# Pacific Island Immigration Provisions

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<th>Name</th>
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| (Australia) Kiribati Nursing Initiative | 2007 | Created to enhance Kiribati’s ability to cope with overpopulation and climate change by educating Kiribati youth to gain Australian and International employment in nursing sector | - 5 year pilot program sponsored by AusAid, Australia’s foreign aid organization  
- Takes place at Griffith University  
- Requires undergraduate sponsored students to attend four months of preparation in Kiribati followed by four months of nursing diploma preparation program at Griffith University and then complete a Diploma of Nursing before starting Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing | Kiribati | Over 80 Kiribati students are currently enrolled | Pacific Human Resources for Health Alliance, Australian Government: AusAID, National Public Radio |
| (Australia) Pacific Seasonal Worker Scheme | February 2009 | Australia’s pilot program to assess whether seasonal worker program can encourage Pacific region workers to contribute to economic development in home countries through remittance and/or assist Australian employers in horticultural industry  
- Based off of New Zealand’s Recognized Seasonal Employer Policy | - Up to 2500 visas will be granted over three years to works from Kiribati, Papa New Guinea, Tonga, and Vanuatu  
- Employment is only for horticultural industry  
- Clear unmet need must be demonstrated by an Approved Employer  
- Visas issued for up to 7 months in any 12-month period  
- Workers may apply to renew visa but cannot apply for any other visas  
- Does not allow sponsorship of dependents | Kiribati  
- Papa New Guinea  
- Vanuatu | Until February 2010 (Phase One), 50 Tongan and 6 Vanuatu workers participated  
- 44 of 100 visas were not used in Phase One because of lack of demand for workers | Australia Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Australian Government: Department of Immigration and Citizenship |
| (New Zealand) Pacific Access Category | 2002 | Instituted to enable citizens of threatened Pacific Islands to immigrate to New Zealand | - Allows up to 650 people annually to immigrate  
- Special quota reserved for 250 citizens of Tonga, 75 citizens from Kiribati, and 75 citizens from Tuvalu  
- Quota applies to total of Primary and Secondary Applicants (spouse and dependent children up to age 24)  
- To register, must be aged between 18-45 and have a job offer in New Zealand  
- Must also meet minimum health, English, language, and character requirements | Tonga  
- Kiribati  
- Tuvalu | Entry criteria was relaxed by New Zealand in 2005 after quotas were initially not filled  
- Quotas are currently largely filled | New Zealand Government, The World Bank: Development Research Group: Trade and Integration Team |
| (New Zealand) Recognized Seasonal Employer Policy | April 2007 | Policy allows for temporary entry of offshore workers to work in horticulture and viticulture industries in New Zealand  
- Preference given to works from Pacific Island Countries (except Fiji) | - Workers that meet criteria are granted limited purpose entry visa for maximum of 7 months in any 11-month period  
- If clear need is shown for additional worker, employer can apply to be a Recognized Seasonal Employer which allows employer to recruit non-NZ citizen or resident workers  
- Allows up to 8,000 overseas workers per year | Kiribati  
- Samoa  
- Tonga  
- Tuvalu  
- Vanuatu  
- Marshall Islands  
- Palau | As of 2009, up to 8,000 Pacific Islanders working under policy | New Zealand Department of Labour, Immigration New Zealand |
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<td>(New Zealand) Refugee Family Support Category</td>
<td>November 2007</td>
<td>Objective is to facilitate successful resettlement of refugees living in New Zealand by providing them the opportunity to sponsor family members</td>
