



AUSTRALIA PACIFIC  
TRAINING COALITION

Creating Skills For Life

# FACT SHEET

## Labour Mobility



# ABOUT APTC3

The Australian Pacific Technical College was formally established in 2007, after a strong regional call by Pacific leaders for a regional TVET training initiative during the Pacific Islands Forum. Over the subsequent ten years, it has managed a network of training centres in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu and has delivered skills training that meets Australian standards to over 15000 Pacific islanders.

The new phase 3 design (DFAT, 2017) and the rebrand to "Australia-Pacific Training Coalition" calls for a transformational shift in APTC's focus, away from being a separate training institution and towards supporting a sustainable, locally led TVET system in the Pacific. This transition is expected to take place gradually, over the next 12 years.

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## APTC is working to achieve three end-of program outcomes (EOPOs):



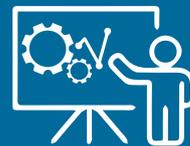
1

Graduates have improved employment outcomes.



2

Co-investment in skills training increases.



3

Selected TVET partners demonstrate quality TVET provision

## The role of APTC in Labour Mobility

### 1. Overview

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APTC works closely with Pacific governments to support regional and international labour mobility with the strategic intent of a net skills gain for the Pacific. This includes training related directly to the labour market demands overseas, as well as work ready skills that enhance Pacific Islanders' employability and prepare them for working overseas.

### 2. Background and context

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With growing populations especially, a "youth bulge", employment creation is a priority for Pacific Island Countries. Labour mobility provides an important source of employment and decent work for many Pacific Islanders. Growing evidence supports the economic and human development benefits of well managed regional labour mobility. Australia and New Zealand in support of greater regional integration have introduced temporary/circular migration labour mobility schemes for low and semi-skilled Pacific workers building on their seasonal worker programmes. The Australian Government's Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS) provides new opportunities for PIC nationals wishing to work in Australia. Managed by the Pacific Labour Facility (PLF), the PLS helps fill demand in low and semi-skilled employment across all sectors in rural and regional Australia where there are not enough Australian workers to fill employer demand. Similarly, the New Zealand Pacific Trades Partnership and other pilots potentially offer expanded semi-skilled labour mobility opportunities in New Zealand.



### 3. The role of APTC is Fostering Labour Mobility

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APTC remains committed to training to support and grow the pool of skilled workers in country for domestic needs and employment opportunities abroad, with citizens' bringing bring back additional skills and experience to drive growth and innovation in their home countries.

**Labour Mobility Track:** APTC has created a dual track approach to its training – comprising a domestic track and a labour mobility track. Employer sponsored students will be required to take the domestic track, and students not currently employed will be supported to maximise employability in their home country. For labour mobility track students, additional critical skills for work readiness and employability to prepare for working overseas, such as financial management, health, wellbeing and international expectations will be provided. Labour mobility track students will be charged a modest fee and advised that participation in the labour mobility track does not guarantee employment overseas.

APTC will work closely with partners including the PLF to match qualifications to regional and international industry sector and employer requirements and to link employers with APTC graduates with the relevant skills. APTC will also support graduates (APTC and non-APTC) and labour mobility candidates with pre-mobility training and technical refreshers thorough co-investment and fee paying. In order to maximise the benefits of labour mobility opportunities, APTC will collaborate with the PLF and other partners in supporting post mobilisation and demobilisation programmes.

**Strategic Positioning and Engagement:** To ensure regional support for APTC's labour mobility initiatives, APTC will position its contribution as part of the Pacific's broader economic and development agenda. This will include alignment with regional frameworks and key decisions of regional Ministers. APTC will leverage opportunities for support for labour mobility through the Pacific Skills Partnership and its three key deliverables. APTC will undertake high-level advocacy and representation and engage and collaborate with key stakeholders in labour mobility. It will also analyse national, regional and international developments impacting on labour mobility. To support country ownership, APTC will develop country-owned labour mobility profiles which outline the country's priorities for labour mobility and the role of APTC.



**Monitoring Evaluation and Learning:** APTC's MEL will ensure a better understanding at the country level and minimise the risk of any potential over- or under-supply to the labour market. This will ensure APTC students will have access to training that aligns with national, regional and international labour markets, thereby having improved employment outcomes.

**Gender and Socially Inclusive Initiatives:** APTC will support women and people from marginalised groups to access labour mobility opportunities. APTC will take a tailored country approach and as part of its broader work in coalition building, APTC will work with local champions and the PLF to promote more inclusive labour opportunities.

## 4. Our Partner in Labour Mobility

We partner with the Pacific Labour Facility to ensure Pacific workers have the right skills to meet workforce demands by Australian employers under the Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS).

The Pacific Labour Scheme and the Seasonal Worker Programme are part of the Australian Government's commitment to support regional economic integration and strengthen the economic resilience of the region.

## 5. Labour Mobility Schemes in the Pacific

Increased labour mobility options are providing Pacific Islanders with increased skills and remittances from working abroad. Other labour mobility schemes in the region that Pacific Island Countries participate in include the following:

- Recognised Seasonal Employment Scheme (RSE)
- Canadian International Training and Education Corporation (CITREC)

**For more information about APTC's role in Labour Mobility**

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