
From: s. 47F(1) @aph.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 12 January 2021 2:41 PM
To: s. 47F(1)
Subject: RE: How National Cabinet decision to reduce overseas flights might affect Pacific Is Seasonal Workers program [SEC=UNOFFICIAL] [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Very helpful, thanks s. 47F(1)

Kind regards,

s. 47F(1)
Electorate Officer
Office of Gavin Pearce MP

Tel: s. 47F(1)
Mob: s. 47F(1)

From: s. 47F(1) @awe.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 12 January 2021 1:05 PM
To: s. 47F(1) @aph.gov.au>; s. 47F(1) @dfat.gov.au>;
s. 47F(1) @dese.gov.au>
Cc: Pearce, Gavin (MP) <Gavin.Pearce.MP@aph.gov.au>
Subject: RE: How National Cabinet decision to reduce overseas flights might affect Pacific Is Seasonal Workers program [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Hi s. 47F(1)

The decision should have no impact on this flight. We suggest they also confirm with Tasmanian authorities but last week's National Cabinet was focussed on returning Australians and the key risks they posed. Minister Littleproud also issued a release yesterday which is attached.

The cap issue doesn't affect the SWP/PLS workers as they are separate to these arrival caps in the majority of states including Tasmania (NSW may be the only exception to this but this hasn't been an issue to date due to the few they have brought in). Tasmania did not change their caps in any event.

Also the pre-flight testing arrangements also may not be applicable to the SWP and PLS. Below is the relevant section from the communique on this:

- *Returning Australians and other travellers to Australia must return a negative COVID-19 test prior to departure. Exemptions will only be applied in extenuating circumstances, such as seasonal workers where there is limited access to testing.*

Our expectation is that the flight will not be impacted.

s. 47F(1) , unsure if you have any additional info that might give a different viewpoint?

Kind regards,

s. 47F(1)

s. 47F(1)
Adviser | Office of the Hon. David Littleproud MP

Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management
Ph: s. 47F(1) M: s. 47F(1)

From: s. 47F(1) <[s.47F\(1\)@aph.gov.au](mailto:s.47F(1)@aph.gov.au)>
Sent: Tuesday, 12 January 2021 9:46 AM
To: s. 47F(1) <[s.47F\(1\)@awe.gov.au](mailto:s.47F(1)@awe.gov.au)>; s. 47F(1) <[s.47F\(1\)@dfat.gov.au](mailto:s.47F(1)@dfat.gov.au)>;
s. 47F(1) <[s.47F\(1\)@dese.gov.au](mailto:s.47F(1)@dese.gov.au)>
Cc: Pearce, Gavin (MP) <Gavin.Pearce.MP@aph.gov.au>
Subject: How National Cabinet decision to reduce overseas flights might affect Pacific Is Seasonal Workers program [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Good morning s. 47F(1)

I know this question might cut across all your portfolios, regarding the Pacific Is Seasonal Workers program.

Mr Pearce has received an inquiry from s. 47G(1)(a) asking how the National Cabinet decision to reduce overseas flights might affect Pacific Is Seasonal Workers program in Tasmania. I understand that they are expecting another flight of workers to arrive on 23rd January.

Any information you are able to provide will be much appreciated.

Kind regards,

s. 47F(1)
Electorate Officer
Office of Gavin Pearce MP

Tel: s. 47F(1)
Mob: s. 47F(1)

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From: s. 47F(1) @aph.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 20 July 2020 1:12 PM
To: s. 47F(1)
Subject: Temporary Visa Holders [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Good afternoon s. 47F(1),

I am not sure if this is your area or not; I have other emails from you regarding agricultural visa issues, so hopefully you can direct me the right way!

Are you able to advise whether 'normal hours' can be re-interpreted given that 'normal hours' have changed during the pandemic. See email below.

Kind regards,

s. 47F(1)

s. 47F(1)
Office of Gavin Pearce MP
Federal Member for Braddon

2/32 Wilmot Street (PO Box 908) Burnie Tas 7320
s. 47F(1)

From: s. 47F(1)
Sent: Friday, 17 July 2020 12:16 PM
To: Pearce, Gavin (MP); Abetz, Eric (Senator); Brown, Carol (Senator); Askew, Wendy (Senator); Bilyk, Catryna (Senator); Chandler, Claire (Senator); Colbeck, Richard (Senator); Duniam, Jonathon (Senator); Lambie, Jacqui (Senator); McKim, Nick (Senator); Polley, Helen (Senator); Urquhart, Anne (Senator); Whish-Wilson, Peter (Senator); Archer, Bridget (MP); Collins, Julie (MP); Mitchell, Brian (MP); Pearce, Gavin (MP); Wilkie, Andrew (MP)
Subject: Temporary Visa Holders

Good Afternoon,

I hope this email finds you well. I apologise in advance for taking up your time with what you may perceive to be a trivial issue, however I do believe that I have exhausted all options and am still unable to gain clarity on an issue that is very important to myself and others currently working towards securing a further working holiday visa.

