

# Fact Sheet: NSW Anti-slavery Commissioner

## Who is the NSW Anti-slavery Commissioner?

The New South Wales Anti-slavery Commissioner is Dr James Cockayne. Dr Cockayne's five-year term commenced on 1 August 2022.

The role of Anti-slavery Commissioner was created by the *Modern Slavery Act 2018 (NSW)*. It gives the Commissioner the functions of:

- Advocating for and promoting action to combat modern slavery.
- Identifying and providing assistance and support for victims of modern slavery.
- Ensuring government laws and policies to fight modern slavery are effective.
- Providing support and oversight of NSW public procurement efforts to remove products of modern slavery from supply chains.
- Issuing codes of practice and maintaining a public register related to efforts to address modern slavery risks in supply-chains.
- Raising community awareness of modern slavery.



## What is modern slavery?

Modern slavery occurs when one person treats another person as if they owned them – restricting their freedom. Modern slavery is a term that covers a range of different legal offences. These include:

- Slavery
- Servitude
- Sexual servitude
- Forced labour
- Forced marriage
- Debt bondage
- Trafficking in persons
- Deceptive recruiting for labour or services
- Organ and tissue trafficking
- Online sexual exploitation of children

## Is there modern slavery in NSW?

Yes. There are an estimated 50 million people living in modern slavery worldwide. An estimated 41,000 people are living in modern slavery in Australia, with an estimated 16,400 in New South Wales.

## What are some of the examples of modern slavery in NSW?

The Office of the Anti-slavery Commissioner has received reliable reports of many different kinds of modern slavery in NSW, including:

- Workers trapped in forced labour on farms in regional NSW.
- Workers forced into domestic servitude in urban households.
- Women and children, groomed and coerced into sexual exploitation, in person and through social media platforms.
- Cleaners and security guards working in office blocks, caught in the grip of debt bondage.
- Young men, women and girls forced to marry here or overseas.
- People living with disability who are being exploited in segregated workplaces or in institutional care.
- Forced labour and forced child labour of First Nations peoples.

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## What is the Anti-slavery Commissioner doing to end modern slavery in NSW?

The Anti-slavery Commissioner is:

**Building prevention capacity** –working with NSW government and non-government organisations to help them identify people who are vulnerable to modern slavery and prevent victimisation. This involves equipping frontline workers and establishing an effective support and referral hotline.

**Enabling remedy** –working with service providers to improve access for people with lived experience of modern slavery to effective remedy. This includes strengthening access to effective support and fostering survivor leadership.

**Fostering responsible business practices** –working with government and private companies to show leadership in identifying and addressing modern slavery in supply chains and investment. This includes removing products of modern slavery from public procurement and fostering responsible business practices in the private sector.

**Changing the narrative** –raising awareness about modern slavery across NSW in a way that empowers survivors and builds the business and policy cases for anti-slavery.

**Developing a community of purpose** –laying the foundations for sustainable and inclusive implementation of the *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (NSW), bringing stakeholders together to work towards the goals of the Act and ensuring that efforts to combat modern slavery can be sustainable and successful.



## Are you, or is someone you know, at risk?

If you or someone you know is in, or at risk of human trafficking or slavery you can contact:

- the Office of the NSW Anti-slavery Commissioner on [antislavery@justice.nsw.gov.au](mailto:antislavery@justice.nsw.gov.au). We will help direct you to the safety and support services you need, such as accommodation, legal and immigration advice, counselling and financial support. The Anti-slavery Commissioner is not required to pass on report information shared with him, unless there are reasonable grounds to suspect a child or young person is at risk of significant harm; or
- the Australian Federal Police (AFP) on 131 237 (131AFP) or go to the AFP website at [www.afp.gov.au](http://www.afp.gov.au) for help.

## Do you need an interpreter?

Free, confidential interpretation is available on the Translating & Interpreting Service on 131 450. An interpreter from TIS can help you to communicate with other services, however TIS does not provide counselling. All calls are free and confidential.

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