



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

MODERN SLAVERY KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

WHAT IS MODERN SLAVERY?



Modern slavery is used to describe serious forms of exploitation.



Types of modern slavery include human trafficking, servitude, forced labour, debt bondage, forced marriage and the worst forms of child labour.



Modern slavery occurs when coercion, threats or deception are used to exploit victims and undermine or deprive them of their freedom



Modern slavery cases do not always involve physical violence. Perpetrators often use subtle threats and psychological pressure to control victims.

HOW PREVALENT IS MODERN SLAVERY?



The United Nations and the Walk Free Foundation estimate there are over 40 million people in situations of modern slavery around the world.



16 million of the world's modern slaves are exploited in private sector supply chains.



Modern slavery disproportionately impacts women and girls. 71% of modern slavery victims are female.



Modern slavery can occur in every industry and sector. It is often linked to other crimes and activities that adversely impact human rights, such as corruption and environmental damage.

DOES MODERN SLAVERY HAPPEN IN AUSTRALIA?



Australia is not immune from modern slavery. Modern slavery can occur in multiple industries and sectors, including hospitality, horticulture, sex work, domestic work, and cleaning.



Australia is the sixth country in the world to prepare an official national estimate of modern slavery. This national estimate found that between 2015 and 2017, there were up to 1,900 modern slavery victims in Australia.



Modern slavery is often hidden in plain sight in our communities. Four out of every five modern slavery victims in Australia go undetected. In 2019, Australian authorities received 213 reports of possible modern slavery cases resulting in 84 suspected victims being identified.



Every modern slavery case is different. There is no typical modern slavery victim and the length of time victims are exploited can vary. However, modern slavery victims are often vulnerable to exploitation due to their background or circumstances.

WHAT TYPES OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES CAN HAVE HIGH MODERN SLAVERY RISKS?



Modern slavery risks can be linked to certain sectors, such as cleaning, hospitality, agriculture, textiles production and some types of manufacturing. These sectors can have high modern slavery risks because of their characteristics and processes, such as widespread use of low skilled labour or reliance on outsourcing.



Modern slavery risks can be linked to certain products, such as rubber products, bricks and construction materials, minerals, cocoa and tea. These products can have high modern slavery risks because of the way they are produced, provided or used.



Modern slavery risks can be linked to certain countries and geographic regions. Some countries or regions may have high modern slavery risks due to poor governance, weak rule of law, conflict, migration flows and socio economic factors like poverty.



Modern slavery risks can be linked to specific entities. Some businesses or other entities may have high modern slavery risks because they have poor governance structures, a record of treating workers poorly or a track record of human rights violations.

WHAT IS AUSTRALIA DOING TO COMBAT MODERN SLAVERY?



Australia has enacted a world-leading Modern Slavery Act to require large businesses and other entities to explain what they are doing to combat modern slavery risks in their global operations and supply chains. The Government has created a Modern Slavery Business Engagement Unit to implement the Act.



Australia has a strong national response to modern slavery developed in collaboration with civil society and business. As part of this response, Australia has comprehensively criminalised all forms of modern slavery and established specialist police investigative teams.



Australia provides a dedicated support program and visa framework for modern slavery survivors. The program provides support including safe accommodation and medical and psychological care. The visa framework enables survivors to remain in Australia and access the support program.



Australia works with other countries in our region and around the world to combat modern slavery. This includes working with partner countries to strengthen their law and justice frameworks and driving regional efforts to combat modern slavery through the Bali Process and other international fora.