My specific issue is shared by many others, therefore I am hoping to gain a response from someone who can help. I have checked online and contacted the IMMI hotline, however they are not able to give out information that is not held on the website. They did direct me to contact an immigration agent, however I am not prepared to pay someone to do something I am capable of doing myself.

I am required to work the equivalent of 6 months full time regional work to secure a third working holiday visa. My second visa commenced at the end of March and I will turn 31 at the end of October 2020,

therefore I have a period of 7 months to get this done. I currently work full time at a vegetable factory in Tasmania. Normally we work between 40-50 hours per week, however this has significantly reduced as the numbers of orders have plummeted over the course of the pandemic. Export orders have declined and depots on the mainland have locked down therefore the business are unable to offer myself/other employees full time work. The normal working week has decreased from a peak of 40-50 hours to 20-25 hours per week. I am making myself available for all work. None of the workers in my department (including tasmanian residents) are hitting the normal full time week. Therefore, 'normal' hours are below what would have been considered 'normal' pre-pandemic.

The online guidance states:

To meet the six months' specified work requirement you must complete the same number of normal work days or shifts as a full-time employee in that role and industry would normally work in a six month (179 calendar day) period.

Due to this, I am seeking to clarify whether this would therefore be accepted as the normal full time hours for this industry, as this is the maximum number of hours that I/full-time employees are able to receive from the employer during the pandemic?

Alternatively, can I please confirm if the age limit of 30 can be temporarily reviewed and put inline with Ireland/Canada, so that I/others can work for longer in order to accrue these days? My visa does not expire until March so I have plenty of time to make up the days if approved.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I hope that I am reaching out to someone who is able to help with this scenario! Myself and many others have worked so hard to save and prepare for our trip around Australia, it would be such a shame to leave. The scenario many of us are facing is that we will not have time left on the visa to actually spend the money we have earned, therefore this represents a negative for tourism businesses who are unable to currently attract tourists, with willing tourists facing the prospect of leaving with the money we would spend if the visa conditions were reviewed to allow us to stay.

Many Thanks,

s. 47F(1)

Address: s. 47F(1)

Tel: s. 47F(1)

From: s. 47F(1)

Sent: 15 May 2020 01:38

To: peter.gutwein@parliament.tas.gov.au <peter.gutwein@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Subject: Temporary Visa Holders

Good Afternoon Mr Gutwein,

I hope this email finds you well. I am contacting you as a temporary visa holder (working holiday subclass 417) to highlight some of the key concerns that myself and others are currently facing. I would like to thank you for your recent position which has been one of support for temporary visa holders, your consideration for our welfare has been a huge lift to myself and others who are isolated from our loved ones at home. Myself and my husband are normally UK residents, therefore feel very lucky to be in Tasmania where your response to the virus has been extremely proactive, in stark contrast with what we are seeing unfold at home.

I do appreciate that you must be exceptionally busy and am not anticipating a response to this query, however I thought it would be beneficial to highlight the specific areas that are currently challenging those of us who have stayed in Australia to the Minister for Tourism.

We decided to remain in Australia having been here since March 2019. We have spent 7 months of that period in Tasmania, working in food production. Our decision to remain inspired by the virus taking hold at home was due to the fact that we want to work towards a third year visa, which requires us to work for a minimum of 6 months (full time) in stipulated industries. We have also spent most of this time saving to prepare for a trip around Australia, therefore leaving would have meant giving up the plans we have worked so hard towards. My particular dilemma is that our second year visa commenced at the end of March, and I turn 31 on the 24/10/2020, therefore I have 7 months to complete this regional work. Luckily, we are working in a full time hourly paid role for the same employer we worked for last winter. However, this business has been hit hard like lots of others due to the pandemic. This means that we are not quite reaching 38 hours per week due to reduced orders which means there is less work for us to do. This means that we are probably wasting our time as it is inconceivable that we will reach the required number of days by the date I turn 31.

