



Australian Government



**Harvest Trail**

## Relocation Assistance to Take Up a Job for short-term Agricultural Work - Scenario fact sheet

### See which scenario might apply to your situation

#### Scenario 1: Jack – getting back to work after losing his job during lock-down

Jack, 32, lost his barista job in Melbourne during the COVID-19 pandemic. Jack applied for the Job Seeker payment and has been at home self-isolating. Jack wants to work and do something physical after being at home for so long. He checks what restrictions are in place regarding travel between metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria (at [www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au](http://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au)). The advice says it is okay to travel so he looks at advertised harvest jobs in regional Victoria on the Harvest Trail website at [jobsearch.gov.au/harvest/search](http://jobsearch.gov.au/harvest/search).

He finds a job in Wandin North picking cherries. The ad includes a Harvest Trail logo which indicates a Harvest Trail Services (HTS) provider has advertised the position. He uses the contact information on the right-hand side of the website to contact the HTS provider.

The HTS provider talks to Jack about the position and after checking with the employer agrees he would be a good fit. Jack then signs a Relocation Assistance Agreement. Three days later Jack drives to Wandin North and books in at the local caravan park in a one-bedroom cabin. He works the next 7 weeks at the cherry farm. It is hard but rewarding work.

Jack is reimbursed \$220 for the cost of the fuel to drive to Wandin North and back to Melbourne at the end of his time at the cherry farm, \$80 towards food on his two travel days and \$5,635 for the 7 weeks of accommodation at the caravan park.

#### Scenario 2: Trevor, 48 – wants to return to a place he previously worked at in his youth

Trevor undertook a short placement on a station in the Northern Territory as a jackaroo when he was 18. He currently lives in Sydney and has lost his job due to downsizing in the tourism sector. Trevor is feeling pretty down about his circumstances and talks to his partner about his need to try something different. Trevor keeps thinking about the time on the station when he was younger.

On a whim he calls the station to see if they need any help. They are delighted to hear from him and are desperate for assistance with their livestock. Trevor is worried about the cost of getting there, but they reassure him that he will be eligible for government support if he calls the Harvest Trail Information Service hotline number on 1800 062 332.

Trevor calls the Harvest Trail Information Service and explains he'd like to go up to the station for three months (12 weeks). They ask Trevor to investigate flights to the nearest airport and advise him that they will contact the station to confirm the employment arrangements. Later that day Trevor signs the Relocation Assistance Agreement and a couple of days later flies from Sydney to Darwin, catches a coach to the nearest town and waits for somebody from the station to come and pick him up as was pre-arranged. His HTS provider pays the flight up-front but Trevor pays for the coach, fills

the ute with petrol and keeps the receipts to claim back the costs from the HTS provider. He spends 12 weeks at the station and pays for his room and board out of his wages and was happy that 8 weeks (up to 2 months) of his accommodation costs would be reimbursed through Relocation Assistance. The station provides receipts directly to the HTS provider. Trevor pays for his flight back to Sydney and submits all his receipts to his HTS provider. They reimburse him \$4,730. Trevor realises when he arrives home that he feels more like himself again and his partner immediately can see the difference.

### Scenario 3: Cheng and Ju, 19 – are international students and want to undertake harvest work to see Australia during their university summer holidays

Cheng and Ju want to work over their summer vacation but can't find local jobs in Western Sydney. They decide they want to travel so they can see some of Australia and work along the way. They hear they may be eligible for assistance under the Relocation Assistance to Take Up a Job for short-term Agricultural Work. They look at harvest jobs on the Harvest Trail website at [jobsearch.gov.au/harvest/search](http://jobsearch.gov.au/harvest/search) to see what work is available.

They decide they would like to go up to Byron Bay and stay there over Christmas picking berries. They contact the HTS provider listed on the Byron Bay berry job ad and explain their situation. The HTS provider outlines that they are each eligible for up to \$2,000 and makes arrangements for them to start a couple of days later as pickers on a berry farm outside of Byron Bay.

