



# PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

## MEDIA RELEASE

### FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND AID SUB-COMMITTEE

### JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE

Inquiry into establishing a Modern Slavery Act in Australia

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## Hearings on modern slavery

The Foreign Affairs and Aid Sub-Committee of the Parliament's [Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade](#) will hear from a range of organisations and experts over two days of public hearings in Melbourne on Tuesday 1 August and Wednesday 2 August 2017 for its inquiry into establishing a Modern Slavery Act in Australia, launched in February 2017.

The Sub-Committee is investigating measures to improve Australia's framework for combatting modern slavery. This includes examining whether provisions of the UK *Modern Slavery Act 2015* could be improved and introduced in Australia, such as the requirement for businesses to report on measures to eradicate modern slavery from their global supply chains.

Chair of the Foreign Affairs and Aid Sub-Committee, Mr Chris Crewther MP, said the sub-committee welcomed the opportunity to meet with a range of organisations and experts over the two days of hearings, including Amnesty International, the Freedom Partnership, the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Law Council of Australia.

"The Sub-Committee looks forward to hearing from the important work being undertaken by these organisations to combat modern slavery in Australia and around the world," Mr Crewther said. "The Sub-Committee will also hear from a number of organisations working to combat the exploitation of children overseas through orphanage tourism, including the Cambodian Children's Trust, Forget Me Not Foundation and Save the Children Australia."

"The Sub-Committee is particularly looking forward to hearing directly from survivors of modern slavery. The Sub-Committee welcomes the opportunity to meet with Hagar Australia's patron, Ms Rachel Griffiths, to discuss the important work they are doing supporting survivors of modern slavery around the world."

#### Public hearing details:

- **Tuesday 1 August, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Legislative Council Committee Room, Parliament of Victoria, Spring Street, Melbourne**
- **Wednesday 2 August, 9:00am to 5:00pm, Legislative Council Committee Room, Parliament of Victoria, Spring Street, Melbourne**

The full programs are available from the committee's website: [www.aph.gov.au/modernslavery](http://www.aph.gov.au/modernslavery).

This hearings will be streamed live at [www.aph.gov.au/live](http://www.aph.gov.au/live).

#### Media enquiries:

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**For background:**

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

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Interested members of the public may wish to track the committee via the [website](#). Click on the blue 'Track Committee' button in the bottom right hand corner and use the forms to login to My Parliament or to register for a My Parliament account.

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