

**ACRATH supports victims and survivors of modern slavery through the many different services we provide Australia wide, including;**



## OFFERING SUPPORT

We walk alongside victims and survivors of human trafficking; in 2023 we are providing support to 41 women and their 40 children. We also reach out to seasonal workers from Timor Leste and the Pacific, linking them with local communities in Australia.

To read more about the Companionship Program, see the article outlining the unique support victims and survivors receive through the ACRATH Companionship program in the Stop Trafficking guest article: <https://acrath.org.au/stop-trafficking-june-2023/>



Emergency Dental Work



Rent Assistance



Basic Furniture



Emergency food



Health Surgery



Clothing Vouchers



Sharing a regular coffee



Prescription Glasses



Computer to Support Tertiary Education

## RAISING AWARENESS

We provide forced marriage and modern slavery education to healthcare workers, educators, family violence workers and marriage celebrants, including a process for victims and survivors to access immediate support.

We facilitate workshops for secondary-age students, encouraging them to take action in their communities - slavery-free kitchens and ethical purchasing of uniform items.

See for more on slavery-free kitchens: <https://acrath.org.au/take-action/slavery-free-kitchens/>

Build teacher capacity to teach units of work to senior secondary students informed by social justice teachings and sharing information about services for people at risk of forced marriage.

## ADVOCATING

We advocate with members of Parliament to ensure Australia's justice frameworks address the needs of victims and survivors and are a member of the National Roundtable on Human Trafficking and Slavery. We also build capacity of ACRATH members to visit their local MPs, to engage and inform them of the modern slavery in Australia.

We work with partner organisations to promote and share digital campaigns calling for measures to address the exploitation, particularly in workers on farms and in the production of chocolate, garments and coffee,

## Case study

Australian Federal Police contacted ACRATH to seek a support person for a woman returning to the country where a crime was committed for a court appearance. In 8 hours, the network had reached a woman who would be available to accompany her to the case and house her securely.

# IN 2023 ACRATH WANTS TO COMMUNICATE THE FOLLOWING:

## **1. Australia needs a National Compensation Scheme for Victim/Survivors of Modern Slavery**

ACRATH wants to ensure that all victim-survivors of modern slavery can access compensation for the crime that was committed against them. ACRATH joins with many other civil society groups to endorse the Anti-Slavery Australia carefully researched proposal for a Federal Compensation Scheme. ACRATH calls for a national compensation scheme to be developed in 2023, and implemented in 2024.

## **2. Australia needs a National Labour Hire Licensing Scheme**

ACRATH wants to ensure that there is federal government oversight of labour hire companies who recruit overseas seasonal workers to work in Australia. ACRATH is aware of serious exploitative employment practices amongst labour hire companies. A similar recommendation for national oversight was proposed by the Federal Government's Taskforce led by Professor Alan Fels in the Migrant Workers' Taskforce Report in 2019, tabled in Parliament. Although all recommendations were accepted, the recommendation to establish a national labour hire scheme has not yet been implemented.

## **3. ACRATH is delighted by the 2023 Budget announcement of a pilot scheme for an additional pathway onto the Support for Trafficked People Program (STPP)**

For 17 years ACRATH has been calling for an additional pathway onto the Support for Trafficked People Program (STPP). We know that many people who were trafficked into Australia have not received the support they need after their traumatic trafficking experiences because prior to 2023, they were required to speak with the Australian Federal Police in order to access the STPP. Civil society members of the National Roundtable on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery have contributed a deeply thought-out model for an additional pathway; ACRATH calls on the government to accept this model to inform the pilot scheme.

## **4. Australia needs an independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner**

ACRATH was again pleased by the federal government budget announcements in late 2022 and again in mid-2023 to fund the preparation work for an office of an Anti-Slavery Commissioner. We maintain that such an office must be independent of government and report to Parliament. We believe this office should have wide ranging responsibility to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute slavery offenses. We believe the Commissioner should have the brief to enhance victims' and survivors' rights.

ACRATH has teams of volunteers who have contributed 3958 hours between the months of January to June this year in Western Australia, South Australia, New South Wales, ACT Queensland, Victoria and online.

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