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**Findings from the Human
Trafficking and Modern Slavery
National Minimum Dataset pilot,
July to December 2022**

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Acronyms and abbreviations

AFP	Australian Federal Police
AIC	Australian Institute of Criminology
BVF	Bridging visa F
CDPP	Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions
DSS	Department of Social Services
HTMS NMDS	Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery National Minimum Dataset
HTVF	Human Trafficking Visa Framework
STPP	Support for Trafficked People Program

Abstract

The Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery National Minimum Dataset (HTMS NMDS) is a national data collection on suspected victim-survivors and perpetrators of modern slavery in Australia. This report describes the findings of the HTMS NMDS pilot data collection, conducted over a six-month period from 1 July to 31 December 2022.

Introduction

The Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery National Minimum Dataset (HTMS NMDS) is an administrative dataset on the nature and outcomes of reports of modern slavery in Australia, and the characteristics of suspected victim-survivors and perpetrators. The HTMS NMDS was established at the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) to support the evaluation of the *National Action Plan to Combat Modern Slavery 2020–25*, but will become a standalone monitoring program at the end of the evaluation.

Data collection

The HTMS NMDS was informed by the following resources:

- the findings from the AIC’s 2015 feasibility study for establishing a National Human Trafficking and Slavery Monitoring Program (Bricknell & Renshaw 2015);
- the draft International Classification Standard for Administrative Data on Trafficking in Persons, developed by the International Organization for Migration in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; and
- the AIC’s research exploring the attrition of modern slavery cases through the criminal justice system (Lyneham 2021).

Data items and specifications for the HTMS NMDS were developed in consultation with selected data providing agencies to the pilot collection, the Attorney-General’s Department, and the Evaluation Governance Committee for the National Action Plan.

The pilot HTMS NMDS draws together data from the Australian Government agencies responsible for responding to modern slavery in Australia:

- the Australian Federal Police (AFP);
- the Department of Social Services (DSS), which administers the Support for Trafficked People Program (STPP);
- the Department of Home Affairs, which administers the Human Trafficking Visa Framework (HTVF); and
- the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions (CDPP).

The roles of the agencies with respect to modern slavery are outlined in Box 1.

Other government agencies and civil society organisations collect information about suspected victim-survivors and perpetrators of modern slavery. Where possible, these agencies will be engaged to provide information to the HTMS NMDS in the future.

Box 1: Roles of agencies with respect to human trafficking and modern slavery

AFP

The AFP is the lead agency for modern slavery investigations under the Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth). The AFP is focused on the prevention, disruption and investigation of modern slavery, as well as the protection and support of victims (AFP nd). When addressing modern slavery, the AFP takes a victim-centred approach and collaborates, both domestically and internationally, with partners, government agencies and non-government organisations (AFP nd).

AFP Human Trafficking Teams are responsible for investigating allegations of modern slavery (AFP 2023). These teams are in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne, with additional members in other state and territory offices trained in investigating modern slavery (AFP 2023).

Representing the first point in the criminal justice system for investigating Commonwealth crimes, the AFP is considered the main source of information on the frequency and nature of modern slavery reported to, and detected by, the authorities.

DSS

The STPP is administered by DSS and delivered nationally by the Australian Red Cross (Interdepartmental Committee on Human Trafficking and Slavery 2021). The STPP was established by the Australian Government in 2004 to provide support to victim-survivors of modern slavery. Case managers are responsible for supporting clients to access services to meet their individual needs, including access to health care, social support, available accommodation, and referrals to legal services (DSS 2024).

During the reporting period, the AFP was the only agency that could refer suspected victim-survivors of modern slavery to the STPP (DSS 2024). Eligibility was determined by the AFP, on the basis that a person was reasonably suspected to be a victim-survivor of a modern slavery offence, including an attempted offence. Referred individuals must be an Australian citizen or hold a valid visa. If an individual does not hold a valid visa, they can obtain a visa under the Australian Government's HTVF (DSS 2024).

Box 1: Roles of agencies with respect to human trafficking and modern slavery (cont.)

Department of Home Affairs

The Department of Home Affairs administers the HTVF (Interdepartmental Committee on Human Trafficking and Slavery 2021). The HTVF enables foreign nationals who do not hold a valid visa and are suspected victim-survivors of modern slavery to stay in Australia lawfully. Victim-survivors may be granted short-term visas to allow them a period of rest and recovery, or long-term visas to allow them to establish a new life in Australia. Like Australian citizens and valid visa holders who are suspected victim-survivors of modern slavery, they can then access support through the STPP (Interdepartmental Committee on Human Trafficking and Slavery 2021).

CDPP

The Office of the CDPP is an independent prosecution service responsible for prosecuting alleged offences against Commonwealth law, including modern slavery (CDPP nd).

Reference period

This report describes the findings of the HTMS NMDS pilot data collection conducted over a six-month period from 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022. Specifically, the pilot included data on:

- reports of alleged modern slavery received by the AFP during this period;
- suspected victim-survivors referred to the STPP during this period and the supports received;
- suspected victim-survivors granted a visa under the HTVF during this period; and
- modern slavery matters referred to or continued by the CDPP during this period.

Definitions and counting rules

Exploitation type

In this report, the terms *human trafficking and modern slavery* and *modern slavery* refer to all human trafficking, slavery and slavery-like offences prescribed in Divisions 270 and 271 of the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth). This report categorises exploitation into the following types:

- slavery;
- servitude—domestic;
- servitude—sexual;
- servitude—other;
- forced labour;
- deceptive recruiting;
- forced marriage;
- debt bondage;
- trafficking in persons—entering Australia;
- trafficking in persons—exit trafficking;
- trafficking in children;
- domestic trafficking;
- domestic trafficking in children;
- organ trafficking;
- domestic organ trafficking; and
- harbouring a victim.

Servitude is broken down into the subcategories domestic, sexual and other; and trafficking in persons into entering Australia and exit trafficking. Exit trafficking is trafficking of persons out of Australia.

A report or investigation may refer to one or more alleged exploitation types. If the same exploitation type (eg forced labour) is recorded multiple times in the same report or investigation, this exploitation type is counted once. This would apply to reports with multiple suspected victims and/or multiple suspected perpetrators. Similarly, if a report or investigation identified different exploitation types (eg exit trafficking and forced marriage), each exploitation type is counted once.

Victim-survivors and perpetrators

The term *victim-survivor* refers to an individual who is a victim of a modern slavery offence (including an attempted offence). It is acknowledged that such individuals may not identify as either a victim or survivor and may not consider their experience to be related to modern slavery.

A *suspected victim-survivor* is an individual who has been identified by or referred to an agency that provided data to the NMDS on the basis that this individual may be a victim of a modern slavery offence.

