

## **Queensland Government support Pacific Labour Scheme and Seasonal Worker Program (PLS/SWP)**

The Queensland Government continues to strongly support the PLS/SWP initiative with a \$2.6 million investment in the 2021–22 financial year. This will ensure Queensland continues to assist our agriculture sector through this initiative with a dedicated program of case managers, assessment officers and oversight of compliance.

Prior to October 2020, the Queensland Government had no direct involvement or investment in the PLS/SWP programs.



The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) continues to focus on policy efforts to address significant labour shortages in agriculture. Between September 2020 and June 2021, a range of measures have supported the uptake of nearly 4000 jobs in the sector, with the PLS/SWP component supporting:

- 2903 overseas workers entering agriculture harvest work in Queensland (as of 7 July 2021)
- the first state to introduce on-farm quarantine now managing more than 1832 workers
- hotel quarantine (1071 workers), which continues to support smaller and larger operators
- 8 applications for industry-led regional quarantine facilities are currently being assessed.

# COVID-19 WORKFORCE INITIATIVES

Last updated on Thursday 15 July 2021 1 AM

Queensland is participating in the Seasonal Worker Programme/Pacific Labour Scheme (SWP/PLS) and has facilitated the entry of

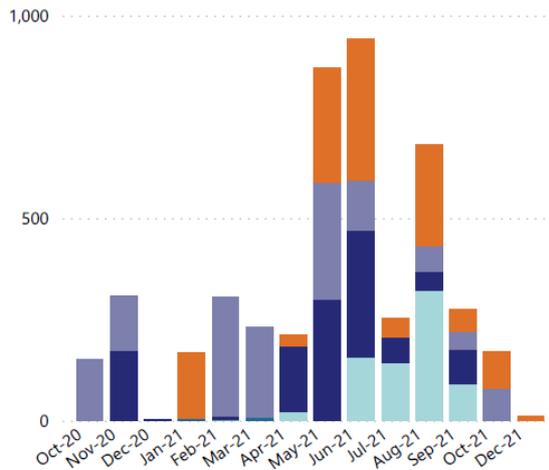


**2903**  
seasonal workers at this point.

Currently in quarantine

- 32 Hotel
- 0 On farm

SWP/PLS Arrivals



Step 1 - Select initiative

All

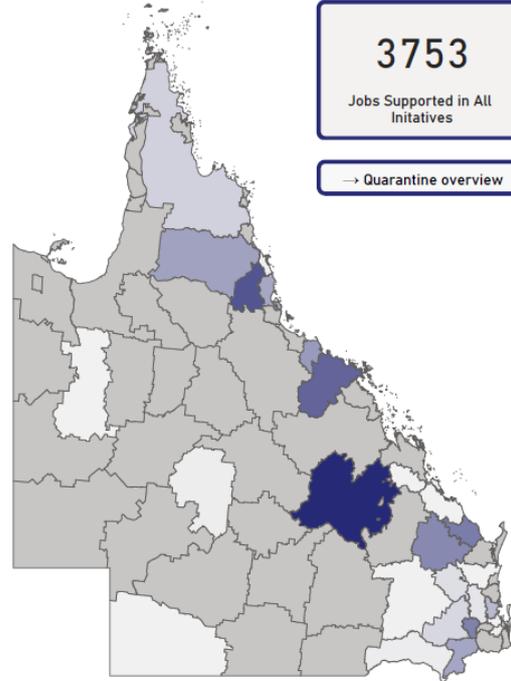
Step 2 - For SWP/PLS, select a status

All

**3753**

Jobs Supported in All Initiatives

[→ Quarantine overview](#)

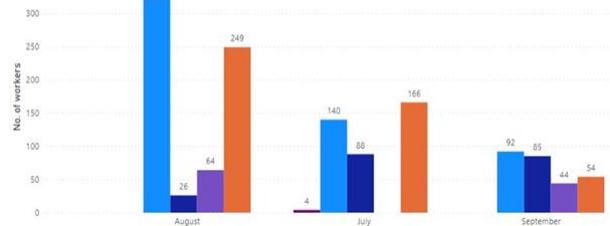


DAF officers are working with Approved Employers (AEs) to mobilise an additional 1335 workers from Pacific Island countries into Queensland through hotel, on-farm and regional quarantine in the July to September 2021 period.

The Queensland Police Service has advised DAF that there is very limited space available in Hotel Quarantine during July and August due to competing demand from repatriating Australians returning from overseas, the Olympics and Afghanistan. AEs are advised to revise their recruitment plans for this period and speak to the DAF PLS/SWP team as soon as possible to discuss potential capacity for their preferred arrival times.

Workers Arriving from Country

Country of Origin: Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu



## Important changes: hotel quarantine

As at 1 July 2021, there has been [an increase in the fees](#) for hotel quarantine. A comparison of the rates is provided below.

The new rates will apply to any PLS/SWP cohorts who enter quarantine on or after 1 July 2021. Workers who entered quarantine prior to 1 July 2021 will be charged at the old rates for the entire quarantine period.

	<b>Old Rates</b> Up to 30 June 2021	<b>New Rates</b> Effective 1 July 2021
1 adult (1 room)	\$2,800	\$3,220
2 adults (1 room)	\$3,710	\$4,130

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## Meet a team member – Dr Melanie Cox

Our first profile is a bittersweet one. Many of our clients would have had dealings with our assessment team leader Mel Cox over the past months. Mel has been an integral member of the team since October last year and has been instrumental in developing standard operating procedures for the program, liaising with Queensland Health on program policy and assisting AEs to gain hotel, on-farm and regional quarantine approvals.

We will be farewelling Mel this month, as she takes on a role in our policy team. We wish her well and thank her for her great efforts in assisting our harvest labour work.



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## Useful links

There's a number of initiatives underway to help agriculture meet pandemic-related labour shortages. Here's some other support that is out there for agriculture enterprises:

- The [#pickqld bonus](#) is a \$1500 incentive for people to take up agricultural work. The full payment is for 10 weeks' work, with the first part payment made after 10 days consecutive work in a 4 week period.
- People aged 16 years and over can apply.
- Workers may also be able to claim relocation assistance of \$6000 from the Australian Government's AgMove incentive.

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## Key contacts

To contact one of the PLS/SWP team, call us on 13 25 23 or email: [info@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@daf.qld.gov.au)  
Information is also available [here](#).

To keep up-to-date with the latest DAF information and support for the agriculture industry, subscribe to our [Queensland Agriculture e-newsletter](#).



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