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People are NOT for sale

**ACRATH - Australian Catholic Religious
Against Trafficking in Humans
Countering human trafficking since 2005**

ACRATH appreciates the bipartisan support for policy work on human trafficking.

ACRATH believes positive change has grown out of the genuine collaboration between government and civil society.

Snapshot of ACRATH's work over the past year

Over the past year ACRATH exceeded all milestones related to the AGD funding:

132 Presentations across Australia

from Geraldton to Geelong, from Launceston to Bundaberg, as well as 5 capital cities and the ACT

22 Trafficked women & 13 of their children assisted

9 schools in 3 states trialling ACRATH forced marriage education kit

<https://www.mybluesky.org.au/learn-more/resources/>

152 Network meetings attended in Australia

Networking also in Thailand, NZ, the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, India, the UK, the Vatican, the UN in NY, the USA, Canada, Albania, Ireland, Indonesia, PNG and the Pacific region

52 Members of Parliament visited

83 items uploaded to the ACRATH Website

7,267 hours of volunteer time donated

Volunteer time conservatively costed at \$204,638

1. ACRATH is asking MPs to support ACRATH and the other funded NGOs to do counter trafficking work over the next three years. This is work the Australian government must do to meet international obligations. ACRATH is asking MPs to raise with Minister Keenan the need for a further 3 years funding.

- a. ACRATH needs funding to continue to raise awareness within urban and rural communities, to maintain website and social media platforms, and to network with other counter trafficking NGOs.
- b. ACRATH has developed an AGD funded kit for Australian secondary schools to raise awareness of forced marriage. <https://www.mybluesky.org.au/learn-more/resources/> We now need further funding to get this kit out into Australian schools and to train teachers, welfare staff, school leadership and parents about the 2013 legislation on forced marriage; we want schools to know what to do when they meet forced marriage situations, and we also want them to know how they can prevent it.
- c. ACRATH wants to make the supply chains of Australian goods and services slavery-free. In the UK and countries in Europe, coffee shops, hospitals, schools, and even whole towns proclaim themselves 'slavery free'. Australia has fallen behind. We need to raise awareness of the problem and help people to become communities where there is no slavery in their supply chains.
- d. ACRATH needs funding to provide the one-on-one personal support for the trafficked women and their children in Australia with whom we are already working.

2. ACRATH is asking MPs to address the needs of overseas workers facing forced and exploited labour in Australia. ACRATH is advocating for:

- a. The licensing of labour hire companies responsible for placing thousands of overseas workers in Australia. ACRATH believes that these companies need more oversight to ensure overseas workers are not exploited while they work in Australia.
ACRATH is asking Minister Cash to begin licensing these labour hire companies.
- b. Prosecutions of exploitative employers of overseas workers under the Migration Amendment (Reform of Employer Sanctions) Act 2013. ACRATH asks how many prosecutions and convictions have occurred using this or other legislation, especially given the recent media coverage of employers and labour hire companies involved in severe exploitation of overseas workers?
- c. The protection of the rights of overseas workers asking that, during and after compliance raids, investigators consider that the overseas workers may have been trafficked.
- d. Payment of back wages to overseas workers, even when they are repatriated, for the work they have done in Australia. ACRATH sees this as an issue of justice for the workers and a means of making the exploitative employers financially liable for huge back wages bills; this would be a deterrent for would-be exploitative employers.
- e. Mechanisms to link overseas workers in to Australian society to ensure they have an independent means for exploring their rights as workers. ACRATH knows that workers who have been linked in to community groups, church groups, Migrant Resource Centres or unions have been much less vulnerable to exploitation.

3. ACRATH is asking MPs to support the move to establish a national compensation scheme for people who have been trafficked into Australia. There is no current form of redress at a national level for federal trafficking offences. Because such offences have no state or territory equivalent, inconsistent state and territory schemes offer inadequate redress for victims. Anti-Slavery Australia and the Law Council of Australia have collaborated to develop a discussion paper on this issue. Anti-Slavery Australia has their point of view on their website at <http://www.antislavery.org.au/newsflash/277-the-case-for-a-national-compensation-scheme-policy-paper-by-anti-slavery-australia.html>

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