A *perpetrator* refers to an individual who has perpetrated a modern slavery offence.

A *suspected perpetrator* refers to an individual who has been identified by or referred to an agency that provided data to the NMDS on the basis that this individual may be a perpetrator of a modern slavery offence.

The AFP may use the terms *suspected victim-survivor* and *suspected perpetrator* to refer to individuals who are at risk of experiencing or perpetrating a modern slavery offence.

Reports versus investigations

This paper includes the total number of reports of alleged modern slavery the AFP received between 1 July and 31 December 2022. It also includes subtotals of those reports received during the reference period that were subsequently accepted for investigation.

A *report* refers to a notification to the AFP which alleges that a crime has been, is being, or may be committed. In this study, a report comprises one or more alleged exploitation types in relation to the same modern slavery event. A report may include one or more exploitation types, one or more suspected victims, and one or more suspected perpetrators.

An *investigation* is any process of inquiry conducted by, or with the support of, the AFP seeking information relevant to an alleged, apparent or potential breach of the law, or involving possible judicial proceedings.

Reports of modern slavery in Australia

Reports of alleged modern slavery received by the AFP, 1 July – 31 December 2022 (n=150)



- 25% from Australian Government agencies
- 21% from unspecified sources (eg anonymous sources)
- 13% from non-government organisations
- 11% from members of the public
- 9% from law enforcement agencies
- 4% from victims (self-referred)



- 31% related to forced marriage
- 25% related to sexual servitude
- 21% related to trafficking of persons out of Australia
- 12% related to forced labour
- 9% related to trafficking of persons into Australia





- 45% related to modern slavery occurring in households or other private settings



- 17% related to the commercial sex industry



- 35% occurred in New South Wales
- 34% occurred in Victoria

Suspected victim-survivor and perpetrator characteristics, 1 July – 31 December 2022	
	
Suspected victim-survivors (n=72)	Suspected perpetrators (n=51)
90% female	71% male
26% less than 18 years	100% aged 18 years or over
74% less than 30 years	86% over 30 years
86% born overseas	95% born overseas
34% Australian or dual citizens	59% Australian citizens or permanent residents

The AFP received 150 reports of alleged modern slavery between 1 July and 31 December 2022 (see Table 1). A report refers to a notification to the AFP which alleges that a crime has been, is being, or may be committed. Most of these reports were about alleged offences that had occurred (74%, n=111). Another 23 percent (n=34) were about offences at risk of occurring. Very few were about attempted offences (3%, n=4). One report was about an offence that had occurred and an offence at risk of occurring.

The AFP receives reports of modern slavery from a wide range of sources, including law enforcement, government and non-government organisations, the education and health sector, as well as members of the public referring themselves or others. A quarter of reports to the AFP between 1 July and 31 December 2022 came from Australian Government agencies (25%, n=37; predominantly the Australian Border Force), 13 percent (n=20) from non-government organisations and nine percent (n=13) from law enforcement agencies (see Table 1). Another 11 percent (n=16) came from members of the public and four percent (n=6) were reported by the suspected victim-survivor. A fifth (21%, n=32) were described as unspecified, which includes instances where an individual reported to the AFP anonymously via webform, letter or phone call.

	<i>n</i>	%
Australian Border Force	32	21
Fair Work Ombudsman	3	2
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	2	1
Non-government organisations	20	13
International partners	1	1
Australian Federal Police ^a	4	3
State/territory police	9	6
State/territory child protection	2	1
School/education	9	6
Hospital/health facility	7	5
Victim-survivors (self-referrals)	6	4
Member of the public	16	11
Unspecified reports ^b	32	21
Other	7	5
Total reports	150	100

a: Refers to matters detected by the AFP, such as through proactive policing

b: Refers to unspecified reports to the AFP, which includes instances where an individual reported to the AFP anonymously via a webform, letter or phone call

Note: A report refers to a notification to the AFP which alleges a crime has been, is being, or may be committed

Source: Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery National Minimum Dataset 2022 [computer file]

Jurisdiction where alleged offence occurred

The number of reports of alleged modern slavery in each jurisdiction generally reflects population size. Around two-thirds of reports referred to alleged offences that occurred (or were at risk of occurring) in either New South Wales (35%, $n=52$) or Victoria (34%, $n=51$; see Table 2). Twelve percent of reports ($n=18$) related to Queensland and eight percent ($n=12$) to Western Australia. Five percent of reports ($n=8$) referred to alleged offences involving Australian residents that occurred offshore.

Table 2: Reports of modern slavery, by jurisdiction in which the alleged offence occurred, 1 July – 31 December 2022

	<i>n</i>	%
NSW	52	35
Vic	51	34
Qld	18	12
WA	12	8
SA	6	4
Tas	1	1
ACT	2	1
NT	0	0
Offshore	8	5
Total reports	150	100

Note: A report refers to a notification to the AFP which alleges that a crime has been, is being, or may be committed
 Source: Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery National Minimum Dataset 2022 [computer file]

Exploitation type and industry

A report may refer to one or more alleged exploitation types. Of the 150 reports of alleged modern slavery received by the AFP between 1 July and 31 December 2022, 124 (83%) referred to one exploitation type and 26 (17%) referred to multiples types of exploitation (range: 1–3; see Table 3). Almost a third of reports (31%, *n*=46) referred to alleged forced marriage. Another quarter (25%, *n*=38) related to alleged sexual servitude and around a fifth each to exit trafficking (ie individuals being trafficked out of Australia; 21%, *n*=31) and forced labour (18%, *n*=12). Altogether, 78 percent of reports (*n*=117) referred to alleged slavery or slavery-like offences and 41 percent (*n*=61) to human trafficking offences.

Of the 26 reports with multiple exploitation types, most referred to alleged human trafficking (either into or out of Australia) and another type of exploitation (85%, *n*=22). Twelve of these reports (46%) referred to both alleged human trafficking and forced marriage, and eight (31%) referred to both alleged human trafficking and servitude (sexual or domestic).

Modern slavery occurs in a range of industries and sectors. Almost half (45%, *n*=67) of reports of alleged modern slavery received by the AFP between 1 July and 31 December 2022 referred to exploitation in a household or other private setting (see Table 3). Most of these (66%, *n*=44) related to allegations of forced marriage.

Almost one in five reports (17%, *n*=26) referred to modern slavery offences in the commercial sex industry (see Table 3). Nineteen of these (73%) involved alleged sexual servitude. Far fewer reports related to other industry settings. The industry of the alleged exploitation was not known for 17 percent (*n*=25) of reports.