I would like to confirm if the government are going to be announcing any amendments to current visa requirements. If not, we would probably choose to return home to our loved ones in the UK if working through the pandemic means we are unable to qualify for the third year visa.

If there are any amendments, our ideal scenario is for the full time hour rule (that is supposed to be relevant to the industry) takes into account that full time hours for each industry have decreased, therefore certain thresholds are not required provided the worker has made themselves available for any and all shifts (we are still working 30+ hours on average, sometimes more/less). Alternatively, an extension of the age limit would allow us to mop up those final few days that we are currently unlikely to meet. I am aware that there have been rumours the government is looking at increasing the age limit to 35 in line with Ireland for some time, so if this is one of the options that will be used to drive tourism post-coronavirus, this would solve our dilemma.

During our first year here, between myself and my husband we earned \$103,614.12, with relevant tax being paid and every penny being spent on the economy here. If we are here for three years and earn roughly the same, this would therefore represent a total of \$310,842.36 for the Australian economy generated by 2 people alone. However, if we were to leave, we would be forced to take our savings and return home, which we do not want to do. Having discussed this with other backpackers, others are in the same position, where unfortunately it does not look likely that they will remain in Australia to spend the money earned so far, or to remain in their positions to support employers who rely on backpackers.

I totally recognise that this is a trivial issue, however it will feed into the discourse around increasing tourism within Australia when movement is permitted, as well as ensuring that there is a readily available workforce in the industries that backpackers support.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I hope you and your family are safe during this difficult period.

s. 47F(1)

From: s. 47F(1) @aph.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 May 2020 12:42 PM
To: s. 47F(1)
Subject: RE: re briefing notes on Visa Holders & National Workforce Strategy
[SEC=OFFICIAL] [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Much appreciated, thank you s. 47F(1).

Kind regards,

s. 47F(1)
Electorate Officer
Office of Gavin Pearce MP
Federal Member for Braddon

2/32 Wilmot Street (PO Box 908) Burnie Tas 7320

s. 47F(1)

s. 47F(1) @aph.gov.au

From: s. 47F(1) @awe.gov.au]
Sent: Monday, 18 May 2020 11:34 AM
To: s. 47F(1) (G. Pearce, MP)
Subject: re briefing notes on Visa Holders & National Workforce Strategy [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Importance: High

s. 47F(1),

Please see information below for Mr Pearce

Information relating to the Pacific Islander Workforce and visa holders esp in relation to Tasmania

- In March there were 7,230 SWP and 850 PLS workers in Australia.
- Working Holiday Makers were estimated at 140,000. A number will have returned to their home countries and we are getting updated estimates (can come back to them with updated figures).
- Can also come back with an estimate of State based figures for Tasmania – the PLS/SWP assign workers to specific employers rather than states. This makes monitoring state numbers difficult.
 - However, we have seen workers under the scheme move from Tasmania to SA – is scope for similar arrangements to be made with workers already in Australia under these programs.
 - *[Note these figures are from Immigration Department and reflect the situation to March. I haven't received an update on those remaining in country but Working Holiday Makers are likely to have declined.]*
- With restrictions being gradually lifted we are looking at how to tap into local workers more effectively and at how arrangements for seasonal and Pacific Workers can be brought back online.
- Is a fine balance between protecting the community and those source countries – in some cases those countries have restrictions on travel to Australia.

- However, the actions States have taken in respect to workers already here and ensuring appropriate COVID-19 restrictions are in place may help to support the reopening of borders to these workers.

The numbers of agricultural exports sent out last month

- Total Agriculture Exports 2019/20 estimate - \$43.2 billion
- Total Agriculture Exports 2018/19 - \$48.7 billion
 - [March Quarter Report]

The National Workforce Strategy

- The National Agricultural Labour Advisory Committee will deliver a National Agricultural Workforce Strategy to Minister Littleproud later this year.
- Consultation by the Committee is progressing, with over 100 stakeholder meetings completed so far
 - COVID-19 has made consultation challenging with the Panel holding a number of tele and video-conferences.
 - As restrictions begin to lift there should be an opportunity for more face to face consultations.
- Submissions on the National Agricultural Workforce Strategy discussion paper are open until 1 June 2020 at haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/national-agricultural-workforce-strategy
- The discussion paper covers the:
 - impact of changes to agribusiness and broader society on the agricultural workforce
 - availability of workers, including barriers and impediments
 - skills and knowledge needs of workers and business owners and whether current education arrangements meet their needs
 - opportunities, best practice and case studies, and priority areas for action.
- Stakeholder views will help to inform the strategy and develop a sustainable and skilled agricultural workforce for the future.

