



Budget 2023-24

This information is accurate as of 9 May 2023.

Enhancing Pacific Engagement

This measure will provide access to Medicare for an initial 200 families from the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme.

This is part of a family accompaniment pilot that will begin in the 2023-24 financial year.

The PALM scheme allows eligible Australian businesses to hire workers from 9 Pacific islands and Timor-Leste, when there aren't enough local workers available to fill jobs.

The Australian Government will also provide these families with access to Child Care Subsidy and Family Tax Benefit B, as announced in October 2022.

Services Australia will provide access to Medicare to these families, enabling them to get the health care they need during their time in Australia. Services Australia will administer government services and payments to the PALM scheme families.

The agency will make system changes to support the enrolment of these families into:

- Medicare
- the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme
- the Child Dental Benefit Scheme
- the Australian Immunisation Register.

You can read more about the [PALM scheme](#) on the PALM website.

This measure is led by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Services Australia has been allocated \$1.8 million through to the 2026-27 financial year to support this measure.

This measure is not subject to legislation passing.

Who this measure affects

This measure affects the 200 selected PALM scheme long-term workers and their families on the Temporary Work (International Relations) visa (subclass 403) Pacific Australia Labour Mobility stream.

When this starts and finishes

This measure will start on 1 October 2023 and is ongoing.