Table 3: Reports of modern slavery, by exploitation type and industry, 1 July – 31 December 2022 (n=150)

	<i>n</i>	%
Exploitation type^a		
Slavery	3	2
<i>Slavery-like offences</i>		
Servitude—domestic	9	6
Servitude—sexual	38	25
Forced labour	18	12
Deceptive recruiting	3	2
Forced marriage	46	31
<i>Trafficking in persons</i>		
Trafficking in persons—entering Australia	13	9
Trafficking in persons—exit trafficking	31	21
Child trafficking	10	7
Debt bondage	7	5
<i>One exploitation type</i>	124	83
<i>Multiple exploitation types</i>	26	17
Industry		
Agriculture, horticulture and forestry	4	3
Manufacturing	2	1
Construction	2	1
Wholesale and retail trade	5	3
Arts, entertainment and recreation	1	1
Commercial sex industry	26	17
Personal services including massages, beauty parlours, etc	7	5
Domestic work, housekeeping, childminding/au pair services	2	1
Household or other private setting	67	45
Other	9	6
Unknown	25	17

a: Exploitation type categories based on Divisions 270 and 271 of the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth)

Note: A report refers to a notification to the AFP which alleges a crime has been, is being, or may be committed. The number and percentage of reports by exploitation type exceeds the number of total reports as an individual report may refer to multiple exploitation types

Source: Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery National Minimum Dataset 2022 [computer file]

Assessment and investigation

All reports received by the AFP are assessed to determine whether they should progress to an investigation (see Figure 1). At this stage, a victim-survivor and/or perpetrator may not yet have been identified, with identification sometimes only becoming apparent during the investigation.

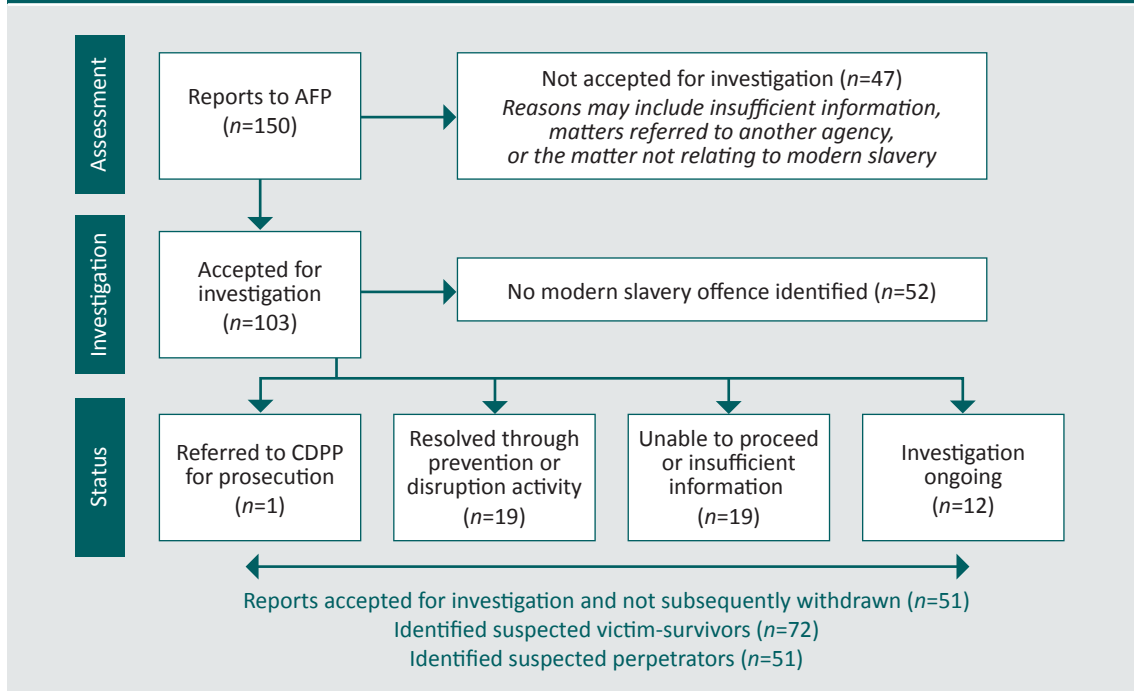
Of the 150 reports of alleged modern slavery received by the AFP between 1 July and 31 December 2022, 103 (69%) progressed to an investigation and 47 (31%) were not accepted for investigation (see Figure 1). There are a range of reasons why a report is not accepted for investigation, including insufficient information, the matter being referred to another agency (eg if the victim-survivor declined to cooperate with a criminal justice investigation but accepted a referral to a support service), or the circumstances being assessed as unrelated to modern slavery.

Of the 103 reports accepted for investigation between 1 July and 31 December 2022, 52 (50%) were subsequently withdrawn because further examination did not identify any modern slavery offence (see Figure 1). For example, the matter may have been referred to the Australian Border Force for immigration offences or to state/territory police for domestic violence matters.

Of the 51 reports accepted for investigation (34 percent of the original reports), 19 (37%) were unable to proceed (eg the victim-survivor requested the investigation cease) or discontinued due to insufficient information (eg the alleged victim-survivor disengaged from the investigation; see Figure 1). Another 19 (37%) were successfully resolved through prevention or disruption activity, most commonly in relation to forced marriage. The AFP considers disruption and intervention outcomes that result in the prevention of a crime or the removal of victim-survivors from harm to be as significant as successful prosecution (Lyneham 2021).

Twelve (24%) of the reports were the subject of ongoing investigations as at 31 December 2022, and one (2%) had been referred to the CDPP for prosecution. Investigations into alleged modern slavery offences may be lengthy, which affects the time required to refer a matter to the CDPP.

Figure 1: Reports of modern slavery through each stage of investigation, 1 July – 31 December 2022



Note: A report refers to a notification to the AFP which alleges a crime has been, is being, or may be committed

Source: Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery National Minimum Dataset 2022 [computer file]

Exploitation type and industry

The likelihood of reports being accepted for investigation varied according to the exploitation type and industry involved. Exit trafficking reports were most likely to be accepted for investigation and not subsequently withdrawn (61% of all reports including an allegation of exit trafficking, $n=19$), followed by forced marriage (52%, $n=24$) and sexual servitude (26%, $n=10$).

Two-thirds (65%, $n=33$) of the 51 reports accepted for investigation and not subsequently withdrawn referred to one type of exploitation and just over a third (35%, $n=18$) referred to multiple types of exploitation (range: 1–3; see Table 4). Almost half (47%, $n=24$) of these referred to alleged forced marriage. Over a third (37%, $n=19$) of reports accepted for investigation and not subsequently withdrawn related to alleged exit trafficking and a fifth (20%, $n=10$) related to sexual servitude. Altogether, 88 percent of reports accepted for investigation and not subsequently withdrawn ($n=45$) referred to alleged slavery or slavery-like offences and 47 percent ($n=24$) to human trafficking offences.

