



Australian High Commission
Vanuatu

28 February 2020

Media Release

Australian High Commissioner farewells labour mobility workers

Australia's High Commissioner, Her Excellency Ms Sarah de Zoeten, and Vanuatu's Commissioner of Labour, Murielle Meltenoven, farewelled a group of 50 ni-Vanuatu workers going to work in Australia as part of the Pacific Labour Scheme.

Vanuatu has made a strong start with the Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS), under which ni-Vanuatu have the opportunity to access jobs in Australia for up to three years. The group farewelled on Thursday consisted of workers in the meat and agriculture industries who will work in Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia.

Sanory Restutun, who is heading to Inverell in New South Wales, said on behalf of the workers "We are so thankful to be part of the Pacific Labour Scheme for the work opportunity provided under this program to support us and our families back home. We also acknowledge the Government of Australia for giving us an opportunity to make a change in our lives. We believe that with the skills we will be acquiring during our engagement in the Pacific Labour Scheme will bring a change to our industry in Vanuatu."

Australia's High Commissioner, Her Excellency Ms Sarah de Zoeten, said "I wish you all the best on this wonderful opportunity that you are embarking on. The Pacific Labour Scheme and the Seasonal Worker Programme can have a transformational impact on people's lives. The programs are very valued by employers in Australia who know that ni-Vanuatu are excellent workers and friendly people."

Commissioner of Labour, Murielle Meltenoven, said "I am personally very proud of all the workers who have all gone through a rigorous selection process to gain this opportunity. We cherish the collaboration and partnership between Vanuatu and Australia which is contributing to the success of PLS, and we look forward to strengthening labour mobility opportunities in Australia for low skilled and semi skilled ni-Vanuatu."

The Pacific Labour Scheme allows ni-Vanuatu workers to take up work opportunities in rural and regional Australia. All participating workers have the same rights and protections as Australian workers. For more information, please contact the Department of Labour or visit <https://www.pacificlabourmobility.com.au/>.



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Australia's High Commissioner, Her Excellency Ms Sarah de Zoeten and Vanuatu's Commissioner of Labour, Murielle Meltenoven and Department of Labour staff farwell the group of Pacific Labour Scheme Workers

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