



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

Landmark report on modern slavery delivered

The Chair of the Foreign Affairs and Aid Sub-Committee of the Parliament's [Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade](#), Mr Chris Crewther MP, has tabled the final report for the Committee's inquiry into establishing a Modern Slavery Act in Australia.

The Committee's report, *Hidden in Plain Sight*, makes 49 recommendations to improve Australia's efforts to combat modern slavery here and around the world. Latest estimates suggest that over 40 million people around the world, including 4 300 in Australia, are victims of some form of modern slavery, which includes human trafficking, slavery, debt bondage, forced labour and other slavery-like practices.

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government introduce a Modern Slavery Act in Australia similar to but improving on the UK *Modern Slavery Act 2015*. The Committee recommends that the proposed Act should establish an Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner and supply chain reporting requirements for entities operating in Australia. The Committee further recommends improvements to:

- support for victims (including a national compensation scheme);
- criminal justice responses (including training for frontline officials); and
- protections for workers vulnerable to exploitation (including changes to Australia's visa framework and establishing a national labour hire licensing scheme).

The Committee heard particular concerns about 'orphanage trafficking' and also recommends a range of measures to ensure that Australians do not perpetuate the exploitation of children in overseas orphanages through donations or tourism. This includes establishing a register of approved orphanages and a national awareness campaign on the risks of orphanage trafficking.

Chair of the Foreign Affairs and Aid Sub-Committee, Mr Chris Crewther MP, said that "modern slavery describes some of the greatest crimes our time."

"This report highlights that modern slavery is often 'hidden in plain sight' across a range of industries in Australia and in the global supply chains of businesses and organisations operating here. An Australian Modern Slavery Act, as recommended by this report, will make a significant contribution to ensuring that, here in Australia, we are doing all we can to combat these crimes."

The report is available from the Committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/modernslavery.

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Media release issue date: 7 December 2017