Of the 18 reports with multiple exploitation types, most referred to alleged human trafficking (entry/exit) and another type of exploitation (78%, $n=14$). Nine reports (50%) referred to both alleged human trafficking and forced marriage.

Sixty-one percent ($n=31$) of reports that were accepted for investigation and not subsequently withdrawn referred to exploitation in a household or other private setting (see Table 4). Most of these (74%, $n=23$) related to allegations of forced marriage.

Twelve percent ($n=6$) of reports referred to modern slavery offences in the commercial sex industry (see Table 4). Five (83%) involved alleged sexual servitude. Far fewer reports related to other industry settings (range: 1–3). The industry of the alleged exploitation was not known for 12 percent ($n=6$) of reports.

Table 4: Reports of modern slavery accepted for investigation, by exploitation type and industry, 1 July – 31 December 2022		
	<i>n</i>	%
Exploitation type^a		
Slavery	2	4
<i>Slavery-like offences</i>		
Servitude—domestic	4	8
Servitude—sexual	10	20
Forced labour	4	8
Deceptive recruiting	1	2
Forced marriage	24	47
<i>Trafficking in persons</i>		
Trafficking in persons—entering Australia	5	10
Trafficking in persons—exit trafficking	19	37
Debt bondage	2	4
<i>One exploitation type</i>	33	65
<i>Multiple exploitation types</i>	18	35
Industry		
Agriculture, horticulture and forestry	2	4
Manufacturing	1	2
Commercial sex industry	6	12
Domestic work, housekeeping, childminding/au pair services	2	4
Household or other private setting	31	61
Other	3	6
Unknown	6	12
Total reports	51	100

a: Exploitation type categories based on Divisions 270 and 271 of the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth)

Note: A report refers to a notification to the AFP which alleges a crime has been, is being, or may be committed. The number and percentage of reports by exploitation type exceeds the number of total reports as an individual report may refer to multiple exploitation types. Data in this table relate to reports that were accepted for investigation and had one of the following outcomes at time of reporting: referred to the CDPP for prosecution; resolved through prevention or disruption activity; unable to proceed or insufficient information; or investigation ongoing (see Figure 1)

Source: Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery National Minimum Dataset 2022 [computer file]

Suspected victim-survivors

Suspected victim-survivors were identified from 42 of the 51 reports of modern slavery accepted for investigation by the AFP between 1 July and 31 December 2022 and not subsequently withdrawn. Seventy-two suspected victim-survivors were identified from these 42 reports. The remaining nine reports had no identified victim-survivor.

Gender and age

Females comprised 90 percent ($n=65$) of identified suspected victim-survivors between 1 July and 31 December 2022 and males comprised 10 percent ($n=7$; see Table 5). Seventy-four percent ($n=53$) of suspected victim-survivors were adults aged 18 years or over and 26 percent ($n=19$) were aged less than 18 years, most of whom were female (89%, $n=17$). Almost three-quarters (74%, $n=53$) of victim-survivors were under the age of 30, and a quarter (26%, $n=17$) of female victim-survivors were aged under 18 years. The most common age groups among suspected victim-survivors were 18–24 years (31%, $n=22$), followed by less than 18 years (26%, $n=19$) and 25–29 years (17%, $n=12$).

Place of birth and residency

Place of birth was recorded for 70 identified suspected victim-survivors (97%), spanning 20 different countries. Fourteen percent ($n=10$) of these victim-survivors were born in Australia and 86 percent ($n=60$) were born overseas (see Table 5). In terms of region, 39 percent ($n=27$) of suspected victim-survivors were born in Oceania and Antarctica. Almost a quarter of victim-survivors were born in South-East Asia (24%, $n=17$) and a fifth (20%, $n=14$) in Southern and Central Asia. Approximately one in four (28%, $n=19$) suspected victim-survivors required an interpreter to engage with police.

The 60 suspected victim-survivors born overseas were most commonly related to reports involving trafficking in persons (entering Australia; $n=20$), forced labour ($n=20$), forced marriage ($n=16$), deceptive recruitment ($n=17$) and exit trafficking ($n=15$). The 10 suspected victim-survivors born in Australia were most commonly related to reports involving exit trafficking ($n=7$) and forced marriage ($n=3$). A report may include one or more alleged exploitation types.

Citizenship status was known for 67 victim-survivors. Twenty-five percent ($n=17$) were Australian citizens and 66 percent ($n=44$) were foreign nationals (see Table 5). A small number ($n=6$) were dual citizens. Of the 17 victim-survivors who were Australian citizens, seven (41%) related to reports of exit trafficking and seven (41%) to forced marriage. Among the 44 victim-survivors who were foreign citizens, 17 (39%) of reports related to forced labour, nine (20%) to debt bondage and eight (18%) to forced marriage.

Family characteristics

Twenty-two percent ($n=13$) of suspected victim-survivors had at least one child (see Table 5). Of these suspected victim-survivors, most had children living in Australia at the time of referral to the AFP. Females comprised almost all (92%, $n=12$) suspected victim-survivors with children.

Relationship with suspected perpetrator

The relationship between the victim-survivor and at least one of the suspected perpetrators was available for 54 of the 72 suspected victim-survivors. Almost all knew the suspected perpetrator (96%, $n=52$; see Table 5). Over half of victim-survivors (55%, $n=30$) where the relationship with the suspected perpetrator was recorded ($n=55$) were related to at least one perpetrator (eg a family member). Of these 30 victim-survivors for whom the perpetrator was a relative, 70 percent ($n=21$) related to reports of exit trafficking and 47 percent ($n=14$) related to reports of forced marriage.

Forty-one percent ($n=22$) of suspected victim-survivors knew but were not related to the suspected perpetrator (see Table 5). Most of these (64%, $n=14$) were victim-survivors of alleged forced labour. The remaining two suspected victim-survivors (4%) had no known relationship with the suspected perpetrator.

Referral to the Support for Trafficked People Program

Seventy-two percent ($n=52$) of suspected victim-survivors were subsequently referred to the STPP (see Table 5). This referral may have occurred during or after the 1 July – 31 December 2022 reference period. Suspected victim-survivors not referred include those who did not agree to be referred (eg they withdrew their complaint), those no longer in Australia, those referred to a different support program, as well as those where a decision had not yet been made about referral status.

