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Modern slavery in Australia 2024–25

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Acronyms and abbreviations

AFP	Australian Federal Police
AIC	Australian Institute of Criminology
ARP	Additional Referral Pathway
CDPP	Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions
DSS	Department of Social Services
FMSSP	Forced Marriage Specialist Support Program
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 is a national data collection on modern slavery events that come to the attention of the Australian Government agencies responsible for responding to these incidents. This study describes modern slavery reports received between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025, the characteristics of victim-survivors and perpetrators identified in these reports, the nature of government-funded support provided to victim-survivors and the outcomes of modern slavery prosecutions.

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 originally established at the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) to support the evaluation of the *National Action Plan to Combat Modern Slavery 2020–25*.

The development of 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 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 (IOM & UNODC 2023); and
- the AIC’s research on 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 data providers, the Attorney-General’s Department and the Evaluation Governance Committee for the National Action Plan.

The HTMS NMDS was piloted in 2023 and the findings from this pilot study were published in *Findings from the Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery National Minimum Dataset pilot, July to December 2022* (Gannoni & Bricknell 2024). A second report followed, using data from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 (see McDonald & Bricknell 2025), but due to data provision issues a report based on 2023–24 data could not be finalised. This is the third report in the series, bringing together data from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

Data collection and reference period

The HTMS NMDS collects data on:

- reports of alleged modern slavery made to the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and subsequent investigations;
- suspected victim-survivors and perpetrators of modern slavery identified by the AFP;
- victim-survivors referred to Australian Government funded support programs for victim-survivors and the supports they received. For this report it includes the Support for Trafficked People Program (STPP) and Forced Marriage Specialist Support Program (FMSSP);
- victim-survivors granted a visa under the Human Trafficking Visa Framework (HTVF); and
- modern slavery matters referred to or continued by the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions (CDPP).

Data are provided using a codebook developed for the HTMS NMDS in collaboration with four Australian Government agencies responsible for responding to modern slavery in Australia:

- the AFP;
- the Department of Social Services (DSS), which administers the STPP and FMSSP;
- the Department of Home Affairs, which administers the HTVF; and
- the CDPP (see Box 1).

STPP and FMSSP data were collated by the Australian Red Cross and Life Without Barriers, respectively responsible for delivering these two programs. These data are provided to the HTMS NMDS with the informed consent of the clients.

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

Australian Federal Police

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, authorities.

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

Department of Social Services

DSS administers two government-funded support services for victim-survivors of modern slavery—the STPP and FMSSP.

Support for Trafficked People Program

The STPP is delivered nationally by the Australian Red Cross. The STPP was established by the Australian Government in 2004 to support 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, secure accommodation and legal services (DSS 2025b).

Originally, the AFP was the only agency that could refer suspected victim-survivors of modern slavery to the STPP (DSS 2025b). 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 2025b).

From 23 July 2024, victim-survivors can also be referred to the STPP by the Additional Referral Pathway (ARP). The ARP is being piloted by the Salvation Army and enables referrals to the STPP from select support service providers. Unlike the referral process managed by the AFP, victim-survivors referred by the ARP do not need to engage with law enforcement first to be eligible for the STPP.

Forced Marriage Specialist Support Program

The FMSSP commenced on 2 January 2025 and is delivered by Life Without Barriers. The program was established to provide a model of support tailored to the specific needs of victim-survivors of forced marriage, and those at risk of forced marriage, through prevention and early intervention support (DSS 2025a). Victim-survivors can self-refer to the program or be referred by the AFP, ARP or community organisations. Victim-survivors do not need to engage with law enforcement to be eligible for the program.

Department of Home Affairs

The Department of Home Affairs administers the HTVF. 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.

Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions

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

Definitions and counting rules

Exploitation type

In this report, the term *modern slavery* refers to all human trafficking, slavery and slavery-like offences prescribed in Divisions 270 and 271 of the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth). These offences are categorised as exploitation types in alignment with recording practices used by data providers:

- 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, as shown in the list above, is disaggregated to the subcategories domestic, sexual and other; and trafficking in persons to the subcategories trafficking in persons—entering Australia and trafficking in persons—exit trafficking. Exit trafficking is trafficking of persons out of Australia.

Victim-survivors and perpetrators

The term *victim-survivor* refers to an individual who is a victim-survivor of a modern slavery offence (including an attempted offence). It is acknowledged that these 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 HTMS 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 HTMS NMDS on the basis that this individual may be a perpetrator of a modern slavery offence.

The AFP may also use the term *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 report describes the total number of reports of alleged modern slavery received by the AFP between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025. It also describes the subtotal of those reports 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. A report may comprise one or more alleged exploitation types, one or more suspected victim-survivors, 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 legal proceedings.

Changes from previous report

Offence count—reports and investigations

In this report, data about offences identified in AFP reports and investigations of alleged modern slavery refers to the primary modern slavery offence only. A primary modern slavery offence is counted more than once if multiple victims were identified in an individual case. Previously the data referred to all modern slavery offences identified in an individual report or investigation. This variation is due to a change in the data provided by the AFP and means findings in this report may not be directly comparable to those in previous reports.

Means of exploitation

Similarly, in this report means of exploitation refers to the primary means of exploitation for each victim-survivor identified by the AFP. The previous report described all means of exploitation experienced by the victim-survivor and identified by the AFP. This variation is also due to a change in the data provided.

Support service data

Information on government-funded support services for victim-survivors of modern slavery includes data from the FMSSP as well as the STPP. The FMSSP commenced during this report's reference period, with data on victim-survivors referred to the program and the supports they received available from when the program commenced (2 January 2025) to 30 June 2025.

Prosecution data

Data about modern slavery matters referred to or continued by the CDPP in 2024–25 include information on both modern slavery and other charges, unlike the previous report, which referred to modern slavery charges only. It is intended to continue to receive data on all charges from the CDPP where a person is charged with a modern slavery offence.

Reports of modern slavery in Australia

Between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025, the AFP received 371 reports of alleged modern slavery, an average of 31 reports each month during the 12-month period. A report is a notification to the AFP alleging a crime has been, is being or may be committed. The majority (79%, $n=292$) of reports were about alleged offences that had occurred, four percent ($n=13$) concerned an attempted offence and just under a fifth of reports (18%, $n=66$) were about offences that were at risk of occurring.

