



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

# Australia's support for Pacific education, skills and labour mobility

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# Outline of presentation

- This presentation will cover an overview of Australia's:
  - Pacific regional education priorities and investments
  - Pacific labour mobility priorities and investments.

# Pacific education/TVET - key challenges

- Imbalance in demand for, and supply of, skills
- Lack of financing for TVET relative to other sub-sectors
- Quality assurance and standards in early stages
- Unclear coordination of TVET
- Lack of demand-driven data

# Education - Strategic priorities

**Goal:** Pacific islanders with skills and recognised tertiary qualifications contribute to labour markets / communities.

## **Outcomes/Targets:**

- Teachers deliver high quality instruction consistently;
- Children literate and numerate to agreed standard;
- Secondary graduates adequately prepared for further education, training or labour market entry;
- Improved employer satisfaction with graduate skills;
- Increased recognition of graduate qualifications.

# Education - Strategic priorities

## **Intermediate outcomes**

- Improved quality of literacy and numeracy assessments;
- Improved use of credible information by policy-makers;
- Increased number of tertiary institutions provide valued and recognised qualifications;
- Improved supply of quality school teachers;
- Improved education, skills development and employment pathways.

# Pacific regional education investments

Australia's education priorities funded through global, regional and bilateral investments.

Australia invests \$49m per year in Pacific regional education programs

- Australia Pacific Technical College (APTC)
- University of the South Pacific (USP) Partnership
- Support to Educational Quality and Assessment Programme (EQAP).

# APTC – Stage 3 design (2018-2024)

- Emphasis on quality TVET through delivery of Australian qualifications to more than 1,200 graduates p/a
- Focus on embedding APTC in Pacific TVET systems
- Gradual introduction of co-investment
- Renewed emphasis on labour mobility.

# Pacific Labour mobility – key challenges

- High levels of unemployment, limited jobs and growing youth bulge
- Low and varied access to Australian and international labour markets  
- influenced by education and qualifications, access to finance
- High cost of remittances.