Table 5: Suspected victim-survivor characteristics, 1 July – 31 December 2022 ($n=72$)

	<i>n</i>	%
Gender		
Male	7	10
Female	65	90
Age		
Less than 18	19	26
18–24	22	31
25–29	12	17
30–34	8	11
35–39	7	10
40 and over	4	6

Table 5: Suspected victim-survivor characteristics, 1 July – 31 December 2022 (n=72) (cont.)		
	<i>n</i>	%
Country of birth^a		
Australia	10	14
Overseas	60	86
Region of birth^a		
Oceania and Antarctica	27	39
North Africa and the Middle East	7	10
South-East Asia	17	24
Southern and Central Asia	14	20
Other ^b	5	7
Required an interpreter^c		
Yes	19	28
No	48	72
Citizenship status^d		
Australian citizen	17	25
Dual citizen	6	9
Foreign citizen	44	66
Any children^e		
Yes	13	22
No	47	78
Relationship with suspected perpetrator^f		
Known to victim—related	30	55
Known to victim—not related	22	41
Stranger	2	4
Referred to the Support for Trafficked People Program^g		
Yes	52	72
No	20	28

a: Excludes 2 suspected victim-survivors whose place of birth was not stated or unknown

b: Includes North-West Europe, North-East Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa

c: Excludes 5 suspected victim-survivors where information on needing an interpreter was not stated or unknown

d: Excludes 5 suspected victim-survivors whose citizenship status was not stated or unknown

e: Excludes 12 suspected victim-survivors where information on children was not stated or unknown

f: Excludes 17 suspected victim-survivors where relationship with suspected perpetrator was not stated or unknown and 1 victim-survivor where a perpetrator had not been identified

g: Referral may have occurred during or after the 1 July – 31 December 2022 reference period

Note: Regions based on *Standard Australian Classification of Countries* (ABS 2016). Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding

Source: Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery National Minimum Dataset 2022 [computer file]

Suspected perpetrators

Suspected perpetrators were identified from 34 of the 51 reports of modern slavery received and accepted for investigation by the AFP between 1 July and 31 December 2022 and not subsequently withdrawn. Fifty-one suspected perpetrators were identified from these 34 reports. The remaining 17 reports had no identified perpetrator.

Of the 51 suspected perpetrators, 47 percent ($n=24$) related to reports of forced marriage, 45 percent ($n=23$) related to reports of exit trafficking, and 18 percent ($n=9$) related to reports of domestic servitude.

The role of 82 percent ($n=42$) of the suspected perpetrators in the alleged incidents was recorded. Almost half allegedly exploited the individual, while 29 percent ($n=12$) were allegedly involved in recruitment activities. A small number allegedly transported the individual (7%, $n=3$) or received the individual (2%, $n=1$).

Gender and age

Males comprised 71 percent ($n=36$) of identified suspected perpetrators between 1 July and 31 December 2022 and females comprised 29 percent ($n=15$; see Table 6). All suspected perpetrators were adults aged 18 years or over. Over three-quarters (86%, $n=43$) of suspected perpetrators were 30 years or over. The most common age group among suspected perpetrators was 35–44 years (45%, $n=23$).

Place of birth

Place of birth was recorded for 76 percent ($n=39$) of identified suspected perpetrators, whose origins span 18 different countries. Five percent ($n=2$) were born in Australia and 95 percent ($n=37$) were born overseas (see Table 6). In terms of region, 38 percent ($n=11$) were born in Southern and Central Asia and 26 percent each ($n=10$) in South-East Asia and North Africa and the Middle East. Over half (59%, $n=23$) of suspected perpetrators where place of birth was recorded were associated with reports involving victim-survivors born in the same country.

The 37 suspected perpetrators born overseas were most commonly alleged to have engaged in forced marriage (59%, $n=22$) and exit trafficking (51%, $n=19$). The two suspected perpetrators born in Australia were related to reports involving forced marriage ($n=1$), sexual servitude ($n=1$) and trafficking in persons ($n=1$). A report may include one or more alleged exploitation types.

Fifty-nine percent ($n=20$) of suspected perpetrators where citizenship was recorded were Australian citizens or permanent residents (see Table 6). In comparison, 41 percent ($n=14$) were foreign nationals.

Table 6: Characteristics of suspected perpetrators, 1 July – 31 December 2022 (n=51)		
	<i>n</i>	%
Gender		
Male	36	71
Female	15	29
Age^a		
18–24	3	6
25–34	9	18
35–44	23	45
45–54	8	16
55 and over	8	16
Country of birth^b		
Australia	2	5
Overseas	37	95
Region of birth^b		
North Africa and the Middle East	10	26
South-East Asia	10	26
Southern and Central Asia	11	38
Other ^c	8	16
Citizenship^d		
Australian citizen or permanent resident	20	59
Foreign citizen	14	41

a: Excludes 1 suspected perpetrator whose age group was not stated or unknown

b: Excludes 12 suspected perpetrators whose place of birth was not stated or unknown

c: Includes Oceania and Antarctica, the Americas and Sub-Saharan Africa


d: Excludes 17 suspected perpetrators whose citizenship information was not stated or unknown

Note: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding

Source: Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery National Minimum Dataset 2022 [computer file]

Support through the Support for Trafficked People Program

Suspected victim-survivors referred to the STPP, 1 July – 31 December 2022 (n=36)

	94% females 6% males
	56% aged 18 years and over 44% aged 0–17 years
	31% were born in Southern and Central Asia 17% were born in North Africa and the Middle East
	19% required an interpreter
	97% received social and emotional support 89% received financial support
	17% accessed the Forced Marriage Support Stream

Between 1 July and 31 December 2022, 37 persons identified by the AFP as suspected victim-survivors of modern slavery were referred to the STPP. A total of 36 suspected victim-survivors were included in the analysis. One suspected victim-survivor was excluded as their consent to provide data to the HTMS NMDS could not be obtained because they had left the program before data collection.

This number is less than the 52 referrals reported in the previous section due to different population counts. The 36 victim-survivors described here are those *referred to the STPP* during the reference period, whereas the 52 victim-survivors described in the previous section are those *identified from reports received by the AFP* during the reference period and subsequently referred to the STPP. This referral may have occurred during or after the 1 July to 31 December 2022 reference period.

Gender and age

Females comprised 34 of the 36 suspected victim-survivors (94%) referred to the STPP between 1 July and 31 December 2022 (see Table 7). Fifty-six percent ($n=20$) of referrals were adults aged 18 years or over and 44 percent ($n=16$) were aged 0–17 years. Two (6% of all suspected victim-survivors) of the referrals aged 0–17 years were dependants of an adult client also referred to the STPP. The most common age group among suspected victim-survivors referred to the STPP was under 18 years (44%, $n=16$), followed by 25–34 years (22%, $n=8$).

