

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017**

**Program 1.7: National Security and Criminal Justice**

**Question No. BE17-154**

**Senator Pratt asked the following question on 05 June 2017:**

- 1) Has the AGD provided advice on the establishment of an anti-slavery commissioner?
- 1) If so, what funding has been allocated to such an office?
- 2) Has the AGD provided advice on a possible Australian Modern Slavery Act? How developed are any proposals? Has any bill been prepared in draft form?

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

The Attorney-General's Department (AGD) provides a range of briefing and advice to the Minister for Justice on human trafficking and slavery issues. The Minister for Justice also routinely meets with key stakeholders to discuss Australia's response to human trafficking and slavery. On 28 November 2016, the Minister for Justice asked AGD to review the effectiveness of the business reporting requirement under the *UK Modern Slavery Act 2015* and other international best practice. This review has now been completed.

On 16 August 2017, the Australian Government announced that it will introduce legislation that will require large corporations and other entities operating in Australia to publish annual statements outlining their actions to address modern slavery in their operations and supply chains. The Government is committed to ensuring the proposed reporting requirement reflects community expectations and is as simple, sensible and effective as possible.

AGD is leading a national consultation process to enable the business community, civil society and other interested stakeholders to contribute to the design of the proposed reporting requirement.