



AfPA and Pacific Global Partner for PALM Scheme, Providing Crucial Relief to Roadwork Industry Skills Shortages

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The Australian Flexible Pavement Association (AfPA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Pacifica Global Group, an international workforce solutions company, to launch a partnership aimed at delivering essential support to the roadwork industry. The partnership through the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) Scheme, marks a significant step towards fostering innovation, sustainability, and resilience within the infrastructure and roadwork sector.

The PALM Scheme facilitates the engagement of workers from 9 Pacific islands and Timor-Leste by qualified Australian businesses during periods of insufficient local workforce availability. Under the PALM scheme, qualifying businesses have the opportunity to onboard labour for seasonal employment extending up to 9 months, or for extended durations ranging from one to 4 years.

As road networks play a pivotal role in maintaining connectivity and enabling economic growth, the collaboration between AfPA and Pacifica Global comes as a timely and much-needed solution to address the challenges currently faced by the industry. This partnership will enable AfPA members to leverage the expertise and resources of Pacifica Global, enabling them to enhance their capabilities in tackling the pressing demands of roadwork projects as skills and labour shortages continue to stifle the industry.

Tanja Conners, AfPA's Chief Operating Officer said:

“Roads are among the most crucial assets in Australia. AfPA's commitment to the industry extends beyond just technical support, and our partnership with Pacifica Global provides exceptional opportunities for AfPA members to address workforce gaps effectively.

“We envision the PALM Scheme not only as a solution to occupation shortages but as a way to foster meaningful relationships with the Pacific Island nations. We aim to make this a knowledge sharing opportunity by introducing Australian training standards to overseas workers, ensuring the engagement results in more robust industries for all parties involved. Our intention is to address the shortage of skilled workers by providing training that aligns with best practice industry expectations, and therefore benefiting both the industry and those seeking employment.”



Dr David Lakisa, Pacifica Global’s Director of Learning & Development is excited by the landmark partnership, stating:

“The alliance between AfPA and Pacifica Global is a timely and innovative step in the right direction. The partnership has flourished organically with a shared quest for solutions that benefit across the Asia-Pacific region. We operate in an ever-changing environment where connecting people, businesses and communities through workplace trust, productivity and performance”.

“As industries in Australia thrive, the reciprocal value for the Asia-Pacific region is immense. Looking ahead, the focus remains on sustained engagement with the government, ensuring the scheme’s continuous refinement, and nurturing the relationships between AfPA members and the Pacific workforce.”