In 2024–25, reports of alleged modern slavery were referred to the AFP by a range of law enforcement, government, non-government and community organisations (see Table 1). Thirteen percent of reports ($n=47$) received by the AFP in 2024–25 were submitted by the Australian Border Force. One in 10 reports were submitted by state and territory police (10%, $n=37$). Non-government organisations were the source of eight percent ($n=31$) of reports.

Over two-fifths (43%, $n=161$) of reports made to the AFP were submitted by individuals. A third (32%, $n=120$) were submitted by a member of the public, primarily using AFP's Report a Crime webform or contacting the National Operations State Service Centre or Crime Stoppers. Eleven percent of reports ($n=41$) were self-referrals by the suspected victim-survivor, mostly using these same reporting avenues. These reporting options were recorded as 'unspecified reports' in previous publications.

Table 1: Reports of modern slavery by referral source, 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025

	<i>n</i>	%
Member of the public	120	32.4
Australian Border Force	47	12.7
Victim-survivors (self-referred)	41	11.1
State/territory police	37	10.0
Non-government organisation	31	8.4
School/education facility	27	7.3
State/territory child protection agency	26	7.0
Hospital/health facility	10	2.7
International (eg Interpol)	8	2.2
Department of Home Affairs	5	1.4
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	5	1.4
Australian Federal Police ^a	5	1.4
Fair Work Ombudsman	4	1.1
Other ^b	5	1.4
Total	371	100.0

a: Alleged offences detected by the AFP, such as through proactive policing

b: Other reports to the AFP including referrals from government agencies and consulates

Note: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding

Source: AIC HTMS NMDS 2024–25 [computer file]

Almost two-thirds of reports received by the AFP between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025 related to allegations of modern slavery which had occurred in the two largest jurisdictions: New South Wales (23%, *n*=86) and Victoria (39%, *n*=146; see Table 2). Twelve percent of reports referred to alleged modern slavery offences in Queensland (*n*=46), seven percent in Western Australia (*n*=25) and six percent in South Australia (*n*=23). Few reports of alleged modern slavery originated from the smaller jurisdictions of Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.

The majority of these reports concerned alleged modern slavery taking place in metropolitan centres—89 percent of reports (*n*=290) from the five largest jurisdictions, or 78 percent of all reports. Allegations of modern slavery in regional or remote areas ranged from eight (*n*=7; NSW) to 17 percent (*n*=4; SA) of reports from the five most populous states. One in 10 reports (10%, *n*=38) referred to alleged modern slavery offences that had been committed or attempted or were at risk of occurring offshore.

Table 2: Reports of modern slavery by jurisdiction in which the alleged offence occurred, 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025

	<i>n</i>	%
NSW	86	23.2
<i>Metro</i>	79	21.3
<i>Regional/remote</i>	7	1.9
Vic	146	39.4
<i>Metro</i>	130	35.0
<i>Regional/remote</i>	16	4.3
Qld	46	12.4
<i>Metro</i>	41	11.1
<i>Regional/remote</i>	5	1.4
WA	25	6.7
<i>Metro</i>	21	5.7
<i>Regional/remote</i>	4	1.1
SA	23	6.2
<i>Metro</i>	19	5.1
<i>Regional/remote</i>	4	1.1
Tas	1	0.3
ACT	4	1.1
NT	2	0.5
Offshore	38	10.2
Total	371	100.0

Source: AIC HTMS NMDS 2024–25 [computer file]

Exploitation type and industry

Of the 371 reports of modern slavery received by the AFP between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025, 29 percent ($n=106$) related to one or more allegations of forced marriage. Just over one-fifth (22%, $n=83$) related to alleged sexual servitude and 14 percent to alleged exit trafficking ($n=53$).

A total of 420 primary offences were identified from the 371 reports (see Table 3). Twenty-eight percent ($n=118$) of these were an alleged forced marriage offence, one-fifth (20%, $n=84$) an alleged sexual servitude offence and 18 percent ($n=75$) an alleged exit trafficking offence. Around two-thirds of primary modern slavery offences related to slavery and slavery-like offences (67%, $n=283$) and one-third were trafficking in persons offences (33%, $n=137$).

Table 3: Reports of modern slavery by primary exploitation type, 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025				
	Reports ^a		Offences	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Slavery	12	3.2	12	2.9
Servitude—domestic	18	4.9	22	5.2
Servitude—sexual	83	22.4	84	20.0
Forced labour	41	11.1	42	10.0
Deceptive recruiting	5	1.4	5	1.2
Forced marriage	106	29.0	118	28.1
<i>Slavery and slavery-like offences</i>	265	71.4	283	67.4
Trafficking in persons—entering Australia	15	4.0	15	3.6
Trafficking in persons—exiting Australia	53	14.3	75	17.9
Domestic trafficking in persons	2	0.5	2	0.5
Child trafficking	26	7.0	35	8.3
Domestic child trafficking	1	0.3	1	0.2
Debt bondage	9	2.4	9	2.1
<i>Trafficking in persons offences</i>	106	28.6	137	32.6
Total	371	100.0	420	100.0

a: An offence is counted once for each report irrespective of the number of victim-survivors identified

Note: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding

Source: AIC HTMS NMDS 2024–25 [computer file]

Over half of the reports of modern slavery received by the AFP in 2024–25 described exploitation occurring in households or other private settings (57%, *n*=213; see Table 4), which reflects the prevalence of forced marriage and associated offences (eg exit trafficking) alleged in these reports. Most alleged sexual servitude offences took place in the commercial sex industry, which was identified as the location in 19 percent of reports (*n*=70). Five percent of reports (*n*=20) identified exploitation occurring in the agriculture, horticulture and forestry industry, where most reports of forced labour were located. Other industries comprised less than five percent of reports each.

