



[www.acrath.org.au](http://www.acrath.org.au)

People are NOT for sale

#### OUR VISION

A World free of human trafficking

#### OUR PURPOSE

To stop human trafficking, and the harm it causes, in Australia, the Asia Pacific region and globally, in collaboration with others.

#### OUR VALUES

Dignity of each human being  
Human rights  
Women's rights  
Justice  
Collaboration

**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.**

#### **In the past 12 months ACRATH *with funding from supporters*:**

- ⇒ **Assisted 28 trafficked women and their 24 children through our Companionship Program, supported by 17 trained volunteers**
- ⇒ Disseminated forced marriage awareness-raising materials in 4 states to ACRATH volunteers, marriage celebrants, parents, teachers, school counsellors and student groups in Government, Catholic and Independent schools
- ⇒ Partnered with schools and organisations across Australia to develop a resource supporting the transition to slavery free staffrooms and delivered training for staff and senior students on human trafficking and forced marriage.
- ⇒ Opened a new office in Perth, supporting girls and women at risk of forced marriage and delivered training for 110 front-line responders to provide safe intervention and appropriate long term support.
- ⇒ Collaborated with St Vincent's Health Australia to assist hospitals identify and support trafficked people and also 'slavery proof' the goods and services they use
- ⇒ Over 4,415 hours of member time donated, conservatively costed at \$128,035.

## **ELIMINATE FORCED LABOUR IN AUSTRALIA**

**1. ACRATH calls on the Minister for Finance to allocate an Act of Grace payment of \$107,900 to 22 Vanuatu men exploited by a labour hire firm in Australia.** The Federal Court's conviction of the labour hire firm for the "egregious exploitation" of 22 Vanuatu workers shows vulnerable foreign workers exploited in Australia while employed under the Australian Government's Seasonal Worker Program, a part of the Australian aid to the Pacific. The \$107,900 would address the non-payment of the workers' salaries, and the theft of their airfares and spending money.

**2. ACRATH calls on the government to implement the recommendation of Prof Allan Fels' Migrant Workers' Taskforce to introduce a national labour hire registration scheme.** ACRATH notes the Government's in principle agreement to the Migrant Workers' Taskforce recommendations; we believe this will address in part the exploitation currently being experienced by overseas workers and help to realise Goals 1.3 and 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### **3. BOOST AUSTRALIAN OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA)**

Australia currently spends just 0.21% of its gross national income, or 21 cents in every \$100,\* on Australian aid. ACRATH calls on the Government to boost the amount of Australia's Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) and to target ODA on the elimination of the causes of human trafficking, projects addressing the SDGs 1 and 17.

### **4. FUNDING FOR NGOS**

ACRATH's work has been compromised by not receiving Home Affairs funding for the past 12 months. We believe that occasional, ad hoc and only 12 month funding of NGOs makes it difficult for NGOs to achieve their work of crime prevention, advocacy and support for trafficked people. The model used in the past two years to award funding puts us in competition with other counter trafficking NGOs; this is counter productive. We seek one commitment:

**ACRATH calls for the inclusion of a 3-5 year funding schema in the Home Affairs departmental budget under the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery.** This would enable funded NGOs to undertake their work supporting government initiatives in a transparent, systematic and productive way.

**5. CONGRATULATIONS:** We congratulate Parliament for the passing the MODERN SLAVERY ACT (2018).

Christine Carolan  
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