

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017

Attorney General's Department

Program: 1.2 AGD Operating Expenses - National Security and Criminal Justice

Question No. BE17-022

Senator Singh asked the following question on 03 July 2017:

Senator SINGH: How many working groups are there?

Ms Hawkins: There are a range of working groups.

Senator SINGH: Can I have a list of those and when they have met.

Ms Hawkins: We are happy to take on notice when they all met. There are a range of working groups that are looking at human trafficking and slavery issues at the moment. There is a labour exploitation working group that is chaired by the Law Council of Australia. There was the supply chains working group.

Senator SINGH: What happened to that one?

Ms Hawkins: It completed its work and reported to the minister. And then there are a number of working groups that actually flow from the IDC. There is an interdepartmental committee on human trafficking and slavery. We appeared before the committee that you are on looking at human slavery. A lot of those agencies are on the IDC. Under the IDC, there is an operational working group. I think before dinner, when we were talking about how we monitor what we are doing under the National Action Plan on Human Traffic and Slavery, I mentioned that operational working group. That operational working group is one of the ways that we are regularly identifying problems with the existing legislative regime and the various packages, and looking at ideas to refine things. And there is also an international working group. That was established under DFAT's international trafficking strategy.

Senator SINGH: So there were four groups but now there are three, and one of them has a kind of subgroup off the human trafficking and slavery working group, which is the operational working group?

Ms Hawkins: We are happy to, on notice, give you this table that maps out.

Senator SINGH: That would be helpful.

The response to the honourable Senator’s question is as follows:

The multi-stakeholder National Roundtable on Human Trafficking and Slavery (National Roundtable) and the Australian Government’s Interdepartmental Committee on Human Trafficking and Slavery (IDC) exist to support delivery of Australia’s efforts to combat human trafficking and slavery. These fora are also supported by ongoing or ad hoc and subject-matter specific working groups to assist in implementing Australia’s domestic and international response to human trafficking and slavery. A diagram showing the various groups is attached.

The various groups met on the following occasions.

Operational Working Group on Human Trafficking and Slavery (OWG)	Meets approximately every six weeks to discuss and resolve operational issues that arise in the management of individual cases.
Human Trafficking and Slavery International Working Group (IWG)	Meets approximately every two months. The inaugural meeting occurred on 2 May 2016. The IWG most recently met on 15 August 2017.
Supply Chains Working Group (SCWG)	<p>Met seven times, on the following dates and at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 November 2014, Melbourne VIC. • 27 February 2015, Melbourne VIC. • 2 June 2015, Sydney NSW. • 29 July 2015, Melbourne VIC. • 9 September 2015, Canberra ACT. • 28 October 2015, Melbourne VIC. • 9 December 2015, Sydney NSW. <p>This SCWG has completed its work plan.</p>
<u>Communication and Awareness Working Group (CAWG)</u>	<p>Met for the first time on 1 October 2013.</p> <p>At the August 2016 Senior Officials’ Meeting, Roundtable members agreed to refocus the CAWG. This refocusing saw the working group re-established as the Labour Exploitation Working Group.</p>

<p>Labour Exploitation Working Group (LEWG)</p>	<p>Consistent with the LEWG’s Terms of Reference, members met four times between November 2016 and June 2017 at the following dates and locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 November 2016, Canberra ACT • 23 February 2017, Sydney NSW • 11 April 2017, Melbourne Vic • 27 June 2017, Canberra ACT.
<p>Working Group on Protections for Private Domestic Workers Working for Diplomats or Consular Officials.</p>	<p>The Working Group meets on an ad hoc basis, most recently on 25 October 2016.</p>

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS – AUSTRALIA’S RESPONSE TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SLAVERY

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SLAVERY 2015-19

Provides the strategic framework for Australia’s response to human trafficking and slavery and includes action items for government.

NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SLAVERY

The primary consultative mechanism between government and civil society on human trafficking and slavery. Convened annually at Ministerial level since 2008 and chaired by AGD.

SENIOR OFFICIALS’ MEETING OF THE NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SLAVERY

A less formal meeting of the Roundtable held annually at senior officials’ level rather than Ministerial level. Chaired by AGD.

LABOUR EXPLOITATION WORKING GROUP

Chaired by the Fiona McLeod SC, Law Council of Australia (AGD is secretariat), and comprised of government agencies and civil society. To report in late 2017.

SUPPLY CHAINS WORKING GROUP (NOW CONCLUDED)

Chaired by AGD and comprised of government agencies, business, unions and NGOs.

DOMESTIC WORKERS WORKING GROUP

Government-only working group chaired by AGD. Produced awareness-raising materials for domestic workers working for diplomats (currently being finalised).

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SLAVERY (IDC)

Chaired by AGD and includes the 11 Cth agencies working on human trafficking and slavery (ACC, AFP, AIC, CDPP, DFAT, DIBP, Employment, PM&C, DSS, FWO). The IDC is responsible for the implementation of the National Action Plan and ensuring emerging issues are addressed on a whole-of-government basis. It also produces an annual IDC Report which is tabled in Parliament and publishes statistical reporting updates. The IDC agencies all attend the Roundtable.

OPERATIONAL WORKING GROUP

Chaired by AGD. Government-only working group. Includes AFP, CDPP, DSS, DIBP. Resolves operational issues arising in management of individual cases. Meets approximately every six weeks.

INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP

Chaired by DFAT. Government-only working group. Includes AFP, AGD, Employment, DIBP and PM&C. Established under DFAT’s international trafficking strategy to enhance leadership and coordination on regional and international engagement.