



Submission No 53

**Inquiry into Slavery, Slavery-like conditions and People
Trafficking**

Organisation: Australian Crime Commission – supplementary
submission

Parliamentary Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Slavery, Slavery – like conditions and People Trafficking

Question No. 1

Mr Ruddock asked the following question at the hearing on 20 November 2012.

Mr RUDDOCK: Those perceived to be most at risk are those on 457s. Why is that, and how could that be addressed?

Ms Harfield: I do not know that I am able to answer that, I am afraid. Can I take that on notice? (p. 15)

The answer to Mr Ruddock's question is as follows:

The Australian Crime Commission (ACC) has not undertaken a risk assessment of those on 457 visas.

The 2008 Visa Subclass 457 Integrity Review (the Review) highlighted vulnerabilities regarding those on 457 visas. Queries relating to the Review should be directed to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

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Question No. 2

The Human Rights Sub-Committee asked the following question following the hearing on 20 November 2012.

Are there any identifiable patterns of trafficking in Australia?

The answer to the Human Rights Sub-Committee question is as follows:

The Australian Crime Commission (ACC) notes in its unclassified *Organised Crime in Australia* 2011 Report that:

- In Australia, the majority of victims identified by authorities have been women working in the sex industry; however, authorities are becoming increasingly aware of people who have been trafficked for exploitation in other industry sectors.
- Exploitation within the sex, hospitality and domestic services industries are key targets for people traffickers, with reports of exploitation in other industries such as the agricultural and construction industries.
- The risk trajectory for this market is stable.

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Question No. 3

The Human Rights Sub-Committee asked the following question following the hearing on 20 November 2012.

Do you have any instances of people being trafficked domestically within Australia? How prevalent is domestic trafficking?

The answer to the Human Rights Sub-committee question is as follows:

The ACC does not routinely collect intelligence relating to the trafficking of people domestically within Australia.

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Question No. 4

The Human Rights Sub-Committee asked the following question following the hearing on 20 November 2012.

How many people are trafficked to Australia? How are they brought to Australia?

The answer to the Human Rights Sub-committee question is as follows:

The ACC does not routinely collect data regarding how many people are trafficked to Australia, or the means by which they are brought to Australia.

The clandestine nature of people trafficking, along with difficulties in detection and probable high levels of underreporting makes the collection of accurate information and data on people trafficking difficult. This is not a problem exclusive to Australia.

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Question No. 5

The Human Rights Sub-Committee asked the following question following the hearing on 20 November 2012.

Is trafficking largely run by organised crime or individuals?

The answer to the Human Rights Sub-committee question is as follows:

There is classified intelligence to suggest some serious and organised criminal involvement in people trafficking.

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Question No. 6

The Human Rights Sub-Committee asked the following question following the hearing on 20 November 2012.

What mechanisms are administered by the Commission to monitor trafficking and slavery?

The answer to the Human Rights Sub-committee question is as follows:

On 4 December 2003, the Australian Crime Commission (ACC) Board authorised the People Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation Special Intelligence Operation (PTSE SIO), enabling the ACC to use its coercive powers to:

- add value to PTSE investigations and prosecutions undertaken by partner agencies, and
- scope the nature and extent of PTSE nationally.

The PTSE SIO concluded on 30 June 2006. At this time, the ACC provided stakeholders and partner agencies with an overview of the intelligence gathered by the ACC in relation to the PTSE SIO. The findings and trends identified in the overview were based solely on the ACC's collection through its examination and intelligence capabilities. Since this time, the ACC has not routinely administered mechanisms to monitor trafficking and slavery.

In June 2012, the Australian Federal Police (AFP), the Australian Crime Commission (ACC) and state and territory police agencies collaborated to establish a National Human Trafficking Desk (HT Desk) on the Australian Criminal Intelligence Database and Australian Law Enforcement Intelligence Network (ACID/ALEIN). This system is administered by the ACC.

Although in its infancy, the HT Desk functions as a centralised point for the collection and dissemination of information and intelligence relating to people trafficking. The HT Desk is accessible to nominated users from all contributing agencies.

Additionally, the ACC's Making Australia Hostile to Serious and Organised Crime (MAHSOC) Determination includes intelligence support to law enforcement agencies undertaking investigations into people trafficking.

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Question No. 7

The Human Rights Sub-Committee asked the following question following the hearing on 20 November 2012.

Is there a link between labour exploitation and criminal activity?

The answer to the Human Rights Sub-committee question is as follows:

There is classified intelligence to suggest serious and organised criminal involvement in people trafficking for forced labour in Australia.

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Question No. 8

The Human Rights Sub-Committee asked the following question following the hearing on 20 November 2012.

How can Australia gather better data on slavery or trafficking?

The answer to the Human Rights Sub-committee question is as follows:

In June 2012, the Australian Federal Police (AFP), the Australian Crime Commission (ACC) and state and territory police agencies collaborated to establish a National Human Trafficking Desk (HT Desk) on the Australian Criminal Intelligence Database and Australian Law Enforcement Intelligence Network (ACID/ALEIN). This system is administered by the ACC.

Although in its infancy, the HT Desk will provide a centralised point for the collection and dissemination of information and intelligence relating to people trafficking.

Notwithstanding the HT Desk, the collection of accurate information and data on people trafficking is difficult, largely due to high levels of underreporting.

The Australian Institute of Criminology has been funded to develop a better practice framework for monitoring of trafficking of persons in Australia and its regions. This project will include the establishment of a minimum data set.

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Question No. 9

The Human Rights Sub-Committee asked the following question following the hearing on 20 November 2012.

Do we have enough data to accurately gauge the extent of how many people are enslaved or trafficked in Australia?

The answer to the Human Rights Sub-committee question is as follows:

No, the collection of accurate information and data on people trafficking is difficult, largely due to high levels of underreporting.