



## **Submission No 70**

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

**Organisation:** No Slavery Australia – Supplementary submission

## **Inquiry into Slavery, Slavery-like Conditions and People Trafficking.**

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Prepared Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2013

NSA thanks the committee for the opportunity to appear as witness on 23 April 2013 to discuss issues regarding slavery and human trafficking into the supply chains of companies trading in Australia. We request that the committee makes the following summary of recommendations to the Australian Parliament.

- A task force comprising of Government, Not for Profit and Industry be established with the goal of evaluating the true costs of slavery to the Australian economy. Australian industry cannot compete with illegal slave made imports. The cost of supporting local industry and employment in the form of grants, bail outs and welfare is estimated to be much higher than the cost of establishing a regulatory framework in Australia.
- Government procurement policy moves toward eliminating unethical suppliers.
- *The Corporations Act 2001* be amended to include the actions of international subsidiaries to be a legal responsibility of multinationals trading in Australia. Further, that reporting on supply chain transparency be a mandatory requirement for multinationals trading in Australia.
- A labelling strategy be developed with the aim of increasing awareness and information available to consumers about their purchases. In the short term labelling to acknowledge products that have been produced ethically with a positive label. In the longer term labelling products that cannot guarantee they have been produced ethically with a negative label.
- A strategy for the certification of products and services that enter Australia be developed. In the short term this could include incentives for products and services which are produced ethically such as tariff reductions. In the intermediate term this could include disincentives for products and services which cannot guarantee they have been produced ethically such as increased tariffs and reduced quotas. In the longer term this could include total restriction or prohibitively high tariffs and import taxes on unethically produced goods and services.
- A regulatory body to monitor the above requirements be established comprising of Government, Not for Profit Organisations and Industry.

The Australian people are entitled to information about the goods and services that they are purchasing. There can be no doubt that a significant amount of goods and services imported into Australia is tainted by slavery and human trafficking in supply chains. This is a financial burden to Australian Industry, Government and Citizens. There can be no doubt that this practice is illegal and morally reprehensible and that consumers would choose not to support human trafficking and slavery if they were provided with the information to make informed choices. Contact us for further documentation in support of the above recommendations.

Sincerely

Kurt Gruber