Table 7: Suspected victim-survivors referred to the STPP by age group and gender, 1 July – 31 December 2022 ($n=36$)

	Male	Female	Total
Less than 18 years	1	15	16
18–24	1	6	7
25–34	0	8	8
35 and over	0	5	5
Total	2	34	36

Note: Excludes 1 suspected victim-survivor. Includes new referrals to the Support for Trafficked People Program (STPP) only

Source: Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery National Minimum Dataset 2022 [computer file]

Place of birth

The country of birth of the 36 suspected victim-survivors referred to the STPP between 1 July and 31 December 2022 was spread across 15 different countries. Twenty-five percent ($n=9$) of suspected victim-survivors were born in Australia and 75 percent ($n=27$) were born overseas (see Table 8).

In terms of region, almost a third of suspected victim-survivors referred to the STPP between 1 July and 31 December 2022 were born in Southern and Central Asia (31%, $n=11$) and 28 percent ($n=10$) were born in Oceania and Antarctica (see Table 8). Another 17 percent ($n=6$) were born in North Africa and the Middle East and 14 percent ($n=5$) in South-East Asia.

Table 8: Suspected victim-survivors referred to the STPP by place of birth, 1 July – 31 December 2022 (n=36)

	<i>n</i>	%
Country of birth		
Australia	9	25
Overseas	27	75
Region of birth		
Oceania and Antarctica	10	28
North Africa and the Middle East	6	17
South-East Asia	5	14
Southern and Central Asia	11	31
Other ^a	4	11

a: Includes North-West Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa

Note: Excludes 1 suspected victim-survivor. Includes new referrals to the Support for Trafficked People Program (STPP) only. Regions based on *Standard Australian Classification of Countries* (ABS 2016). Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding

Source: Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery National Minimum Dataset 2022 [computer file]

Language

Sixty-nine percent (*n*=25) of suspected victim-survivors referred to the STPP between 1 July and 31 December 2022 spoke English as their primary language (see Table 9). The remaining 31 percent (*n*=11) of suspected victim-survivors spoke a language other than English as their primary language. Nineteen percent (*n*=7) required an interpreter to engage with caseworkers and other service providers.

Table 9: Suspected victim-survivors referred to the STPP by primary language, 1 July – 31 December 2022 (n=36)

	<i>n</i>	%
Primary language		
English	25	69
Other language	11	31
Required an interpreter		
Yes	7	19
No	29	81

Note: Excludes 1 suspected victim-survivor. Includes new referrals to the Support for Trafficked People Program (STPP) only. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding

Source: Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery National Minimum Dataset 2022 [computer file]

Support provided

This section describes the most common types of support provided to suspected victim-survivors referred to the STPP between 1 July and 31 December 2022. The types of support received by clients during the reference period include: financial support; emergency items; employment, education and training; accommodation and housing support; assistance accessing legal advice; assistance accessing medical and healthcare services; and social and emotional support. Access to these supports is often facilitated through referrals to specialist agencies. Most suspected victim-survivors referred to the STPP had multiple support needs. Suspected victim-survivors received on average five types of support (range: 1–6) during the reference period (see Table 10). Different types of support may have been provided beyond the reference period. A breakdown of the types of supports received is as follows.

- Almost all suspected victim-survivors received social and emotional support (97%, $n=35$) and financial support (89%, $n=32$). Social support involves building someone's access to healthy social networks, sense of belonging and connection to community. This can include supporting people to engage in activities, projects, cultural community groups, peer support activities and local religious networks. It can also include helping people navigate systems such as health care and transport. Emotional support involves building a trusting relationship and building people's confidence by listening without judgment; being empathetic and compassionate; validating their experiences; offering encouragement, hope, reassurance and guidance; acknowledging strengths and achievements; being present; and asking them what they need. Financial support may include short-term payments (eg basic necessities, crisis accommodation) and support with longer-term financial stability.
- Approximately two-thirds of suspected victim-survivors received support accessing emergency items (69%, $n=32$) and accommodation and housing support (64%, $n=23$). Emergency items may include essential items such as food, clothing and toiletries. Accommodation and housing support may include crisis accommodation, short-term accommodation and longer-term housing solutions.
- Sixty-one percent ($n=22$) of suspected victim-survivors received assistance accessing healthcare and medical services. This includes mental and physical healthcare services. Mental health support may include referrals to counselling and help with booking appointments. Physical health support may include information about accessible health services, assistance understanding diagnoses, and advocacy when dealing with health professionals.
- Half (50%, $n=18$) of suspected victim-survivors received support regarding employment, education and training. This may include support to identify appropriate employment or education opportunities based on client interests, skills and qualifications. It may also include support to apply for jobs, and preparation for attending interviews and classes.
- Thirty-nine percent ($n=14$) of suspected victim-survivors received assistance accessing legal advice. This may include connecting victim-survivors with legal services for visa-related matters or advice relating to civil and criminal proceedings (including family court matters).

Table 10: Suspected victim-survivors referred to the STPP by support provided, 1 July – 31 December 2022 (n=36)

	<i>n</i>	%
Number of supports provided		
1	2	6
3	3	8
4	7	19
5	14	39
6	10	28
Mean number of supports provided (median)		5 (5)

Note: Excludes 1 suspected victim-survivor. Includes new referrals to the Support for Trafficked People Program (STPP) only. Information concerns supports provided during the reference period 1 July to 31 December 2022. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding

Source: Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery National Minimum Dataset 2022 [computer file]

Support stream accessed

On average (mean), suspected victim-survivors referred to the STPP between 1 July and 31 December 2022 accessed two support streams (range: 1–4; see Table 11). These support streams were accessed during the reference period 1 July to 31 December 2022. A description of the STPP support streams can be found in *Appendix A*.

All suspected victim-survivors accessed the Assessment and Intensive Support Stream (100%, *n*=36), which provides up to 45 days of support, irrespective of whether they are willing or able to assist with the investigation or prosecution of their matter (see Table 11). Just over half of this group (58%, *n*=21) went on to access the Extended Intensive Support Stream, which provides a further 45 days of support for clients who are willing but not able to assist with the investigation.

Seventeen percent (*n*=6) of suspected victim-survivors accessed the Forced Marriage Support Stream (see Table 11). The Forced Marriage Support Stream provides intensive support for up to 200 days for clients who are in, or at risk of, a forced marriage, without requiring them to contribute to criminal justice processes regarding their matter. This 200-day period includes the 90 days of support already provided through the Assessment and Intensive Support Stream and the Extended Intensive Support Stream.

Seventeen percent (*n*=6) of suspected victim-survivors accessed the Justice Support Stream (see Table 11). The Justice Support Stream provides support to victim-survivors until the investigation and prosecution of their matter is finalised. One suspected victim-survivor accessed the standard transition period of 20 working days when leaving the program. The small number of suspected victim-survivors leaving the program and accessing the transition period may be due to the relatively short six-month reference period.

