

Recognised Seasonal Workers Scheme reaping benefits – Reed

By Online Editor

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Vanuatu RSE workers

The New Zealand Government says the Recognised Seasonal Employment Scheme (RSE) has made tremendous improvements in the living standard of many Pacific Islanders.

Deputy Secretary for foreign affairs, Chris Reed said RSE was fulfilling a labour need in New Zealand and providing job opportunities to communities in developing countries.

Under RSE, preferences are given to workers from Island countries. Around 78 percent of RSE workers come from the Pacific and the rest from Asia.

“From the Pacific perspective, the economic and social impacts for families and local communities from RSE is significant. Workers are taking hard earned cash back to invest in their communities. This is evident in the quality of schools, houses, small business set up in their local communities. It’s an important win- win situation we think for New Zealand and the Pacific,” Reed explained.

Since the start of RSE, the 2,500 workers have come from Vanuatu, Samoa and Tonga.

“At the individual level, RSE earnings are often translated into much needed home improvements, increase in school attendance, building of new facilities like schools and churches and also local infrastructure such as water articulation and electricity generation.

However Reed warned the scheme will be reviewed if many islanders overstayed their working visa in New Zealand.

“Like any element of government policy, these things are subject to review. It’s part of an ongoing debate between governments, business and Pacific governments but I don’t see any prospect any time soon”

SOURCE: PACNEWS