

Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir,

Following an invitation from Chris Crewther MP, Federal Member for Dunkley to make a submission to the Federal Inquiry Into Establishing a Modern Slavery Act in Australia into the accommodation of backpackers in the Sunraysia region.

Having examined the Terms of Reference, in particular the first dot point the forced labour and wage exploitation, the submission that I make could only fall under the wage exploitation reference and even that could be considered vague as the work I have done does more concern backpacker hostels and to some extent when those hostels also operate as labour hire contractors.

I have included my submission to the Victorian Inquiry into the Labour Hire Industry and Insecure Work, the Chapter referring to my evidence in the Inquiry report and of course the recommendations from the Inquiry.

The Inquiry has recommended the registration of hostels and harvest labour contractors and we are awaiting progress from the Victorian government on this matter.

I think it is important to point out that a response from Victoria will only apply in Victoria and for those horticultural regions like Sunraysia which are on a state border a single state solution may well only encourage border hopping.

For the measures recommended in the Victoria report to be effective there really needs to be a Commonwealth response to this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Crisp, MLA
Member for Mildura