Table 11: Suspected victim-survivors referred to the STPP by stream accessed, 1 July – 31 December 2022 (n=36)

	<i>n</i>	%
Stream accessed		
Assessment and Intensive Support Stream	36	100
Extended Intensive Support Stream	21	58
Forced Marriage Support Stream	6	17
Justice Support Stream	6	17
Temporary Trial Support Stream	0	0
Transition period	1	3
Number of streams accessed		
1	12	33
2	15	42
3	8	22
4	1	3
Mean number of streams accessed (median)	2 (2)	

Note: More than one support stream may be accessed during the reference period. Excludes 1 victim-survivor. Includes new referrals to the Support for Trafficked People Program (STPP) only. Information correct for the streams accessed during the reference period 1 July to 31 December 2022. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding
Source: Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery National Minimum Dataset 2022 [computer file]

Support status as at 31 December 2022

As at 31 December 2022, 33 percent ($n=12$) of suspected victim-survivors referred to the STPP between 1 July and 31 December 2022 were on the Assessment and Intensive Support Stream. Thirty-one percent ($n=11$) had moved onto the Extended Intensive Support Stream. Fourteen percent ($n=5$) of suspected victim-survivors were on the Forced Marriage Stream and 17 percent ($n=6$) were on the Justice Support Stream, following any support accessed on the initial support stream/s. One suspected victim-survivor was on the standard transition period while leaving the program and one victim-survivor had exited the program.

Accessing the Human Trafficking Visa Framework

Between 1 July and 31 December 2022, fewer than five persons identified by the AFP as suspected victim-survivors of modern slavery were granted a visa under the HTVF. The HTVF comprises two visa categories: a temporary visa known as Bridging visa F (BVF) and a permanent Referred Stay visa (see *Appendix B*). Suspected victim-survivors may have been granted more than one visa type during the reference period.

Of these suspected victim-survivors:

- fewer than five were granted an initial BVF (up to 45 days);
- fewer than five were granted a BVF (assistance notice); and
- fewer than five were granted a permanent Referred Stay visa.

Status at 31 December 2022

As at 31 December 2022, half of suspected victim-survivors granted a visa under the HTVF between 1 July and 31 December 2022 held a permanent Referred Stay visa. Fewer than five suspected victim-survivors held a BVF (assistance notice) after holding an initial BVF (up to 45 days), and fewer than five suspected victim-survivors no longer held a visa under the HTVF after having held a BVF (assistance notice).

Suspected victim-survivor characteristics

All suspected victim-survivors granted a visa under the HTVF between 1 July and 31 December 2022 were adults aged 18 years or over and most were female. Suspected victim-survivors granted a visa under the HTVF between 1 July and 31 December 2022 last entered Australia on visas granted under three visa categories. Fewer than five suspected victim-survivors entered Australia on the following visa categories: a visitor visa, a working and skilled visa, or a repealed visa. At the time of victim identification, fewer than five suspected victim-survivors had transferred to another visa, were still on the visa on which they entered Australia or were living in the country with no visa.

Modern slavery matters referred for prosecution

Defendant characteristics, 1 July – 31 December 2022 (*n*=24)



16 men
8 women



18 were born in Australia

Victim-witness characteristics, 1 July – 31 December 2022 (*n*=51)



25 males
24 females



15 were born in Australia
22 were born in Oceania and Antarctica (excluding Australia)



8 required an interpreter

Between 1 July and 31 December 2022, 15 matters involving human trafficking, slavery and slavery-like offences were either referred to, or continued by, the CDPP (see Table 12). Across these 15 matters, there were 24 defendants and 51 identified victims. Around half of the matters (53%, *n*=8) involved a single defendant and half involved multiple defendants (47%, *n*=7; range: 2–4 defendants). Similarly, around half of matters involved a single victim (47%, *n*=7) and half involved multiple victims (53%, *n*=8). The number of victims ranged from two to 24.

Defendant characteristics

Men comprised two-thirds (67%, $n=16$) of defendants and women comprised a third (33%, $n=8$) between 1 July and 31 December 2022 (see Table 12). A third of defendants were aged 35–44 years or 55 years and over (33%, $n=8$ each). The country of birth of these 24 defendants was spread across three regions. The majority of defendants (75%, $n=18$) were born in Australia.

	<i>n</i>	%
Gender		
Male	16	67
Female	8	33
Age		
25–34	2	8
35–44	8	33
45–54	6	25
55 and over	8	33
Region of birth		
Australia	18	75
North Africa and the Middle East	4	17
Other	2	8

Note: Regions based on *Standard Australian Classification of Countries* (ABS 2016). Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding

Source: Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery National Minimum Dataset 2022 [computer file]

Victim-witness characteristics

There were similar numbers of male (49%, $n=25$) and female (47%, $n=24$) victim-witnesses for human trafficking and modern slavery matters between 1 July and 31 December 2022 (see Table 13). The gender of two victim-witnesses was not stated. Three-quarters of the 24 victim-witnesses whose age was known were less than 35 years (75%, $n=18$).

Birthplace was available for 49 victim-witnesses (96%). Forty-five percent of these victim-witnesses ($n=22$) were born in the Oceania and Antarctica region (excluding Australia) and 31 percent ($n=15$) were born in Australia. Smaller proportions were born in Southern and Central Asia (10%, $n=5$) and South-East Asia (8%, $n=4$). Eight victim-witnesses (16%) required an interpreter.

Table 13: Victim-witnesses, 1 July – 31 December 2022 (n=51)

	<i>n</i>	%
Gender		
Male	25	49
Female	24	47
Not stated	2	4
Age^a		
Less than 18	4	17
18–24	5	21
25–34	9	38
40 and over	6	25
Region of birth^b		
Australia	15	31
Oceania and Antarctica (excluding Australia)	22	45
South-East Asia	4	8
Southern and Central Asia	5	10
Other	3	6
Required an interpreter		
Yes	8	16
No	43	84

a: Excludes 27 victim-witnesses whose age was not stated or unknown

b: Excludes 2 victim-witnesses whose region of birth was not stated or unknown

Note: Regions based on *Standard Australian Classification of Countries* (ABS 2016). Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding

Source: Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery National Minimum Dataset 2022 [computer file]

Charges

As at 31 December 2022, 20 of the 24 defendants had been charged with a total of 55 offences prescribed in Divisions 270 and 271 of the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth; see Table 14). Charges for the remaining four defendants were pending. Defendants may have been charged with other Commonwealth or state/territory offences but these were not available for the analysis.

