

1. Workforce Numbers

Total number of PALM workers currently in Cairns, Yarrabah, Tablelands, Cassowary Coast, Douglas, Mareeba and Cooktown Local Government Areas (these have been referred to as the 'identified area'):

To protect individuals' privacy, all cells relating to worker counts including any totals and subtotals have been rounded to nearest 5; values from 1 to 7 are rounded to 5. Zero cells are actual zeros. This may result in some totals not adding up. Caution should be taken in recalculating totals from rounded data, as this may compound the effects of rounding.

Worker counts for detailed locations are currently not available. The data provided are based on the number of available placements. Available placements are the number of placements approved by the department that an employer plans to fill with workers. It is possible that not all intended workers have arrived.

There were 2,155 available PALM scheme placements in the identified area in November 2025.

Country of origin

In the identified area in November 2025 there were:

- 75 available PALM scheme placements for workers from Fiji
- 50 available PALM scheme placements for workers from Kiribati
- 195 available PALM scheme placements for workers from Papua New Guinea
- 280 available PALM scheme placements for workers from Samoa
- 145 available PALM scheme placements for workers from Solomon Islands
- 25 available PALM scheme placements for workers from Timor-Leste
- 275 available PALM scheme placements for workers from Tonga
- 1,210 available PALM scheme placements for workers from Vanuatu.

Sector (agriculture, meat processing, hospitality, aged care, etc.)

In the identified area in November 2025 there were:

- 2,070 available PALM scheme placements for workers in Agriculture
- 85 available PALM scheme placements for workers in Accommodation and food services.

Employer

In the identified area in November 2025, the number of available PALM scheme placements by employer were:

Table 1: Number of placements in the identified area by employer, November 2025

PALM scheme employer s. 47E(d)	Available placements
	40
	30
	70
	20
	5

s. 47E(d)

10
25
10
10
50
5
10
65
20
185
10
305
10
75
10
5
205
0
5
15
5
10
75
5
15
15
80
35
5
35
15
35
260
10
30
15
5
10
115
5
25
140

2. Employer Demand & Workforce Gaps

Number of Approved Employers operating in Queensland

In November 2025, there were 134 PALM scheme employers operating in Queensland.

Number of employers requesting PALM workers in the last 24 months

For Australia, between 1 December 2023 and 30 November 2025, there were 329 PALM scheme employers with an approved Recruitment Plan. A Recruitment Plan indicates an employer has requested a PALM worker and that request has been approved by the department.

Number of employers requesting replacement workers following a disengagement

Nil, employers do not contact the department to request replacement workers.

Note: The FOI request has clarified that this is employers requesting a replacement PALM worker following a disengagement.

Number of employers requesting redeployment workers

Nil, employers do not contact the department to request redeployment workers.

Note: The FOI request has clarified that this refers to both re-engagement of disengaged workers and redeployment of workers between employers

3. Redeployment Data

Redeployment requests in Queensland

In November 2025, there were there were 13 redeployment requests submitted for workers based in Queensland. All of these requests were approved.

For requests submitted and approved in November 2025, the average processing time was 5.5 days.

Note: This data is measured as time from initial submission to approval by the department which may include time where the department is awaiting additional information from an employer so that all requirements are met under the PALM Deed and Guidelines for approval.

In November 2025, there were no workers awaiting redeployment.

4. Worker Movement & Compliance (DEWR-held operational data)

Number of PALM workers in Queensland who:

In November 2025 in Queensland:

- Disengaged – 44
- Requested re-engagement - 6
- Successfully re-engaged - nil
- Re-engagement refused - 13

**Data was informed by workers with approved employers in Queensland.*

As there were no workers re-engaged during November 2025, the time from when a worker first contacts the department seeking re engagement is N/A