Table 4: Reports of modern slavery by industry type, 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025

	<i>n</i>	%
Agriculture, horticulture and forestry	20	5.4
Manufacturing	1	0.3
Construction	1	0.3
Wholesale and retail trade	8	2.2
Arts, entertainment and recreation	6	1.6
Commercial sex industry	70	18.9
Personal services including massages, beauty parlours, etc	8	2.2
Domestic work, housekeeping, childminding/au pair services	15	4.0
Household or other private setting	213	57.4
Drug production, sales and trafficking	3	0.8
Other	12	3.2
Not stated/unknown	14	3.8
Total	371	100.0

Source: AIC HTMS NMDS 2024–25 [computer file]

Assessment and investigation

Reports received by the AFP are assessed to determine whether they 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. Investigating modern slavery matters and identifying victim-survivors from reports is a lengthy process due to the complexities of modern slavery matters. Investigations often rely on the engagement of suspected victim-survivors, who may be unable or unwilling to participate.

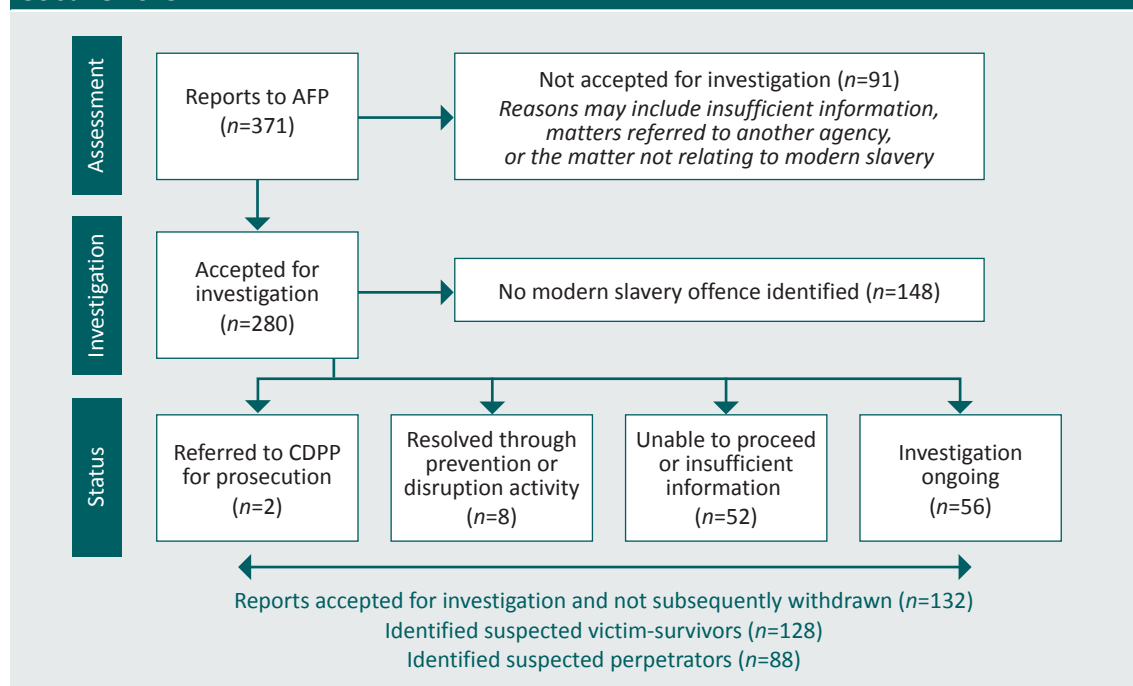
Three-quarters (76%, *n*=280) of the 371 reports received by the AFP were accepted for investigation. The AFP was the lead agency in the majority of reports accepted for investigation (95%, *n*=267) and the supporting agency in the remainder (5%, *n*=13).

The other 91 reports (25%) were not accepted for investigation. Of these, similar proportions were not accepted either because there was insufficient information to warrant an investigation (44% of reports not accepted, *n*=40) or because the report was determined not to be a human trafficking or modern slavery matter (41%, *n*=37). The remaining 14 reports not accepted for investigation were either referred to another agency (11%, *n*=10) or the outcome was not further defined (4%, *n*=4). The 10 reports referred to another agency were referred for reasons such as being outside the jurisdiction of the AFP or relating to Commonwealth or state offences for investigation by another law enforcement entity.

Half (53%, $n=148$) of the 280 reports accepted for investigation were subsequently withdrawn because further investigation determined the matter did not involve a modern slavery offence. Of the remaining 132 reports, 52 reports (39%) were discontinued, either because there was insufficient evidence (18%, $n=24$) or for other reasons (21%, $n=28$). The reason for discontinuing the investigation was available for 30 of the 52 reports. Almost three-quarters of these investigations ($n=22$) were suspended because the victim-survivor did not want to engage with police or did not want to proceed with the investigation, or police were unable to speak to the victim-survivor (eg the victim-survivor was offshore).

Eight reports (6%) accepted for investigation and not subsequently withdrawn were resolved due to the prevention or disruption of the alleged crime and two (2%) were referred to the CDPP. Fifty-six investigations (42%) were ongoing as of 30 June 2025.

Figure 1: Reports of modern slavery through each stage of investigation, 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025



Note: Status row excludes 14 reports accepted for investigation and not subsequently withdrawn where status of investigation was recorded as 'other'

Source: AIC HTMS NMDS 2024–25 [computer file]

Exploitation type of reports investigated

The primary exploitation type specified in the 132 reports accepted for investigation and not subsequently withdrawn generally reflected the pattern seen in the initial 371 reports of modern slavery received by the AFP in 2024–25 (see Table 5).

Just under one in three reports accepted for investigation and not subsequently withdrawn referred to alleged forced marriage offences (29%, $n=38$), a quarter to exit trafficking offences (25%, $n=33$) and one in six to sexual servitude offences (17%, $n=23$). Almost two-thirds of reports accepted for investigation and not subsequently withdrawn referred to a least one slavery or slavery-like offence (65%, $n=86$) and approximately a third to a trafficking offence (35%, $n=46$).

A total of 160 alleged offences were determined from 132 reports. The proportion of alleged forced marriage and forced labour offences in reports accepted for investigation and not subsequently withdrawn was similar to those of the original reports to the AFP (forced marriage: 29%, $n=46$ vs 28%, $n=118$; forced labour: 8%, $n=12$ vs 10%, $n=42$). However, the proportion decreased for alleged sexual servitude offences (20%, $n=84$ vs 14%, $n=23$) and doubled for exit trafficking offences (18%, $n=75$ vs 32%, $n=51$).

