



Recruitment options for agricultural workers in WA

3 February 2021

This factsheet outlines the potential pathways to recruit agricultural workers from Western Australia, nationally and internationally for the upcoming seeding period. The information is current as at 3 February 2021. Further detailed information on COVID-19 quarantine requirements is available on the [WA.gov.au](https://www.wa.gov.au) website.

Current regulations, as at 3 February 2021, state that all international arrivals to WA must have a G2G PASS to enter Australia and are subject to the Commonwealth Government's mandatory quarantine period of 14 days in a State Quarantine Facility (hotel quarantine) at their own expense.

Interstate arrivals who have spent time in New Zealand in the previous 14 days will be required to have a G2G PASS, self-quarantine for 14 days in suitable premises and present for a COVID-19 test on day 11 of their time in WA.

Interstate travel is permitted in and around WA, depending on where travellers have come from and who they've had contact with in the 14 days prior to travel. Please visit the [COVID-19 coronavirus: Controlled interstate border](https://www.wa.gov.au/gov/covid-19/coronavirus-controlled-interstate-border) page on WA.gov.au for up-to-date details regarding travel from specific Australian states. All travellers still require a G2G PASS.

*Option 1: Industry chartered New Zealand - WA direct flight

Where there is a demonstrated need, the **WA Government may support industry to facilitate** a chartered flight from New Zealand.

This would require alignment and cooperation with a New Zealand based recruitment organisation, WA grower agreement on departure dates, approval from the WA Chief Health Officer, availability of Hotel Quarantine, Australian Travel Declaration and coordination of G2G PASS approvals for arrival in WA. Hotel Quarantine costs are \$2,500 per person and charter costs are estimated to be \$1,500 per person one way. In order to be cost effective, a charter flight would need to be filled with approximately 160 workers, depending on aircraft.

Travellers entering WA from New Zealand directly are considered international travellers and are subject to the WA Government's mandatory Hotel Quarantine period of 14 days.

*Note Option 1 below is not currently available, though may be considered if there is a demonstrated industry need.

Option 2: Commercial flight – from New Zealand to New Zealand Safe Travel Zone (Melbourne/Sydney/Brisbane)

Note additional requirements are in place for the Safe Travel Zone. More information on is available on the Commonwealth Department of Health [website](https://www.health.gov.au).

A one-way quarantine free Safe Travel Zone exists between New Zealand (NZ) and New South Wales, Victoria, Northern Territory, Queensland and ACT. Commercial flights between Auckland, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane are available at a cost of approximately \$600 one way.

WA growers recruiting workers from New Zealand must adhere to both Australian COVID travel requirements, and WA COVID travel requirements.

Information on the New Zealand-Australian COVID travel requirements, including the Australia Travel Declaration, which must be completed at least 72 hours prior to departure, is available [here](#).

If New Zealand travellers transit another State or Territory prior to entering WA, they may be permitted to undertake self-isolation. The quarantine requirements on entry to WA will reflect the relevant risk status of the State or Territory (e.g. Medium, Low or Very Low risk) which is transited prior to entry. Essential workers arriving from a Very Low Risk state will be permitted to travel to regional locations, with an endorsed G2G PASS. Information on requirements for quarantine in WA is available [here](#).

Option 3: Use of existing Western Australian workforce support services

Web-based services such as [Studium](#) and [Harvest Trail](#) have been established to facilitate targeted job listings on a region-by-region basis. These services are currently free of charge to primary industries employers and are designed to match employee skills to job requirements.

Please note, the Harvest Trail service is funded by the Federal Government. Due to current funding arrangements, this service is only available to primary industries employers within the South West and the north-eastern corridor around Perth and up to Gingin.

Growers can independently approach recruitment agencies or business networks, or advertise using recruitment websites.

WA locals have been encouraged to [Work and Wander out Yonder](#) and consider regional work. The slogan 'Work and Wander' has helped to channel students, school leavers and other Western Australians into primary industries work. Referencing 'Work and Wander' or #WorkAndWander in your recruitment advertisements may assist in directing more people who are interested in regional work to your advertisement. More information is available on the wa.gov.au website.

The '[Regional Travel and Accommodation Scheme](#)' has also been established to provide financial support for WA job seekers who relocate more than 100km to undertake eligible primary industries work. DPIRD is responsible for administering the scheme.

Accommodation rebates of up to \$40 per night, to a maximum of \$3,360 (12 weeks), and up to \$500 in travel support is being provided to primary industries workers who move more than 100kms to work in the regions.

In order to qualify for the rebate, employers must confirm the employees' have worked full time, for a minimum of two weeks.

Option 4: Interstate recruitment

Refer to [WA Interstate Border Controls](#) for up to date information on risk status and entry requirements from each State. In all cases, a G2G PASS is required.

Option 5: International recruitment other than New Zealand

International recruitment requires exemption to travel from the [Commonwealth](#), as well as a G2G PASS. From 22 January 2021, if you are travelling to or transiting through Australia you

must provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 (PCR) test to your airline, taken 72 hours or less before your scheduled departure. Detailed information is available on the [Commonwealth Government](#) website. Entrants may also require a valid visa, submission for an exemption to Australia's travel restrictions and authority to enter Australian States and Territories.

Contact

Primary Industries Workforce and Business Capability, workforce@dpird.wa.gov.au

Online information

- [WA G2G PASS](#)
- [DPIRD - securing labour supply](#)
- [WA Interstate Border Controls](#)
- [Work and Wander out Yonder](#)
- [Regional Travel and Accommodation Scheme](#)
- [WA Government - travelling to WA](#)
- [Studium](#) recruitment website
- [Harvest Trail](#)
- [Commonwealth government entry to Australia requirements](#)
- [Commonwealth New Zealand Safe Travel Zone information](#)

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