Settlement outcomes for Pacific migrants to New Zealand

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Managing Migration in the Pacific: Agreements, Outcomes, Futures
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Outline

• New Zealand’s Pacific people
• Migration from the Pacific
• Settlement outcomes of Pacific migrants in New Zealand
New Zealand’s Pacific people

- 6.9% of NZ’s population in 2006 – strong growth projection
- A diverse population – 13 distinct languages and cultural groups
- 60% born in NZ
- Young - median age 21, compares to 35 for total population
- Auckland has the largest Pacific population in the world – 27% of NZ Pacific people live in Auckland
- A major part of future workforce, but challenges of high youth unemployment and under achievement.
Pacific Economic Profile in NZ

- Pacific peoples are over-represented in low skill, low income occupations.

- Average PI household income in 2012 was $8400 less than NZ European and $5000 less than total average.

- Pacific unemployment rate was at 16% compared with 6.6% for the general population.

- Pacific young people stay at school longer but are leaving with lower level qualifications than their peers.
MIGRATION FROM THE PACIFIC
Pacific migration to New Zealand

![Graph showing Pacific migration to New Zealand from 2003/04 to 2012/13. The graph compares international students, temporary workers, and residents with visas. The number of migrants varies each year, with peaks in 2008/09 and 2012/13 for temporary workers.]
Temporary workers from the Pacific

- 103,000 temporary workers last decade
- Seasonal policy (RSE) since 2007/08
- 75% of seasonal workers from the Pacific
- Fiji 44% of temporary workers
Components of permanent migration

**Resident approvals by stream – last 10 years**

- Skilled / Business
- Uncapped Family
- Capped Family
- International / Humanitarian

- Pacific
- NZRP

**Main source countries – last 10 years**

- Fiji: 45%
- Samoa: 33%
- Tonga: 16%
- Tuvalu: 2%
- Kiribati: 2%
- Others: 1%

- 61,000 Pacific people in last decade
- 94% from three countries (Fiji, Samoa, Tonga)
- 13.8% of New Zealand Residence Programme
- 23% enter as Skilled Migrants; 29% though quotas
Pacific Access Category and Samoan Quota jobs 2008/09 - 2012/13

Source: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.
PACIFIC MIGRANTS’ LABOUR MARKET OUTCOMES
Circular migration and worker earnings in the RSE Scheme

RSE worker return rates by season: 2007/08 – 2011/12

- 2007/08: 48%
- 2008/09: 55%
- 2009/10: 48%
- 2010/11: 50%
- 2011/12: 46%
- All seasons to date: 50%

- Returned to same employer: 86%
- Returned to same employer: 88%
- Returned to same employer: 82%
- Returned to same employer: 90%
- Returned to same employer: 86%
- Returned to same employer: 87%

**39,000 workers in six seasons**

**High return rate, most to same employer**

**Latest season: 69% are returning workers**

**Median seasonal earnings ~ $14,000NZ**
Conclusions

• Large increase in temporary, seasonal labour from the Pacific
  – Growing importance of migrant labour in NZ regions with high seasonal labour needs
  – High degree of circularity a measure of success

• Significant component of the NZ Residence Programme
  – But largely low skilled migration through quotas

• Pacific quota migrants typically high level of participation
  – But less likely to have experience in NZ on a temporary visa
  – Jobs in sectors most affected by the recession
Further information and latest releases

• Visit our research page: www.dol.govt.nz/research/migration/index.asp

• Contact us: research@mbie.govt.nz

• Visit Statistics New Zealand at www.stats.govt.nz/idi
Disclaimer

Aspects of this work were undertaken while the author(s) were on secondment to Statistics New Zealand. This work is part of the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) that was created using Migrant Levy funding secured by the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment.

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