Table 5: Reports of modern slavery accepted for investigation and not subsequently withdrawn by primary exploitation type, 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025

	Reports ^a		Offences	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Slavery	9	6.8	9	5.6
Servitude—domestic	3	2.3	3	1.9
Servitude—sexual	23	17.4	23	14.4
Forced labour	11	8.3	12	7.5
Deceptive recruiting	2	1.5	2	1.3
Forced marriage	38	28.8	46	28.8
<i>Slavery and slavery-like offences</i>	<i>86</i>	<i>65.2</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>59.4</i>
Trafficking in persons—entering Australia	3	2.3	3	1.9
Trafficking in persons—exiting Australia	33	25.0	51	31.9
Domestic trafficking in persons	1	0.8	1	0.6
Child trafficking	5	3.8	6	3.8
Debt bondage	4	3.0	4	2.5
<i>Trafficking in persons offences</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>34.8</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>40.6</i>
Total	132	100.0	160	100.0

a: An offence is counted once for each report irrespective of the number of victim-survivors identified

Note: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding

Source: AIC HTMS NMDS 2024–25 [computer file]

Suspected victim-survivors

Suspected victim-survivors (henceforth referred to as victim-survivors) were identified from 100 of the 132 reports of modern slavery accepted for investigation and not subsequently withdrawn. A total of 128 victim-survivors were identified from these 100 reports. Eighty-two reports identified a single victim and 18 identified multiple victims (range: 2–5).

Gender and age

Females made up 87 percent ($n=111$) of identified victim-survivors and males comprised 13 percent ($n=16$; see Table 6). Sixty-five percent ($n=83$) were adults aged 18 years or over and a third (34%, $n=43$) were under the age of 18 years. Most victim-survivors were minors or young adults—68 percent ($n=76$) of female victim-survivors and 88 percent ($n=14$) of male victim-survivors were under the age of 30.

Place of birth and residency

Country of birth was recorded for 114 victim-survivors (89%), spanning nine regions and 26 countries. The majority of victim-survivors were born overseas (78%, $n=100$; see Table 6). Eleven percent ($n=14$) were born in Australia. All 14 of the Australian-born victim-survivors identified as non-Indigenous.

Southern and Central Asia was the most common region of birth, as 56 victim-survivors were born in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka (44% of victim-survivors). The next most common region was Oceania and Antarctica (15%, $n=19$), a category including the 14 victim-survivors born in Australia and five victim-survivors born in Papua New Guinea and Samoa. Seventeen victim-survivors (13%) were born in North Africa and the Middle East (Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Oman, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan and Syria).

Citizenship status was recorded for 60 victim-survivors. Similar proportions of victim-survivors were Australian citizens/permanent residents (22%, $n=26$) or temporary visa holders (19%, $n=24$) at the time of identification. A further eight percent ($n=10$) of victim-survivors had no visa at the time of identification.

Primary language

A third of victim-survivors spoke English either as their principal language (29%, $n=37$) or with one or more other languages (5%, $n=6$; see Table 6). Sixteen percent of victim-survivors identified another language as their principal language spoken ($n=20$). A similar proportion of victim-survivors required an interpreter to engage with police (15%, $n=19$). Information on primary language was not available for 65 victim-survivors.

Relationship with suspected perpetrator

Over three-quarters of victim-survivors (77%, $n=99$) knew the suspected perpetrator (see Table 6). Forty-four percent ($n=56$) were allegedly exploited by a family member and 30 percent ($n=38$) by an intimate partner. Four percent ($n=5$) were exploited by someone they knew but did not have a familial relationship with. Very few victim-survivors were allegedly exploited by a stranger (2%, $n=3$). A perpetrator had not been identified in the exploitation of 19 victim-survivors (15%).

Four in 10 female victim-survivors were exploited by a family member (41%, $n=46$) and a third by an intimate partner (34%, $n=38$). Family members were the primary perpetrator in the exploitation of almost two-thirds of male victim-survivors (63%, $n=10$).

Victim-survivors exploited by a family member other than an intimate partner ($n=56$) were mostly associated with reports of alleged forced marriage (46%, $n=26$) or exit trafficking (43%, $n=24$). Those exploited by an intimate partner were primarily associated with reports of exit trafficking (55%, $n=21$).

Alleged exploitation type

Alleged exploitation type refers to the primary offence determined for each identified victim-survivor. Four in 10 victim-survivors were alleged to be the victim of exit trafficking (39%, $n=50$) and a third the victim of forced marriage (34%, $n=44$).

Most female victim-survivors were alleged to be victims of exit trafficking (39%, $n=43$) or forced marriage (36%, $n=40$). This refers to the primary offence alleged. Fewer than one in 10 allegedly experienced other forms of exploitation, including eight percent ($n=9$) who were victims of sexual servitude and five percent ($n=4$) who were victims of slavery.

Similarly, the highest proportion of male victim-survivors were alleged to be victims of exit trafficking (44%, $n=7$), followed by alleged forced marriage (25%, $n=4$) and forced labour (13%, $n=2$).

Table 6: Characteristics of suspected victim-survivors, 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025 (n=128)		
	<i>n</i>	%
Gender		
Male	16	12.5
Female	111	86.7
Non-binary	0	0.0
Different term	1	0.8
Age group		
1–9	13	10.2
10–17	30	23.4
18–24	28	21.9
25–29	19	14.8
30–34	15	11.7
35–39	10	7.8
40–44	7	5.5
45 and over	4	3.1
Not stated/unknown	2	1.6
Country of birth		
Australia	14	10.9
Overseas	100	78.1
Not stated/unknown	14	10.9
Region of birth		
Oceania and Antarctica	19	14.8
South-East Asia	11	8.6
North-East Asia	5	3.9
Southern and Central Asia	56	43.8
North Africa and the Middle East	17	13.3
Other ^a	6	4.7
Not stated/unknown	14	10.9
Citizenship status		
Australian citizen/permanent resident	26	22.0
Temporary visa	24	18.8
No visa	10	7.8
Not stated/unknown	68	53.1

Table 6: Characteristics of suspected victim-survivors, 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025 (n=128) (cont.)

