

# Know your rights:

## Information for people who have been trafficked to Australia

### Have you been trafficked?

A simple definition of people trafficking is when a person has been brought to Australia and is in a situation of exploitation. People traffickers bring people to Australia to work in many different kinds of jobs. Traffickers might threaten or hurt you, force you to repay money that they say you owe them or take away your travel documents. Under Australian law, people trafficking is a crime.

### What should I do?

If you think you have been trafficked you can call the Australian Federal Police on 1800 813 784 (free call 24 hours) from anywhere in Australia. If you are in danger and need help straight away call 000. You can also call the Australian Government Workplace Ombudsman on 1300 724 200 (8:30am-5pm) if you think that you are not being treated fairly at work. If you do not feel comfortable talking to the police, there are other organisations that may be able to help you. Information on other organisations is available below.

### What support is available?

The Australian Government has a Support for Victims of People Trafficking Program which is for trafficked people from all over Australia. The Australian Federal Police will refer people onto the Program. If you are able to assist in an investigation and criminal trial you may be eligible to receive support under the Program. This can include income assistance, access to accommodation, medical treatment, basic legal advice, counselling, training and social support. If you are receiving assistance under the Support for Victims of People Trafficking Program, your case manager is there to help you.

### How can other organisations help me?

If you are not eligible for the Support for Victims of People Trafficking Program, there are many organisations that can help you with:

- Seeing a doctor
- Finding accommodation
- Finding an interpreter
- Immigration advice
- Reporting your experience
- Getting financial help
- Getting legal advice

Non-government organisations which specialise in working with trafficked people are:

- Anti-Slavery Project, in Sydney: (02) 9514 9662 (9am-5pm)
- Project Respect, in Melbourne: (03) 9416 3401 (9am-4pm)
- Samaritan Accommodation, in Sydney: (02) 9211 5794 (24 hours)
- Scarlet Alliance, Australian Sex Workers Association, in Sydney: (02) 9326 9455 (9am-5pm)

### What can I expect from the organisations helping me?

Organisations that offer you assistance should only act on your behalf if you want them to. You can always refuse assistance if you are not happy with the service or ask for information about other service providers. Organisations should respect your privacy and confidentiality and you can tell organisations not to record any information about you.

### How can a lawyer help me?

A lawyer can tell you about your legal rights. There are also migration agents who can tell you about your visa and whether you are entitled to work. If you don't have a visa, a migration agent can help you to apply for one. If you are on the Australian Government Support for Victims of People Trafficking Program, you are entitled to see a lawyer. The Anti-Slavery Project also offers specialist legal services for trafficked people.

Each state and territory of Australia has a legal aid commission to assist people requiring legal advice. The contact details of the legal aid commission in your state or territory are:

- Legal Aid NSW: 1300 888 529 (9am-5pm)
- Victoria Legal Aid: 1800 677 402 (free call 8:45am-5:15pm)
- Legal Aid ACT: 1300 654 314 (9am-4pm)
- Legal Aid Queensland: 1300 65 11 88 (9am-5pm)
- Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania: 1300 366 611 (9am-5pm)
- Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia: 1300 650 579 (8:30am-4:30pm)
- Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission: 1800 019 343 (free call 9am-4pm)
- Legal Services Commission of South Australia: 1300 366 424 (9am-4:30pm)

## What about my visa?

If you are able to assist in an investigation and criminal trial you may be eligible for a special people trafficking visa, or another kind of visa depending on your circumstances. As with all decisions about visas, the Australian Government Department of Immigration and Citizenship assesses each visa application on a case-by-case basis.

## What if I need an interpreter?

You have a right to ask for an interpreter. You can also ask to be given information in your preferred language. If the organisation who is helping you cannot find an interpreter you can ask to be referred to an organisation that can.

## What happens if I have to go to Court?

If you decide to give evidence about what has happened to you, you may have to go to Court. There is additional support for victims of trafficking who give evidence in court and the organisation assisting you can provide advice.

## What if I want to work?

Some visas will allow you to work in Australia. If you are unsure about whether your visa allows you to work, check with your migration agent, lawyer or the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, or ask the organisation helping you. You can call the Department of Immigration and Citizenship on 131 881 (9am-4pm).

## What if I have children?

If your child is in your country of origin you will need to talk to your migration agent or lawyer about whether your child is eligible for a visa. Obtaining a visa for your child is not always possible and it may take a long time. If your child is in Australia, you should speak to the organisation assisting you about how they can help support your child as well.

## What if I want to go home?

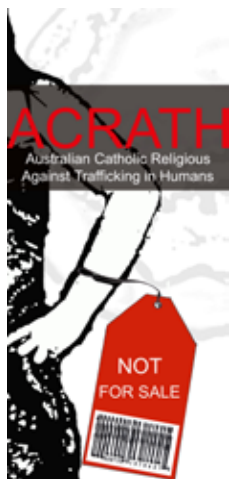
The Australian Government offers some assistance for people who have been trafficked and who want to return to their country of origin. If you think you might want to go home you should seek advice from your lawyer or migration agent, or your consulate in Australia.



Australian Government



## Anti-Slavery project



PROJECT  
RESPECT