Ju investigates accommodation options on the beach and submits quotes to the provider. The provider explains they need to stay closer to the farm and the quotes are higher than other comparative accommodation, he reminds them that up to two months of accommodation costs will be reimbursed through Relocation Assistance. He gives them some alternative options. Ju picks accommodation that the HTS provider suggests. They both sign a Relocation Assistance Agreement and then drive their own car to Byron Bay. They don't work every day because they are casuals and some days the hours are long, but they enjoy being together, working hard in the warm weather. Their HTS provider has arranged another job for them starting in mid-January in Bourke. They work in Bourke for another two weeks and then take a week off to holiday, slowly driving back to Sydney. When they arrive back in Sydney they lodge all of their receipts with the provider and are reimbursed the fuel, food for the travel days (except where it was a holiday day) and two months of accommodation costs for the time they were working and as was agreed in their Relocation Assistance. They are not able to claim costs for the one-week holiday. In total they are reimbursed \$3,650.

### Scenario 4: Steven, 63 – retired, travelling Australia and wants to undertake harvest work

Steven hears that he might be eligible to receive financial assistance with fuel and camp site costs under the new Relocation Assistance to Take Up a Job for short-term Agricultural Work initiative for doing harvest work. He's currently staying at a caravan park in the Gold Coast in his own caravan and hears about macadamia jobs around Bundaberg. He decides to drive up the next day and look for a job and then investigate what assistance he is eligible for. That night he's talking to some of his neighbours and mentions what he is doing.

Mary, two caravans over, warns him that he can't travel first – he has to make arrangements with a HTS provider first, or he won't be able to receive Relocation Assistance. She shows him the Harvest Trail website. On the site he finds macadamia, mango and cherry tomato picking jobs in Bundaberg. He thinks the cherry tomato jobs might suit him best. Mary shows him the Bundaberg provider's contact details at [jobsearch.gov.au/harvest/providers/find](http://jobsearch.gov.au/harvest/providers/find). He calls them and asks about the job and whether he would be eligible for Relocation Assistance.

The HTS provider agrees he would be a good fit and that he is eligible for assistance. Steven stays another day in the Gold Coast so he can arrange to sign the Relocation Assistance Agreement before driving north. He drives to Bundaberg and parks at a powered site at a Bundaberg caravan park for \$175 a week. Steven keeps all his receipts from the drive up and for the accommodation costs at the caravan site. At the end of four months his HTS provider reimburses him \$1,400 for 8 weeks of accommodation at a powered site and another \$428 for the fuel and food costs on his travel days..

### Scenario 5: Ahmed, 25 – wants to work but doesn't have a vehicle

Ahmed doesn't have a vehicle but wants to work in regional Australia. He looks at available job options on the Harvest Trail website at [jobsearch.gov.au/harvest/workers/search](http://jobsearch.gov.au/harvest/workers/search) and finds a job driving tractors in West Wyalong where accommodation might be provided. The job ad does not say that transport is required so he contacts the HTS provider listed under 'How to Apply'. He asks about the job, if he could apply, and if he is eligible for Relocation Assistance. The HTS provider decides he is suitable, they agree the best way to get there is via a coach service and they both sign a Relocation Assistance Agreement

Ahmed doesn't have enough money to pay for the coach service so the HTS provider agrees to buy a coach ticket for his trip so he doesn't have to outlay costs before earning income. The HTS provider also talks to the employer about accommodation options on the property, the Provider pays the first week of accommodation, which includes breakfast and costs \$250 a week.

Ahmed gets \$980 in wages per week, less tax while he is working. The employer provides clear payslips to the HTS provider. Ahmed stays in the job for 4 months. He is reimbursed from his HTS provider the remaining accommodation costs of \$1,750, \$80 for food costs from his two travel days food, \$99 for the coach back to Sydney and \$400 for work boots and other work clothes that he needed for the job.