

# UNCLASSIFIED

## Santa Marta Group – 2017 Progress Report - Australian Federal Police

- Human trafficking and slavery are serious crimes that fundamentally curtail freedom, making them amongst the most grave of human rights violations.
- Australia remains committed to combating human trafficking and slavery and has had a comprehensive strategy in place to address these crimes since 2004.
- Australia's strategy to combat human trafficking and slavery is guided by the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery 2015-19, which provides the strategic framework for Australia's response to human trafficking and slavery and sets clear goals and action items which align to Australia's domestic laws and international obligations.
- Cooperation between government agencies and civil society, including the Church and religious based organisations, is key to preventing human trafficking and slavery, detecting, investigating and prosecuting the perpetrators, and protecting and supporting victims.
- The Australian Federal Police continues to receive human trafficking referrals from religious-affiliated non-government organisations such as the Salvation Army and Rahab. These organisations often work closely with human-trafficking related victims of crime by providing support services and are valued partners in the fight against human trafficking.
- In the FY2016-17, the AFP received 150 new human trafficking referrals. Approximately 47% of these related to forced marriage, 13% to sexual exploitation, 13% to labour exploitation, 13% to domestic servitude and the remainder made up of other types of exploitation.
- The number of referrals received by the AFP in FY2016-17 is an 11% decrease on the number of referrals received in the FY2015-16. Of the referrals received by the AFP in FY2016-17, 59% had been accepted for further investigation (as at 7 July 2017).
- During the FY2016-17, the AFP referred 35 persons, suspected of being victims or potential victims of human trafficking, to the Australian Government Support for Trafficked Persons Program. This Support Program aims to ensure potentially trafficked people are compassionately and practically supported to meet their needs for safety, financial assistance, mental and physical health and wellbeing, along with provision of assistance which allows them to be in the best possible state of physical and mental health to maximise their ability to participate effectively in the criminal justice process, should they agree to do so.
- Internationally, Australia contributes to combating human trafficking and slavery in the Asia Pacific region, including investment in building criminal justice responses to trafficking under the Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons, and investment in supporting safe and legal migration in ASEAN.
- The AFP recognises the need for a comprehensive, coordinated national law enforcement response to human trafficking, delivering a series of training programs and a 'Look a Little Deeper' campaign, a joint initiative with Victoria Police, educating law enforcement officers on human trafficking indicators and best practice.

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