Seventy-eight percent ($n=43$) of the 55 charges were for slavery and slavery-like offences—16 charges (29%) for servitude offences, 14 charges (25%) for slavery offences, 11 (20%) for forced labour and two (4%) for forced marriage offences (see Table 14). The other charges were for trafficking in persons offences (11%, $n=6$) and domestic trafficking in children (11%, $n=6$).

Of the 20 defendants who had been charged, nine (45%) were charged with at least one forced labour offence and six (30%) with at least one servitude offence (see Table 14). Eight defendants were charged with one human trafficking and modern slavery offence and 12 with multiple offences (range: 2–9).

Table 14: Charges by offence category, 1 July – 31 December 2022

	Defendants ^a (n=20)		Charges (n=55)	
	n	%	n	%
Slavery offences	5	25	14	25
<i>Slavery-like offences</i>				
Servitude	6	30	16	29
Forced labour	9	45	11	20
Forced marriage	1	5	2	4
<i>Trafficking in persons offences</i>				
Trafficking in persons	6	30	6	11
Domestic child trafficking	1	5	6	11

a: Cells may not add to totals as each defendant could be charged with multiple offence types
 Source: Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery National Minimum Dataset 2022 [computer file]

Defendant plea

Of the 20 defendants who had been charged, four pleaded guilty to a total of five charges and nine pleaded not guilty to a total of 30 charges. Five defendants each had at least one charge withdrawn or discontinued, for a total of nine charges. Three of these defendants had also entered a guilty or not guilty plea for another charge.

Outcomes

Eleven defendants were committed to trial or sentence for a total of 21 charges related to human trafficking, slavery or slavery-like offences. Six of these defendants were convicted of a total of nine charges. One defendant’s charges (n=2) were not proven and four had their charges (n=10) withdrawn or discontinued. Another three defendants were awaiting trial or sentencing at 31 December 2022.

Four of the six convicted defendants had appealed their conviction and/or sentence, while the appeal stage had not been reached for the remaining two defendants. Three of the appeals were not successful and one appeal was still to be finalised.

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Appendix A: Support for Trafficked People Program support streams

Box A1: Support for Trafficked People Program support streams

Assessment and Intensive Support Stream

This stream provides intensive support for up to 45 days to all suspected victims referred by the Australian Federal Police (AFP), irrespective of whether they are willing or able to assist with the investigation or prosecution of a modern slavery offence. If the person is not an Australian citizen and does not have a valid visa, they can be granted a Bridging visa F (WF-060) under the Human Trafficking Visa Framework for up to 45 days. The Assessment and Intensive Support Stream provides clients with a recovery and reflection period and time to assess their options. Clients have access to the following support as needed:

- case management support;
- secure accommodation;
- a living allowance;
- an amount for the purchase of essentials such as clothing and toiletries;
- access to health care, including counselling;
- access to interpreters; and
- access to legal and migration advice.

Extended Intensive Support Stream

The Extended Intensive Support Stream provides access to a further 45 days support for suspected victims who are willing to assist with the investigation or prosecution of a modern slavery offence but are unable to for reasons including age, ill health, trauma or practical impediment. This extended period of support is provided on a case-by-case basis and is designed to allow flexibility in the support available to clients. Clients on this stream may be granted a second Bridging visa F for up to 45 days under the Human Trafficking Visa Framework if required. Children and all clients referred for forced marriage (regardless of age) are automatically entitled to access the Extended Intensive Support Stream if it is in their best interests.

Box A1: Support for Trafficked People Program support streams (cont.)

Forced Marriage Support Stream

This specialised support stream recognises that suspected perpetrators of forced marriage crimes are often family or community members, and suspected victims are reluctant to participate in a criminal justice process in these circumstances, particularly when they are young and living in the family home. Clients may receive 200 days of support through the Support for Trafficked People Program without having to participate in a criminal justice process.

Justice Support Stream

The Justice Support Stream assists clients until the investigation and prosecution of a modern slavery matter is finalised. Clients on this stream may be eligible for:

- Special Benefit, Rent Assistance, and a health care card administered by Centrelink;
- assistance with securing longer-term accommodation;
- assistance with purchasing essential furniture and household items;
- access to Medicare and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme;
- access to legal services and interpreters;
- assistance to obtain employment and training (including English-language training) if desired;
- links to social support; and
- case management support.

If the client is not an Australian citizen and does not have a valid visa, they can be granted a Bridging visa F for the duration of the criminal justice process.

Temporary Trial Support Stream

Like the Assessment and Intensive Support Stream, the Temporary Trial Support Stream offers intensive support to suspected victims giving evidence pertaining to a modern slavery prosecution. Clients are entitled to short-term accommodation and a weekly living allowance. This stream is mainly for clients re-entering Australia specifically to participate in the proceedings of a modern slavery matter.

Transition period

Clients leaving the Support for Trafficked People Program have a 20-business day transition period. This allows case managers to make the necessary arrangements and referrals to ensure the client is adequately supported in their transition back to the community. This transition period may be extended on a case-by-case basis if needed.

Note: Information correct for the reference period 1 July to 31 December 2022
Source: Interdepartmental Committee on Human Trafficking and Slavery 2021

Appendix B: Visa types available under the Human Trafficking Visa Framework

The Human Trafficking Visa Framework comprises two visa categories: a temporary Bridging visa F and a permanent Referred Stay visa (see Box B1).

Box B1: Visa types available under the Human Trafficking Visa Framework

Bridging visa F (temporary)

A person assessed by the Australian Federal Police as a suspected victim of modern slavery may be eligible for a Bridging visa F for up to 45 days. A second such visa may be granted for an additional 45 days (making up to 90 days available) on a case-by-case basis, except for minors, for whom it is standard. A Bridging visa F can also be granted to a victim's immediate family members in Australia. The suspected victim is eligible to receive intensive support through the Support for Trafficked People Program and may be granted permission to work.

A Bridging visa F may also be granted to a suspected victim if an assistance notice has been issued by the Australian Federal Police. An assistance notice allows the holder to remain in Australia for as long as their presence is required for the administration of criminal justice. The suspected victim who holds this visa is eligible to receive support under the Justice Support Stream of the Support for Trafficked People Program and may also be granted permission to work.

A person may also be granted a Bridging visa F to allow them to enter or re-enter Australia so that they can commence, or recommence, assisting the Australian Federal Police with an investigation, or to give evidence in a court hearing.

Referred Stay visa (permanent)

A person who has contributed to the investigation or prosecution of a suspected perpetrator, and who would be in danger if they returned to their home country, may be eligible for a Referred Stay visa. This visa allows the holder to remain in Australia permanently and entitles the holder to full work rights and eligibility for Medicare. Immediate family members may be included in the visa application.

Source: Interdepartmental Committee on Human Trafficking and Slavery 2021

AIC reports

Statistical Report

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