



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Human Rights Sub-Committee

MEDIA RELEASE
Issued: 14 November 2012

*Chair: Ms Melissa Parke MP
Deputy: Hon Philip Ruddock MP*

Human Rights Committee examines modern day slavery

Australia's efforts to address slavery, slavery-like conditions and trafficking in persons will be on the agenda at public hearings of federal parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade on 20 and 21 November in Canberra.

Human Rights Sub-Committee chair, Melissa Parke, says the committee wants to examine Australia's efforts to prevent these heinous crimes both domestically and internationally.

"These public hearings will enable the committee to gauge the extent of modern day slavery, look at how victims are protected, the services that are provided as part of victim support and how to effectively prosecute and appropriately punish the offenders," Ms Parke said.

"We need to work collaboratively across governments within Australia and abroad, and with businesses and individuals to drastically reduce instances of slavery and trafficking. Active involvement by all these groups is a key component to combatting modern day slavery."

The witnesses will include the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education; Department of Immigration and Citizenship; Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs; Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions; the Australian Institute of Criminology; the Law Council of Australia; Fair Work Ombudsman and a number of NGOs.

The public hearings will be on **Tuesday, 20 November 2012** and **Wednesday, 21 November 2012** from **9.00 am** in Committee Room **1R4**, Parliament House, Canberra.

The hearing will be audio webcast live on:

http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament

Members of the public are welcome to attend. For a program and more details, visit the Committee's website: <http://www.aph.gov.au/jfadt>

For media comment: please contact the Sub-Committee Chair, Ms Melissa Parke MP on (08) 9335 8555 (Electorate Office) or (02) 6277 2189 (Parliament House)

For further information: please contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 2313, email jscfadt@aph.gov.au or visit the inquiry website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/jfadt>