



Human Trafficking and Slavery in Australia

UPR Info Pre-sessions No 51
Australia's 4th cycle UPR

Presented by Anti-Slavery Australia,
University of Technology Sydney

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Access to Protection and Support

Key progress in survivor protections and support since 3rd cycle

- **Additional Referral Pathway** – is a pathway into the Support for Trafficked People Program, providing access to specialist supports for an initial reflection period without the need to first engage with law enforcement.
- **Forced Marriage Specialist Support Program** – provides access to support that is not time-limited without requirement for participation in criminal justice processes.
- **Anti-Slavery Commissioner** – includes key function to support victim-survivors.
- **Modern Slavery Lived Experience Engagement and Empowerment** – provides practical guidance to support trauma-informed engagement and empowerment of survivors in Australia.
- **Practice Guidelines for Organisations Working with People in or at-risk of Modern Slavery** – contains practical advice and guidance for organisations working with people impacted by modern slavery to ensure support provided is trauma-informed and reflects best practice.



Access to Protection and Support

New developments

- 420 reports of trafficking and slavery received in FY24-25, an increase of 10% on the previous year.
- Reports of exit trafficking increased more than 100% in one year, from 35 reports in FY23-24 to 75 reports in FY24-25.

New and remaining needs

- Access to support remains largely time-limited and contingent on participation in criminal justice processes.
- Visa pathways via the Human Trafficking Visa Framework are linked to a victim-survivor's assistance in a modern slavery related investigation.
- No clear repatriation protocols for those trafficked out of Australia.



Access to Effective Remedies

New and remaining needs

- No national compensation scheme for victim-survivors of trafficking and slavery, resulting in unequal outcomes.
- Due to the inconsistencies between State and Territory victims' compensation schemes, these remain an inadequate remedy.

'There is currently no national compensation scheme for victims and survivors. While statutory financial assistance and compensation schemes for victims of crimes exist at state and territory levels, variations can be observed in eligibility and the amounts of payment across Australia...

The Special Rapporteur recommends that the Government: ...

(m) Establish a national compensation scheme for persons who have experienced contemporary forms of slavery.'

- Tomoya Obokata, UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery



Recommendations

Within one year:

- Establish a national compensation scheme for victims and survivors of modern slavery in support of Sustainable Development Goal 16.3.
- Delink access to support and visa pathways from participation in criminal justice processes.
- Develop and implement a repatriation protocol and government-funded grant scheme.



Child Rights

Implementation of recommendations from previous review

- Child rights have not been incorporated into domestic law and policy.

New developments

- Children are falling through the gaps and are not being identified as victim-survivors of trafficking and slavery.
- Less than 1% of all reports of trafficking and slavery in FY2024-25 related to child trafficking - merely 36 of 420 reports.
- 82,700+ reports of online child sexual exploitation received in FY2024-25.

'...children and young people who have experienced exploitation for sexual purposes in Australia, many of whom may be victims of child trafficking, are not identified as such, even when relevant indicators may be present. As this may be one of the many reasons why the number of reported child trafficking incidents is low, it warrants further investigation.'

- Mama Fatima Singhateh, UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale, Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse of Children



Recommendations

To better align with international human rights obligations:

- Adopt a coordinated, multi-agency, evidence-based, survivor-informed child rights response to modern slavery by 2027 in accordance with Sustainable Development Goals 5.3, 8.7 and 16.2.
- Expand access to specialist supports by recognising child dependents of victims and survivors as survivors in their own right.



Legislative and Policy Framework

'Complete and implement the National Action Plan to Combat Modern Slavery.'
– Greece, Recommendation 146.188 (3rd cycle UPR).

Implementation of above recommendation from previous review

Under the *National Action Plan to Combat Modern Slavery 2020-2025*:

- ✓ Undertaken targeted reviews of the following:
 - *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (Cth).
 - Divisions 270 & 271 of the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth).
 - Human Trafficking Visa Framework.
 - Support and legislative protections, defences and remedies available to victims and survivors of modern slavery.
- ✓ Conducted stakeholder consultations to inform the development of a model for enhanced civil protection and remedies for individuals in or at risk of forced marriage.



Recommendations

To ensure a robust and comprehensive modern slavery framework:

- Implement, at a minimum, the agreed recommendations of the Review into the *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (Cth) and the Targeted Review into Divisions 270 & 271 of the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth), with exposure drafts of proposed reforms released by June 2026.



Thank you



**ANTI-SLAVERY
AUSTRALIA**