	<i>n</i>	%
Primary language		
English	37	28.9
Other language	20	15.6
English and other language	6	4.7
Not stated/unknown	65	50.8
Required an interpreter		
Yes	19	14.8
No	79	61.7
Not stated/unknown	30	23.4
Alleged exploitation		
Slavery	6	4.7
Servitude—domestic	3	2.3
Servitude—sexual	11	8.6
Forced labour	4	3.1
Deceptive recruiting	1	0.8
Forced marriage	44	34.4
Trafficking in persons—entering Australia	2	1.6
Trafficking in persons—exiting Australia	50	39.1
Domestic trafficking in persons	1	0.8
Child trafficking	4	3.1
Debt bondage	2	1.6
Relationship with suspected perpetrator		
Intimate partner	38	29.7
Other family member	56	43.8
Known—not related	5	3.9
Stranger	3	2.3
Perpetrator not identified	19	14.8
Not stated/unknown	7	5.5

a: Includes North-West Europe, Southern and Eastern Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa and the Americas

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

Source: AIC HTMS NMDS 2024–25 [computer file]

Means of entry into exploitation

The means by which a victim-survivor entered into exploitation was recorded for 118 of the 128 identified victim-survivors. Data on the principal means of exploitation only was provided for this report, so the findings may not reflect the range of methods used by perpetrators to traffic or enslave victim-survivors.

The most common primary means of causing entry into exploitation was deception, used by perpetrators against 45 of the 118 victim-survivors (38%) for whom means of exploitation was recorded (see Table 7). Coercion was used against 37 victim-survivors (31%) and threats against 23 victim-survivors (20%). Thirteen victim-survivors (11%) entered exploitation by ‘other’ means employed by the perpetrator.

Over a third of victim-survivors of alleged forced marriage where primary means of exploitation was recorded were coerced (36%, $n=13$). Another 28 percent ($n=10$) had been threatened and 28 percent ($n=10$) had some other means used against them. In contrast, deception was the most common means used against victim-survivors of exit trafficking, recorded as the primary means of entering exploitation for 63 percent ($n=31$) of victim-survivors. A mix of coercion (36%, $n=4$), threats (18%, $n=2$) and deception (45%, $n=5$) was used against victim-survivors of sexual servitude.

Table 7: Primary means of exploitation, 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025

	<i>n</i>	%
Coercion ^a	37	31.4
Threats ^b	23	19.5
Deception	45	38.1
Other	13	11.0
Total victim-survivors	118	100.0

a: Includes coercion by physical force, duress or detention; by psychological or emotional means; or by taking advantage of the person’s vulnerability

b: Includes threats to the victim or others and threats of deportation

Note: Excludes 10 victim-survivors where primary means of exploitation was not stated or unknown

Source: AIC HTMS NMDS 2024–25 [computer file]

Referral to government-funded support services

Fifty-one (40%) of the 128 victim-survivors identified from reports accepted for investigation and not subsequently withdrawn were referred to the STPP and/or to the FMSSP. Among the 77 victim-survivors not referred to the STPP or the FMSSP include those who were no longer in Australia, those no longer suspected to be a victim of an offence that would make them eligible for the STPP or the FMSSP, those who did not agree to be referred, and victim-survivors who were not referred for another reason not further specified.

Suspected perpetrators

A total of 88 suspected perpetrators ('perpetrators' hereafter) were identified from 88 of the 132 reports of modern slavery accepted for investigation and not subsequently withdrawn. Perpetrators were not identified from the remaining 44 reports.

Gender and age

Males comprised the majority of identified perpetrators (89%, $n=78$) and females 11 percent ($n=10$; see Table 8). All 81 perpetrators for whom age group was recorded were adults aged 18 and over. The age cohort of perpetrators was inverse to that of victim-survivors. Sixty percent of perpetrators were aged 40 years and over, with the most common age groups being 40–44 years and 55 years and over (19%, $n=17$ each).

Place of birth

Place of birth was recorded for 77 percent ($n=68$) of identified perpetrators, spanning seven regions and 21 countries (see Table 8). Seven percent of perpetrators ($n=6$) were born in Australia and 70 percent ($n=62$) were born overseas.

All but six of the perpetrators where country of birth was recorded were born in one of three regions. Two-fifths of all identified perpetrators were born in Southern and Central Asia (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka; 40%, $n=35$). Another one-fifth were born in North Africa and the Middle East (Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Syria and the United Arab Emirates; 21%, $n=18$), and one in 10 in Oceania and Antarctica (Australia and Samoa; 10%, $n=9$).

Table 8: Characteristics of suspected perpetrators, 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025 (n=88)		
	n	%
Gender		
Male	78	88.6
Female	10	11.4
Non-binary	0	0.0
Different term	0	0.0
Age group		
18–24	1	1.1
25–29	3	3.4
30–34	12	13.6
35–39	12	13.6
40–44	17	19.3
45–49	13	14.8
50–54	6	6.8
55 and over	17	19.3
Not stated/unknown	7	8.0
Country of birth		
Australia	6	6.8
Overseas	62	70.5
Not stated/unknown	20	22.7
Region of birth		
Oceania and Antarctica	9	10.2
Southern and Central Asia	35	39.8
North Africa and the Middle East	18	20.5
Other ^a	6	6.8
Not stated/unknown	20	22.7
Citizenship		
Australian citizen/permanent resident	14	15.9
Temporary visa	4	4.6
No visa	0	0.0
Not stated/unknown	70	79.6

a: Includes South-East Asia, North-East Asia, North-West Europe and the Americas

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

Source: AIC HTMS NMDS 2024–25 [computer file]

Alleged exploitation type

A total of 116 primary modern slavery offences were alleged against the 88 perpetrators. The 78 male perpetrators were alleged to have committed 105 offences and the 10 female perpetrators to have committed 11 offences.

Thirty-four percent ($n=30$) of perpetrators had one or more alleged exit trafficking offences, 30 percent ($n=26$) one or more forced marriage offences and nine percent each a sexual servitude offence or forced labour offence ($n=8$ each; see Table 9). Eight in 10 (80%, $n=70$) perpetrators were alleged to have committed an exploitation offence against one victim-survivor and one-fifth (20%, $n=18$) were alleged to have committed offences against multiple victims (range: 2–5).

