



# PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

## MEDIA RELEASE

### FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND AID SUB-COMMITTEE

### JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE

Inquiry into establishing a Modern Slavery Act in Australia

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## Hearing in Mildura on Modern Slavery

The federal Parliament's [Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade](#) will travel to Mildura to hear from local groups about the prevalence of modern slavery and labour exploitation in the region.

As part of its [inquiry into modern slavery](#) the Committee is investigating measures to improve Australia's framework for combatting exploitative practices such as human trafficking and forced labour. This includes examining whether provisions of the UK *Modern Slavery Act 2015* could be introduced in Australia and improved upon, such as the requirement for businesses to report on measures to eradicate modern slavery from their supply chains.

Chair of the Foreign Affairs and Aid Sub-Committee undertaking the inquiry, Mr Chris Crewther MP, said the Sub-committee welcomed the opportunity to travel to Mildura and hear first-hand from growers and organisations in the region working to combat exploitative practices in the horticultural industry, including the Salvation Army, the National Union of Workers and the Victorian Farmers Federation.

"The Sub-Committee looks forward to coming to Mildura to hear more about how modern slavery and labour exploitation, including debt bondage, is impacting on businesses and the local community," Mr Crewther said. "These experiences will help inform our inquiry into how the Australian Government can better combat these crimes here in our own backyard and around the world."

The Sub-Committee is also interested in hearing directly from members of the public about their experiences of modern slavery practices in the region. The Sub-Committee has allocated 45 minutes at the end of the hearing to allow members of the public give a three minute statement. Interested people can register with the Committee secretariat at the hearing to be allocated a time to speak, noting places are limited.

**Public hearing details: Monday 30 October, 9:00 am to 3:30 pm, Benetook Room, Alfred Deakin Centre, 190 Deakin Ave, Mildura**

The full program is available from the committee's website: [www.aph.gov.au/modernslavery](http://www.aph.gov.au/modernslavery).

These hearings will be streamed live at [www.aph.gov.au/live](http://www.aph.gov.au/live).

#### Media enquiries:

Mr Chris Crewther MP (Dunkley, Victoria), Chair of the Foreign Affairs and Aid Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade  
Contact: Laura Lloyd or Nathan Hersey, (03) 9781 2333

**For background:**

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

(02) 6277 2313

[jscfadt@aph.gov.au](mailto:jscfadt@aph.gov.au)

Interested members of the public may wish to track the committee via the [website](#). Click on the blue 'Track Committee' button in the bottom right hand corner and use the forms to login to My Parliament or to register for a My Parliament account.

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