<td>Replaced Refugee Family Quota System&lt;br&gt;- 300 spaces available annually&lt;br&gt;- Must be a NZ citizen or holder of current residence class visa&lt;br&gt;- Should have been granted residence in NZ on basis of status of refugee or protected person&lt;br&gt;- Be over 17 years of age&lt;br&gt;- Cannot have sponsored successfully under Refugee Family Support Category or Refugee Family Quota before&lt;br&gt;- Tier One applicants will get priority over Tier Two applicants&lt;br&gt;- Tier One applicants differentiated on basis that they have no &quot;immediate family&quot; living lawfully and permanently in NZ&lt;br&gt;- Tier Two applicants must also be residents of NZ for three years of which they spend at least 184 days in NZ each year</td>
<td>N/A&lt;br&gt;- Tier One applicants have filled up registration queue since inception of program&lt;br&gt;- Between 2007-2009, only 473 people were approved out of 4,286 applicants when 600 places were available</td>
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<td>(New Zealand) Samoan Category</td>
<td>1970</td>
<td>An outgrowth of the Treaty of Friendship signed between Samoa and New Zealand at time of Samoan Independence</td>
<td>Allows 1,100 citizens to immigrate annually&lt;br&gt;- Must be aged between 18-45 years&lt;br&gt;- Samoans applying under quota need to have job offer in New Zealand and meet minimum health, English language, and character requirements</td>
<td>Samoa&lt;br&gt;- Quota has largely been filled with the exception of certain periods (1990-1995 and 2002-2004) as a result of economic downturn and difficulty to meet eligibility requirements&lt;br&gt;- After eligibility requirements were changed in 2004, Samoan immigration has exceeded the quota to compensate for unfilled quota from past years</td>
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<td>(United States) Compact of Free Association</td>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Gave political status of &quot;free association&quot; to former entities of Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands</td>
<td>Citizens of Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of Palau can lawfully engage in occupations and establish residence as a non-immigrant in the United States</td>
<td>Marshall Islands&lt;br&gt;- Federated States of Micronesia&lt;br&gt;- Palau&lt;br&gt;- Marshall Islands&lt;br&gt;- Federated States of Micronesia&lt;br&gt;- Palau&lt;br&gt;- United States Department of State&lt;br&gt;- The Compact of Free Association</td>
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| (United States) Pacific Seasonal Worker Scheme | January 2011 | Allows Pacific Island workers to fill temporary or seasonal jobs in United States | US employers must prove to Citizenship and Immigration Services that there are no available and willing US workers to take jobs and that employment will not affect conditions for US workers<br>- Two types of worker visas made available: H-2A and H-2B (not limited to this program)<br>- H-2A visas are uncapped and workers are guaranteed work, housing, and transportation<br>- H-2B visas are capped at 66,000 and provided little oversight and benefit for workers<br>- Successful applicants can work up to three years at a time and earn up to US worker salary | Fiji<br>- Kiribati<br>- Nauru<br>- Papua New Guinea<br>- Solomon Islands<br>- Tonga<br>- Tuvalu<br>- Vanuatu<br>- Fiji<br>- Kiribati<br>- Nauru<br>- Papa New Guinea<br>- Solomon Islands<br>- Tonga<br>- Tuvalu<br>- Vanuatu<br>- Fiji<br>- Kiribati<br>- Nauru<br>- Papa New Guinea<br>- Solomon Islands<br>- Tonga<br>- Tuvalu<br>- Vanuatu<br>- Fiji<br>- Kiribati<br>- Nauru<br>- Papa New Guinea<br>- Solomon Islands<br>- Tonga<br>- Tuvalu<br>- Vanuatu<br>- Fiji<br>- Kiribati<br>- Nauru<br>- Papa New Guinea<br>- Solomon Islands<br>- Tonga<br>- Tuvalu<br>- Vanuatu<br>- Fiji<br>- Kiribati<br>- Nauru<br>- Papa New Guinea<br>- Solomon Islands<br>- Tonga<br>- Tuvalu<br>- Vanuatu

Immigration New Zealand<br>Immigration New Zealand Changemakers Refugee Forum

New Zealand Government<br>New Zealand Department of Labour<br>Australian Government: AusAID

United States Department of State

Development Policy Centre