The largest proportions of the offences allegedly committed by male perpetrators were exit trafficking (36%, $n=28$), forced marriage (28%, $n=22$) and sexual servitude offences (10%, $n=8$). Of the few female perpetrators, the highest proportion were involved in an alleged forced marriage offence (40%, $n=4$).

Table 9: Suspected perpetrators by alleged primary exploitation type and gender, 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025						
	Male		Female		Total	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Slavery	5	6.4	0	0.0	5	5.7
Servitude—domestic	2	2.6	1	10.0	3	3.4
Servitude—sexual	8	10.3	0	0.0	8	9.1
Forced labour	6	7.7	2	20.0	8	9.1
Forced marriage	22	28.2	4	40.0	26	29.5
Trafficking in persons—entering Australia	1	1.3	1	10.0	2	2.3
Trafficking in person—exiting Australia	28	35.9	2	20.0	30	34.1
Child trafficking	3	3.9	0	0.0	3	3.4
Domestic trafficking	1	1.3	0	0.0	1	1.1
Debt bondage	2	2.6	0	0.0	2	2.3
Total	78	100.0	10	100.0	88	100.0

Note: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding
Source: AIC HTMS NMDS 2024–25 [computer file]

Victim-survivors receiving assistance through government-funded support programs

The Australian Government funds two support programs for victim-survivors of modern slavery—the STPP and the newly established FMSSP. These programs are administered by DSS and operate alongside support services provided by a wide range of civil society organisations, who may refer clients to one of these programs where specialist support is required.

Support for Trafficked People Program

Between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025, 152 victim-survivors were referred to the STPP. More than half were referred via the ARP (54%, $n=82$) and just under half by the AFP (46%, $n=70$).

Gender and age

The majority of victim-survivors referred to the STPP in 2024–25 were female (76%, $n=116$; see Table 10). Males made up one-fifth of referrals (20%, $n=31$), and three percent ($n=5$) identified as non-binary or used a different term.

Eighty-six percent ($n=130$) of victim-survivors referred to the STPP were adults over the age of 18. A third of referrals were aged 25–34 years (34%, $n=51$) and 19 percent each were aged 18–24 or 35–44 years ($n=29$). Almost two-thirds of adult referrals (62%, $n=80$) were young adults aged between 18 and 34 years.

Fourteen percent ($n=22$) of referrals were children or young people under the age of 18 years. All eight children aged between one and nine years old had been referred to the STPP with their parent.

Disability status

Most victim-survivors (65%, $n=98$) referred to the STPP in 2024–25 did not have an identified disability. Fewer than 10 each were identified as having a physical, psychiatric, intellectual/learning or sensory disability. The disability status of almost a fifth of victim-survivors referred to the STPP in 2024–25 was not known (18%, $n=28$).

Place of birth

Among victim-survivors referred to the STPP in 2024–25, place of birth spanned 45 countries and nine regions. A fifth were born in Australia (20%, $n=31$) and 80 percent were born overseas ($n=121$; see Table 10). Three of the Australian-born victim-survivors identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (2% of all victim-survivors referred to the STPP).

Similar to victim-survivors identified in reports of modern slavery received by the AFP in 2024–25, the highest proportion of victim-survivors referred to the STPP during this period were born in Southern and Central Asia (34%, $n=52$), including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The next most frequent region of birth was Oceania and Antarctica, which included the 31 victim-survivors born in Australia and 13 born in New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Fiji. One in 10 (11%, $n=16$) victim-survivors had been born in North Africa and the Middle East (Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Saudi Arabia).

Primary language

Half (51%, $n=77$) of victim-survivors referred to the STPP spoke English as their primary language (see Table 10). Forty-five percent ($n=68$) spoke a language other than English as their primary language. Over a quarter (27%, $n=41$) required an interpreter to engage with caseworkers and other service providers.

Table 10: STPP referrals by demographic characteristics, 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025 ($n=152$)

	<i>n</i>	%
Gender		
Male	31	20.4
Female	116	76.3
Non-binary	2	1.3
Different term	3	2.0
Age group		
1–9	8	5.3
10–17	14	9.2
18–24	29	19.1
25–34	51	33.6
35–44	29	19.1
45–54	15	9.9
55 and over	6	4.0

Table 10: STPP referrals by demographic characteristics, 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025 (n=152) (cont.)		
	n	%
Indigenous status		
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	3	2.0
Non-Indigenous	148	97.4
Not stated/unknown	1	0.7
Disability status		
Intellectual/learning	6	4.0
Physical	9	5.9
Sensory ^a	2	1.3
Psychiatric	9	5.9
No disability	98	64.5
Not stated/unknown	28	18.4
Country of birth		
Australia	31	20.4
Overseas	121	79.7
Region of birth		
Oceania and Antarctica	44	29.0
South-East Asia	12	7.9
North-East Asia	8	5.3
Southern and Central Asia	52	34.2
North Africa and the Middle East	16	10.5
Sub-Saharan Africa	10	6.6
Other ^b	10	6.6
Primary language		
English	77	50.7
Other language	68	44.7
Not stated/unknown	7	4.6
Required an interpreter		
Yes	41	27.0
No	111	73.0

a: Includes visual, hearing and speech impairment

b: Includes North-West Europe, Southern and Eastern Europe and the Americas

Note: 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: AIC HTMS NMDS 2024–25 [computer file]

Support stream accessed

Five support streams were available to victim-survivors referred to the STPP between 1 July 2024 and June 2025. Victim-survivors accessed an average of two support streams during this period (range: 1–3; see Table 11). Similar proportions of victim-survivors had accessed one support stream (40%, *n*=60) or two support streams (38%, *n*=58) and the remaining 22 percent (*n*=34) had accessed three support streams by 30 June 2025.

All victim-survivors who are referred to the STPP initially go on the Intensive Support Stream (see Table 11). This support stream provides up to 90 days of support, irrespective of whether the victim-survivor is able to assist with the investigation or prosecution of their matter. Clients on the Intensive Support Stream have access to a range of supports including financial assistance for themselves and their dependants, accommodation, health care and legal services (see *Support provided*, below).

Twenty percent (*n*=31) of 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 Intensive Support Stream.

Thirteen percent (*n*=20) of victim-survivors accessed the Justice Support Stream. The Justice Support Stream provides support to victim-survivors during the investigation and prosecution of their matter. Similar supports available during the Intensive Support Stream are available to clients on this support stream.

