



Guide to engaging with the Modern Slavery Committee

The NSW Parliament's Modern Slavery Committee is reviewing the *Modern Slavery Act 2018* and would like to hear from individuals with lived experience of modern slavery.

This document is a guide for individuals who are interested in sharing their experience with the committee.

Background to the review of the *Modern Slavery Act 2018*

The term modern slavery covers a range of legal offences in New South Wales, including forced marriage, forced labour, servitude, sexual servitude, human trafficking, debt bondage, deceptive recruiting, organ and tissue trafficking and online sexual exploitation of children.

Modern slavery is an ongoing issue in New South Wales. In response, the NSW Parliament passed the *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (the Act).

Some of the aims of the Act include:

- combatting modern slavery
- providing assistance and support for victim-survivors of modern slavery
- providing for the detection and exposure of modern slavery
- raising awareness of modern slavery
- making forced marriage of a child and certain slavery and slavery-like conduct offences.

The Modern Slavery Committee is looking closely at whether the Act can be improved.

How can people participate?

We want to hear from people with lived experience of modern slavery before making recommendations to the government about improving the Act.



In writing

You can share your views and experiences by making a written submission. Your submission can include:

- information about your experience with modern slavery and its impact on your life
- what you believe can be done to improve laws about modern slavery in NSW.

Submissions can be sent to modern.slavery@parliament.nsw.gov.au by 20 October 2024.



Can I participate confidentially?

There are options available to maintain your confidentiality if you wish. The committee can publish submissions in full, or in part, or keep your entire submission confidential only to the committee.



In person

You may also indicate your interest in sharing your experience in person.

To express your interest in doing this - which may also include option for some people to meet with committee members, please email modern.slavery@parliament.nsw.gov.au by 29 September 2024. Please include your first and last name, preferred contact details and a brief summary of your experience - or call the secretariat on 02 9230 2276 to discuss this further.

If you would like to speak with the committee, you can do so confidentially or in public.

Any information provided confidentially cannot be published. Information gathered publicly will be published on the review's webpage and may be referred to in the committee's report.

What happens next?

After you have made a submission to the review, the secretariat will read your submission and call you to discuss any confidentiality matters. Your submission is then provided to the committee.

If you have expressed interest in meeting with the committee, the secretariat will contact you to discuss next steps.

Meetings with individuals will take place in October and November.

What can the committee achieve?

The committee will learn from the experiences of individuals with lived experience to make recommendations to the NSW Government about how modern slavery laws can be improved. We are not able to investigate or recommend legal action regarding individual cases.

Will support be available?

We appreciate that discussions around modern slavery may be triggering for some individuals. We have put in place measures to provide support to individuals who engage with us. The secretariat will discuss this with you as you engage in the process.

Who is on the committee?

There are seven members of Parliament from the lower and upper houses of NSW Parliament on the committee:

Chair	Joe McGirr (Independent, Legislative Assembly Member)
Deputy Chair	Jenny Leong (The Greens, Legislative Assembly Member)
Members	<p>Tina Ayyad (Liberal Party, Legislative Assembly Member)</p> <p>Robert Borsak (Shooters, Fishers and Farmers, Legislative Council Member)</p> <p>Greg Donnelly (Australian Labor Party, Legislative Council Member)</p> <p>Sarah Kaine (Australian Labor Party, Legislative Council Member)</p> <p>Aileen MacDonald (Liberal Party, Legislative Council Member)</p> <p>Lynda Voltz (Australian Labor Party, Legislative Assembly Member)</p>

Who is the secretariat?

The secretariat supports the committee and will be available to answer your questions. The main contact is Lauren Evans, Principal Council Officer. You can contact Lauren on 02 9230 2276 or email modern.slavery@parliament.nsw.gov.au.

Reporting, help, support

To report modern slavery:

- **1800 FREEDOM:** Call 1800 FREEDOM (1800 3733366) or antislavery@dcj.nsw.gov.au for confidential support and assistance from the NSW Anti-slavery Commissioner.
- **In an emergency:** call Triple Zero (000) if you have immediate concerns for your safety or the safety of another person.

To report to law enforcement, contact:

- **New South Wales police:** call 131 444
- **Crimestoppers:** call 1800 333 000 or report online
- **Australian Federal Police (AFP):** call 131 237 (131AFP) or go to the AFP website at www.afp.gov.au/report-crime

Other resources and support available are listed on the review's webpage.