s. 47F(1) – Adviser

Office of the Hon. David Littleproud MP

Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management

Ph: **s. 47F(1)** M: **s. 47F(1)**

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From: s. 47F(1)
Sent: Wednesday, 25 March 2020 1:41 PM
To: 'Pearce, Gavin (MP)'
Subject: RE: s. 47G(1)(a) - Supporting local growers and workers in your electorate [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi s. 47F(1),

No fix yet – but in the interim you may wish to advise stakeholders and peak bodies to write to Mark Tucker, who's leading the COVID-19 response, at coronavirus.industry@agriculture.gov.au. While we are very much aware of the issue and working through it, there is no harm in industry contacting Mr Tucker directly as well.

Will let you know when we have more info.

Kind regards,

s. 47F(1)

s. 47F(1) – Adviser
Office of the Hon. David Littleproud MP
Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management
Ph: s. 47F(1) M: s. 47F(1)

From: s. 47F(1) (G. Pearce, MP) [mailto:s. 47F(1)] **On Behalf Of** Pearce, Gavin (MP)
Sent: Wednesday, 25 March 2020 1:13 PM
To: s. 47F(1) @agriculture.gov.au>
Subject: FW: s. 47G(1)(a) - Supporting local growers and workers in your electorate [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED] [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi s. 47F(1)

Any progress this one.

About to send you off another representation.

Cheers

s. 47F(1)
Media and Communications
Office of Gavin Pearce MP
Federal Member for Braddon

2/32 Wilmot Street BURNIE TAS 7320
Phone: s. 47F(1) Mobile: s. 47F(1)

From: s. 47F(1) @awe.gov.au]
Sent: Friday, 20 March 2020 9:32 AM
To: s. 47F(1) (G. Pearce, MP)
Subject: RE: s. 47G(1)(a) - Supporting local growers and workers in your electorate [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks s. 47F(1), bit of a vexed issue that is currently a priority for Dept Ag to figure out.

Will let you know when we have a way forward

s. 47F(1) – Adviser

Office of the Hon. David Littleproud MP
Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management
Ph: s. 47F(1) M: s. 47F(1)

From: s. 47F(1) (G. Pearce, MP) [[mailto:s. 47F\(1\)@aph.gov.au](mailto:s.47F(1)@aph.gov.au)] **On Behalf Of** Pearce, Gavin (MP)
Sent: Thursday, 19 March 2020 3:56 PM
To: Minister.Littleproud <Minister.Littleproud@agriculture.gov.au>
Cc: s. 47F(1) <[s.47F\(1\)@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:s.47F(1)@agriculture.gov.au)>
Subject: FW: s. 47G(1)(a) - Supporting local growers and workers in your electorate [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Good afternoon Minister

Attached is a representation Mr Pearce has received from s. 47G(1)(a), a businesses in the electorate of Braddon, outlining their serious concerns about how the impact of the mandatory 14 day isolation period will have on the supply of fresh of fresh produce to Australians and the availability of temporary seasonal workers in the s. 47G(1)(a) industry.

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards

s. 47F(1)
Media and Communications
Office of Gavin Pearce MP
Federal Member for Braddon

2/32 Wilmot Street BURNIE TAS 7320
Phone: s. 47F(1) Mobile: s. 47F(1)

From: s. 47F(1)
Sent: Thursday, 19 March 2020 3:07 PM
To: Pearce, Gavin (MP)
Subject: s. 47G(1)(a) - Supporting local growers and workers in your electorate

Dear Hon. Gavin Pearce

s. 47G(1)(a) produce s. 47G(1)(a) in your electorate and rely on temporary foreign seasonal workers and backpackers to harvest our crops. s. 47G(1)(a) workers for our crops to be harvested and to maintain our local workforce. I'm sure you would agree that these are unprecedented times and the coronavirus outbreak means it is more important than ever to ensure Australians have access to fresh, healthy and nutritious fresh produce.

We therefore are writing to you s. 47G(1)(a) seeking your support during these challenging times.