Almost half (49%, *n*=75) of victim-survivors accessed the Transition Stream. This stream provides a 20 working day period for clients to transition from the STPP into everyday life.

Table 11: Victim-survivors by STPP support stream accessed, 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025 (<i>n</i> =152)		
	<i>n</i>	%
Intensive Support Stream	152	100
Forced Marriage Support Stream	31	20.4
Justice Support Stream	20	13.2
Temporary Trial Support Stream	0	0.0
Transition Stream	75	49.3
Number of streams accessed		
1	60	39.5
2	58	38.2
3	34	22.4
Mean (medium) number of streams accessed	2(2)	

Note: More than one support stream may be accessed during the reference period. Includes new referrals to the Support for Trafficked People Program (STPP) only
Source: AIC HTMS NMDS 2024–2025 [computer file]

Support provided

Table 12 describes the types of support available to STPP clients. Access to these supports is often facilitated through referrals to specialist agencies. Almost all victim-survivors referred to the STPP in 2024–25 had multiple support needs. On average, victim-survivors on the STPP received six types of support (range: 1–10) during the reference period, although different support types may have been provided beyond the reference period.

Almost all victim-survivors received social and emotional support (99%, $n=150$) and financial support (96%, $n=146$) and the majority received assistance with accommodation and housing (76%, $n=116$), medical and healthcare (74%, $n=112$), emergency items (66%, $n=100$), and employment, education and training needs (61%, $n=93$; see Table 12).

Table 12: Victim-survivors referred to the STPP by types of support received, 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025 ($n=152$)

	<i>n</i>	%
Accommodation and housing support—may include crisis accommodation, short-term accommodation and longer-term housing solutions	116	76.3
Assistance accessing legal advice—may include connecting victim-survivors with legal services for visa-related matters or advice relating to civil and criminal proceedings (including family court matters)	88	57.9
Assistance accessing medical and healthcare services—access to medical services 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.	112	73.7
Drug and alcohol support—includes the provision of information and resources, referrals to support and related medical services, and alcohol or drug related safety planning	4	2.6
Emergency items—may include essential items such as food, clothing and toiletries	100	65.8
Employment, education and training—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.	93	61.2
Financial support—may include an interim living allowance, one-off payments for other types of support services, and financial counselling/budgeting	146	96.1
Financial support for dependants	12	7.9
Interpreters/translation—includes the use of and advocacy for the use of interpreters with other stakeholders the client may engage with	33	21.7

Table 12: Victim-survivors referred to the STPP by types of support received, 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025 (n=152) (cont.)

	<i>n</i>	%
Parenting support—any support provided to a client for the purposes of supporting the wellbeing of their child. This can include providing information and resources about raising children; referrals to family-based supports; support with family conflict resolution; support to access childcare, schooling, transport, healthcare and social supports for children; or advocacy on behalf of the children to various services.	14	9.2
Social and emotional support—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 judgement; 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.	150	98.7
Other	33	21.7
<i>Mean (median) number of supports provided</i>	<i>6(6)</i>	

Note: Includes new referrals to the Support for Trafficked People Program (STPP) only. Refers to supports provided during the reference period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 only. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding

Source: AIC HTMS NMDS 2024–2025 [computer file]

Support status as at 30 June 2025

As at 30 June 2025, 38 percent (*n*=57) of victim-survivors referred to the STPP in 2024–25 remained on the Intensive Support Stream. Eleven percent (*n*=16) were on the Justice Support Stream and just one victim-survivor was on the Forced Marriage Support Stream. Six percent (*n*=9) of victim-survivors were transitioning from the STPP and 45 percent (*n*=69) had already exited the program.

Of the clients who had exited the program, 46 percent (*n*=32) of clients who accessed the Forced Marriage Support Stream did so because the timeframe for support under this stream had lapsed, which includes those who were then subsequently referred to the FMSSP. The remaining clients left the program because they declined to proceed beyond the Intensive Support Stream (19%, *n*=13), the justice process they were involved in was discontinued or finalised (13%, *n*=9), or the AFP determined that the client had not been exploited (10%, *n*=7). A smaller proportion of victim-survivors who had exited the program had left due to voluntary or involuntary repatriation, or the client disengaging from the STPP and support or deciding support was no longer required.

Forced Marriage Specialist Support Program

Sixty-three victim-survivors of forced marriage were referred to the FMSSP between 2 January 2025 (when the program commenced) and 30 June 2025. Seventy-one percent ($n=45$) were referred in the last half of this six-month period. One in 10 were referred via the ARP (10%, $n=6$) and one in 20 by the AFP (5%, $n=3$). Most victim-survivors, however, self-referred or were referred by another community organisation (86%, $n=54$). Among the latter, over a third (37%, $n=20$) had been referred from the STPP.

Client characteristics

The FMSSP provided support to both female and male victim-survivors, although girls and women comprised the majority of clients in the six-month period (86% ($n=54$) female vs 13% ($n=8$) male; see Table 13). All but nine of the victim-survivors were adults aged 18 years and over at the time of referral. Forty percent ($n=25$) of victim-survivors were aged 18–24 years, followed by 29 percent ($n=18$) aged 25–34 years. One in six female victim-survivors were less than 18 years at the time of referral (16%, $n=9$) whereas all male victim-survivors were adults aged 18 years and over.

Most victim-survivors who received FMSSP support were born overseas. Eighty-six percent ($n=54$) were born overseas, in 23 different countries, compared with 14 percent ($n=9$) born in Australia. Half of the victim-survivors were born in countries from Southern and Central Asia (52%, $n=33$; Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka), while 14 percent were born in countries from North Africa and the Middle East ($n=9$; Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Syria) or Oceania and Antarctica ($n=9$; all Australian-born). Overseas-born females comprised 83 percent of female victim-survivors ($n=45$) whereas all male victim-survivors were born overseas. Most victim-survivors did not require an interpreter while accessing support services (84%, $n=53$).

