Pacific Seasonal Workers have now been coming to Australia under this program for four years, many of them brought in by MADEC which has been an integral part of the program since it started. MADEC is a not for profit, community based organisation which specialises in harvest labour recruitment.

Workers who come to Australia under the SWP are issued with a Special Program Subclass 416 Visa which means they can work for a minimum of 14 weeks, to a maximum of 6 months before they must return to their home country. Visas will only be issued to workers if they are to be employed by a sponsor such as MADEC who are approved by the Australian Government. Workers can return again in the following season or seasons, if the grower wishes for them to return.

Because MADEC are specialists in the SWP, we make it easy to get workers for you. We do all of the background work including; recruiting suitable workers, obtaining visas, booking travel, sourcing accommodation and transport, paying of upfront costs, providing reports to government as well as providing pastoral care and support while the workers are in Australia. MADEC will ensure that workers are delivered to your property each morning and return to their accommodation at the end of the work day. Workers are paid by MADEC according to the relevant award and invoices sent to you.

**Interested?**

If so, you need to be prepared to commit to the following:

- Own, run or manage a business which picks or packs horticultural produce
- Provide a minimum of 14 weeks work (up to a maximum of 6 months)
- Provide an average of at least 30 hours work per week over the employment period
- Have satisfactory occupational health and safety systems in place
- Provide induction, training and personal protective equipment for workers as required
- Keep up to date timesheets and provide them to MADEC weekly or fortnightly
- Pay all invoices within 7 days

See MADEC at the 2013 AUSVEG Conference

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MADEC will assist your business by:

- Recruiting seasonal workers ready to start work at a pre-determined date
- Covering upfront costs including the workers’ travel and visas.
- Sourcing suitable accommodation for the duration of the workers’ stay in Australia
- Arranging appropriate Health Insurance for workers
- Arranging access to personal banking
- Assisting workers to apply for a Tax File Number
- Arranging transportation to the workplace
- Paying workers appropriate award rate
- Managing superannuation, tax and work cover obligations
- Conducting an on-arrival briefing for the workers when they get to Australia
- Providing pastoral care for the workers, including a 24/7 phone contact
- Assisting workers to access recreation and religious observance activities
- Assist in managing workers’ performance, behavioural and personal issues should they arise
- Providing all required reports to the Australian Government
- Undertaking a post season review and commence arrangements for workers to return next season, at your request

“The Samoan guys we had last year helping us with our hydroponic lettuce operation were fantastic. They learnt the job quickly and were totally reliable, and under this program I know exactly how long I have got them. I am looking forward to having these workers back soon and we’re really keen to make sure this program continues. It’s been a bonus for us.”

Robert D’Anastasi - lettuce grower
Glenorie Hydroponics
Glenorie, NSW

Pacific Seasonal Worker Perspective:

“under this program I have been given the ability to pay for my brother and sisters school fee’s. I have started growing my own watermelon and taru crops for sale and I have also been able to fix and restore my family home. I am the main income earner for my family and enjoy coming to Australia for work each season.”

Tavita Latu
Age 29
5th year in Australia under the Seasonal Worker Program.

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