

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016 - 2017

1.7 National Security and Criminal Justice

Question No. BE17-157

Senator Pratt asked the following question on 05 June 2017:

- 1) What community programs is the AGD supporting that work in this area?
The National Action Plan lists funding provided by the Department for measures to combat human trafficking and slavery. This list was compiled in 2015 and all funding measures listed will have expired by 2017-18.
- 2) Could you please update this list with any new funding announced since the National Action Plan?
- 3) If there have been no measures announced, why not?

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

Since 2008, the Australian Government has committed more than \$5.3 million to support specialist non-government organisations (NGOs) to undertake a range of programs and activities aimed at combating human trafficking, slavery and slavery-like practices, including forced marriage.

On 30 July 2017, to mark UN World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, the Minister for Justice announced that four NGOs would receive a total of \$500,000 over 2017-18 to prevent and address human trafficking and slavery in Australia.

In line with Australia's *National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery 2015-19*, the funded projects will raise community awareness, tackle the root causes of exploitation, and build the resilience of vulnerable groups:

- **Anti-Slavery Australia (ASA)** is using its grant to enhance www.mybluesky.org.au, Australia's first Government-funded national forced marriage information portal, referral mechanism and free legal advice service. ASA will also convene the inaugural National Forced Marriage Conference to improve stakeholder collaboration and strengthen community-based responses to forced marriage.
- **The Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH)** is using its grant to refine and roll out the *My Rights – My Future: forced marriage* curriculum toolkit in secondary schools across Australia; raise awareness of forced marriage among marriage celebrants; prevent labour exploitation of vulnerable visa holders in CALD communities and high-risk industries; and continue to offer long-term support to trafficked women and their children through their Companionship Program.
- **The Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights** is using its grant to deliver a community-based, awareness-raising project which aims to work with the Muslim community in Victoria to address the socio-cultural root causes of early and forced marriage.

- **The Salvation Army Freedom Partnership to End Modern Slavery** is using its grant to prevent and address labour exploitation in four key regional locations across Australia. This will include building locally-based stakeholder networks; developing a community capacity-building toolkit; and educating vulnerable migrant workers, employers and first responders.