment to have 35,000 PALM workers by June 2023 while strengthening workplace protections.



Working Holiday Maker numbers back to pre-pandemic levels

170,876 Working Holiday Maker visa holders in Australia as at 26 November 2023.



Accelerated visa processing to address the significant visa backlog

On-hand applications are almost 40% lower than the nearly one million on-hand in June 2022. Almost 8.3 million temporary and migration visa applications have been finalised since 1 July 2022, 190% more than in 2021-22.



Expanded the Australian Apprenticeship Priority List

Added multiple agricultural occupations to the Apprenticeship Priority List, providing support for employers and students looking to undertake traineeships or apprenticeships in agriculture.



Extended post study work rights for international graduates with select degrees

Agricultural international students will be able to work in Australia for longer under changes to Post Study Work Rights.

Still to come



Agricultural Trade Apprenticeship Project

Skills Insight will consult with industry on the development of an agricultural trade apprenticeship pathway.



Key reforms to workplace relations

The Australian Government has committed to implement recommendations of the *Migrant Workers' Taskforce*, including criminalising wage theft.



Regional University Study Hubs

The Australian Government has committed to establish up to 20 additional Regional University Study Hubs in response to the immediate actions identified by the Australian Universities Accord Panel.



Food supply chain capacity study

This Jobs and Skills Australia capacity study will inform how training, education and migration systems can best work together to meet the sector's future workforce needs.