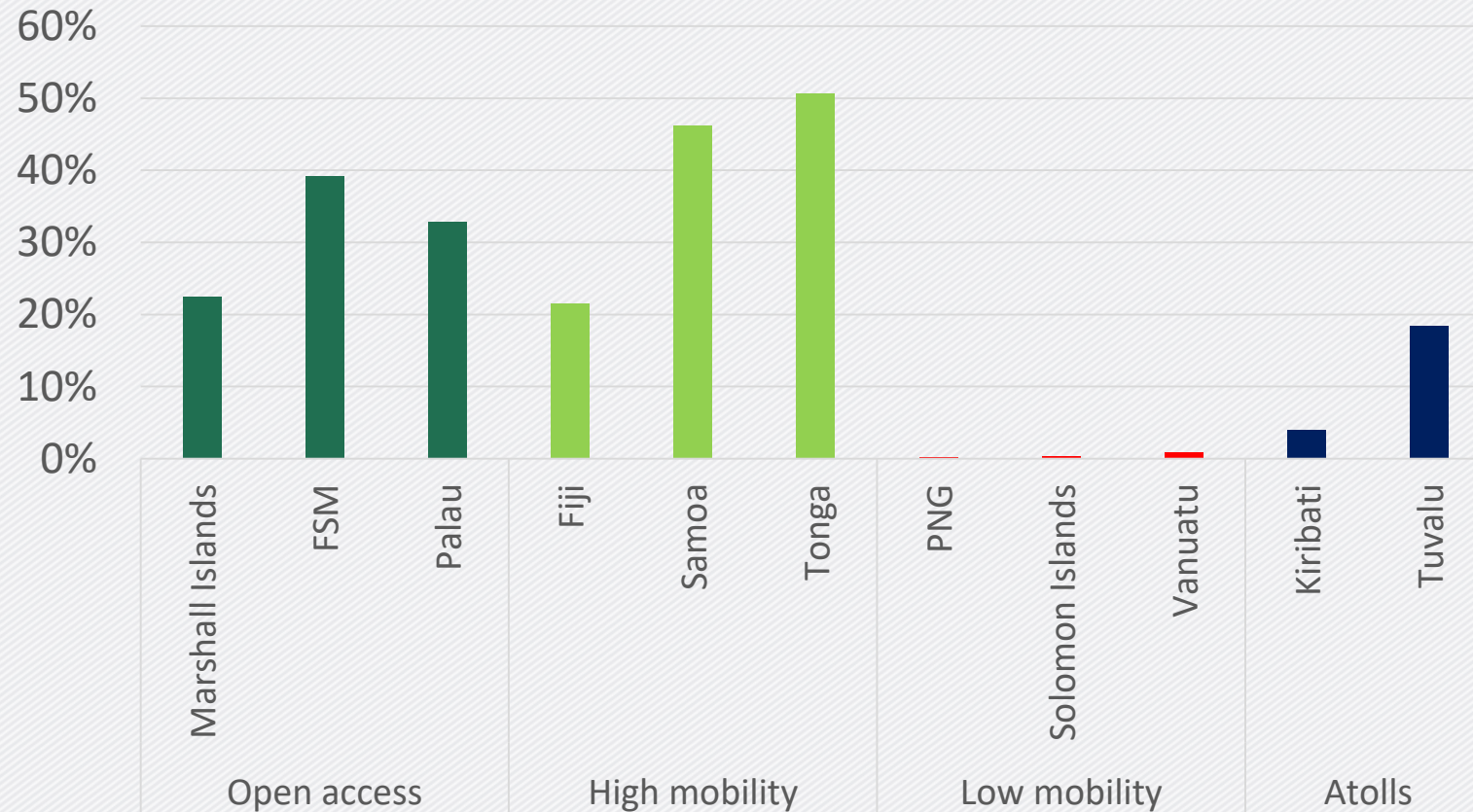


## PACIFIC LABOUR MOBILITY

- **Labour mobility provides critical employment opportunities** in a region where unemployment is high.
- The opportunity to work abroad can result in **significant income gains and a higher standard of living.**

Country	Labour force entrants (annually)	Formal sector jobs created (annually)
Kiribati	3,200	65
PNG	87,000	11,932
Solomon Islands	13,000	2,089
Tonga	5,600	325
Vanuatu	3,800	1,260

# PACIFIC ACCESS TO LABOUR MARKETS



# LABOUR MOBILITY PRIORITIES

1. Providing more job opportunities for Pacific workers in our labour market
2. Aligning training and skills development with labour market needs
3. Increasing savings and remittances to the region and supporting the local private sector
4. Increased collaboration with New Zealand

# Labour mobility schemes

- **Seasonal Worker Programme (SWP)**

- Focus on 6 month placements in agriculture and accommodation
- Current year on year growth of 40% (6,000 workers in 2016-17)

- **Northern Australia Worker Pilot**

- Allows up to 250 workers from Kiribati, Tuvalu and Nauru
  - to work in non-seasonal low and semi-skilled occupations in Northern Australia

# Current aid investments

- **Labour Mobility Assistance Program (LMAP)**
  - Building the capacity of Pacific labour sending units to send seasonal workers, e.g. work-ready pool, pre-departure briefing
  - Support for marketing, research and reintegration
- **Pastoral Care Provider Phase II**
  - Support employer recruitment missions and provide pastoral care to workers

# Seasonal worker programme

Key reforms to improve uptake include:

- Expanded outreach domestically
- Piloting new approaches to pastoral care for employers
- Reviewing 'add on skills training' and roles for RTOs
  - What is best delivered in the Pacific?
  - What is best delivered in Australia?

# Pacific labour scheme

- The Prime Minister recently announced the establishment of a new Pacific Labour Scheme
  - to enable citizens of Pacific island countries (PICs) to take up low and semi-skilled work opportunities
  - in rural and regional Australia
  - for up to three years.

# Pacific labour scheme

- Commence in July 2018 with an initial intake of up to 2,000 workers
- focus on sectors with projected employment growth in Australia and which match Pacific island skill sets
  - food and accommodation
  - healthcare and social assistance
  - non-seasonal agriculture.



# Pacific labour facility

- Provide end-to-end support for circular Pacific labour mobility
  - Training, selecting and supporting **workers** to participate in Australian labour market
  - Connecting workers with **employers**
  - **Pastoral care and support services** in Australia, and reintegration at home as business women and men
  - Monitoring **social and economic impacts**
  - Supporting **administration** of schemes.

# Pacific labour facility

- Work with APTC and country TVET providers on pool of Pacific graduates
- Facilitate or undertake soft skills and add on skills training
- Facilitate migration and employment requirements (such as skills assessments and recognition)