Regards,

s. 47F(1)
Human Resources Manager

s. 47G(1)(a)
P: s. 47F(1) M: s. 47F(1)

s. 47G(1)(a)

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From: s. 47F(1) (G. Pearce, MP) <s. 47F(1)@aph.gov.au> on behalf of Pearce, Gavin (MP) <Gavin.Pearce.MP@aph.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 19 March 2020 3:57 PM
To: Minister.Littleproud
Cc: s. 47F(1)
Subject: FW: Access to temporary seasonal workers to guarantee the supply of fresh produce to all Australians. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Attachments: Letter to Gavin Pearce MP re COVID-19 seasonal worker issue 17032020.pdf

Good afternoon Minister

Attached is a representation Mr Pearce has received from s. 47G(1)(a) a businesses in the electorate of Braddon, outlining their serious concerns about how the impact of the mandatory 14 day isolation period will affect supply of fresh of fresh produce to Australians and the availability of temporary seasonal workers in the s. 47G(1)(a) industry.

I look forward to your response.

s. 47F(1)
Media and Communications
Office of Gavin Pearce MP
Federal Member for Braddon

2/32 Wilmot Street BURNIE TAS 7320
Phone: s. 47F(1) Mobile: s. 47F(1)

From: s. 47F(1)
Sent: Tuesday, 17 March 2020 4:08 PM
To: Pearce, Gavin (MP)
Subject: Access to temporary seasonal workers to guarantee the supply of fresh produce to all Australians.

Hi Gavin, please find attached a letter from s. 47G(1)(a) which details our serious concerns about how the impact of the mandatory 14 day isolation period will affect supply of fresh of fresh produce to Australians and the availability of temporary seasonal workers in the s. 47G(1)(a) industry. Possible solutions are provided to this, which do not compromise the understandable need for self-isolation.

Thank you

Yours sincerely

s. 47F(1)
Corporate Affairs Manager

s. 47G(1)(a)

p: s. 47F(1)
f: s. 47G(1)(a)
m: s. 47F(1)
e: s. 47F(1)

s. 47G(1)(a)

17th March 2020

Mr Gavin Pearce MP
Federal Member for Braddon
PO Box 908
Burnie, TAS, 7320

Dear Gavin,

Re: Access to temporary seasonal workers to guarantee the supply of fresh produce to all Australians.

As you are aware s. 47G(1)(a) in your electorate and rely on temporary foreign seasonal workers to harvest our crops. This year we will need circa s. 47G(1)(a) of these workers for our crops to be harvested and to maintain our local permanent workforce which numbers s. 47G(1)(a) I'm sure you would agree that these are unprecedented times and the coronavirus outbreak means it is more important than ever to ensure Australians have access to fresh, healthy and nutritious fresh produce.

For these reasons we are seriously concerned about the impact on our business and the entire fresh produce sector of the government's decision to impose a requirement for a 14 day period of self - isolation for anyone entering the country after the 15th March 2020. This will obviously impact temporary seasonal workers.

Our product must be picked by hand when nature dictates and it is also highly perishable. Because of this s. 47G(1)(a) and unlike businesses who produce non-perishable goods, it is simply not possible to s. 47G(1)(a)

Without suitable arrangements in place for us to access temporary seasonal workers, there will be no fresh produce for Australians to consume at a time when it is imperative that they have access to such food. We are asking the government to do the following to ensure we can access the necessary volume of temporary workers to harvest our crops:

1. Provide exemptions from the quarantine requirement for Pacific and Timor Leste workers coming to Australia under the Seasonal Worker Program and/or Pacific Labour Facility
 - o New Zealand has relevant arrangements in place
2. Provide extensions of visas for workers under the Seasonal Worker Program, Pacific Labour Facility and backpackers where they continue to work in agriculture
3. Commit additional resourcing for the Seasonal Worker Program Branch in order to support timely approval of applications, extensions, and process requests for portability
4. Provide clarification on self-isolation for the fresh produce workforce

Our industry peak bodies, including the Australian Fresh Produce Alliance and AUSVEG have written to the Ministers responsible including Ministers Cash, Littleproud and Dutton, to impress upon them the urgency of this situation and the need for a timely solution.

Continued operation of our business, the jobs and livelihoods of our local workers and the guaranteed supply of fresh produce to all Australians are all at risk if we are unable to resolve this issue to everyone's satisfaction.

I thank you for considering this urgent matter and hope that you are able to help in facilitating a solution.

Yours sincerely

s. 47F(1)

s. 47F(1)

s. 47G(1)(a)