Table 13: FMSSP referrals by demographic characteristics, 2 January – 30 June 2025		
	<i>n</i>	%
Gender		
Male	8	12.7
Female	54	85.7
Non-binary	0	0.0
Different term	1	1.6
Age group		
10–17	9	14.3
18–24	25	39.7
25–34	18	28.6
35–44	7	11.1
45–54	2	3.2
55 and over	2	3.2
Place of birth		
Australia	9	14.3
Overseas	54	85.7
Region of birth		
Oceania and Antarctica	9	14.3
Southern and Central Asia	33	52.4
North Africa and the Middle East	9	14.3
Sub-Saharan Africa	8	12.7
Other ^a	4	6.3
Disability status		
Intellectual/learning	1	1.6
Physical	0	0.0
Sensory ^b	0	0.0
Psychiatric	3	4.8
No disability	0	0.0
Not stated/unknown	59	93.7
Total	63	100.0

a: Includes South-East Asia and North-East Asia

b: Includes visual, hearing and speech impairment

Source: AIC HTMS NMDS 2024–25 [computer file]

Support provided

Victim-survivors received between one and seven support services over the six-month period to 30 June 2025, with an average of four support services. The range of support services provided by the FMSSP are similar to those of the STPP with the addition of family mediation. The highest proportion of victim-survivors on the FMSSP received social and emotional support (67%, $n=42$). The next most frequently received services were legal and migration assistance (62%, $n=39$), followed by financial support (46%, $n=29$), medical and health care (41%, $n=26$) and accommodation and housing support (38%, $n=24$; see Table 14).

Sixty-one of the 63 FMSSP clients remained on the program at 30 June 2025. The two victim-survivors who had exited the program had decided they no longer required support.

Table 14: Victim-survivors referred to the FMSSP by types of support services received, 2 January – 30 June 2025 ($n=63$)

	<i>n</i>	%
Social and emotional support	42	66.7
Legal and migration services	39	61.9
Financial support	29	46.0
Medical and healthcare services	26	41.3
Accommodation and housing support	24	38.1
Employment, education and training	18	28.6
Emergency items	14	22.2
Interpreter/translation services	10	15.9
Parenting support	3	4.8
Family mediation	1	1.6
Other services	15	23.8

Source: AIC HTMS NMDS 2024–25 [computer file]

Access to the Human Trafficking Visa Framework

The HTVF comprises two visa categories: a temporary visa known as a Bridging visa F and a permanent Referred Stay visa. Victim-survivors of modern slavery may be granted more than one visa type.

Fifteen people identified by the AFP as a victim-survivor of modern slavery were granted a visa under the HTVF between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025. Eight of the victim-survivors were male (53%) and seven were female (47%). All were adults, with six aged 25–34 years and another six aged 35–44 years (40% each). Over half (53%, $n=8$) of the victims were from Pacific nations in the Oceania and Antarctic region, with smaller numbers from South-East Asia, Southern and Central Asia and the Americas.

HTVF recipients entered Australia on a range of visa types including visitor, studying and training, working and skilled or other visa (eg transit and pandemic visa). Most (60%, $n=9$) were on the same visa category at the time they were identified by the AFP as a victim-survivor of modern slavery.

The majority of victim-survivors were granted a Bridging visa F, either a Bridging F Assistance Notice (WF-060) visa or a Travel R2.20 (15) Bridging F (WF-060) visa. Bridging visa F Assistance Notices are granted to a suspected victim-survivor of modern slavery who is required to remain in Australia to assist authorities with an investigation or prosecution. The visa is in effect for the duration of the investigation and/or trial. The Travel R2.20 (15) Bridging F (WF-060) visa is one of two visas available for victim-survivors who are required to travel. This particular visa enables victim-survivors who are onshore to travel overseas for compelling and compassionate reasons and return to Australia if they continue to assist with the criminal justice process. Most of the victim-survivors granted a Bridging visa F remained on this visa at 30 June 2025.

The other victim-survivors were granted a Referred Stay – 852 visa. Victim-survivors granted this visa can remain permanently in Australia after they have contributed to the criminal justice process.

Modern slavery matters referred for prosecution

Between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025, 30 matters concerning human trafficking, slavery and slavery-like offences were either referred to, or continued by, the CDPP. These matters involved 41 defendants and 100 victim-witnesses. Almost three-quarters of matters involved a single defendant (73%, $n=22$) and just over a quarter involved multiple defendants (27%, $n=8$). The number of defendants in multiple defendant matters ranged from two to four.

Charges

Thirty of the aforementioned 41 defendants referred to the CDPP had been charged by 30 June 2025 and 11 had charges pending. The 30 defendants charged had a total of 352 charges, of which 170 were human trafficking and modern slavery offences (48%), 108 were other Commonwealth offences (31%) and 74 were a mix of state and territory or common-law offences (21%; see Table 15).

Table 15: Charge types, 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025

	Defendants		Charges	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Modern slavery offence	30	100.0	170	48.3
Other Commonwealth offence	12	40.0	108	30.7
State and territory offence	3	10.0	62	17.3
Common-law offence	2	6.7	12	3.41
Total	30		352	100.0

Source: AIC HTMS NMDS 2024–25 [computer file]

Modern slavery charges

Twelve of the 30 defendants (40%) were charged with one or more servitude offences (seven charged with one servitude offence and five with two or more servitude offences), eight (27%) with one or more forced labour offences (five with one offence and three with two or more forced labour offences) and seven each (23%) with one or more slavery or trafficking in persons offences (see Table 16). Five defendants (7%) were charged with forced marriage offences (four with one offence and one with multiple forced marriage offences).

Of the 170 human trafficking and modern slavery charges, 65 (38%) referred to servitude offences, 23 (14%) to forced labour offences, 22 (13%) to debt bondage offences and 18 (11%) to slavery offences. Altogether, 92 percent of charges ($n=157$) related to a slavery or slavery-like offence and eight percent ($n=13$) to a trafficking in persons offence.

The number of modern slavery charges ranged from one to 65 with a mean of 5.7 charges (median=3.0 charges) per defendant. Of the 30 defendants charged, half (50%, $n=15$) were charged with modern slavery offences only and half (50%, $n=15$) with a modern slavery and Commonwealth, state and territory and/or common-law offence.

Other charges

Forty percent ($n=12$) of the 30 defendants charged with a modern slavery offence were also charged with another Commonwealth offence. Seven of these defendants were charged with 95 offences against the *Migration Act 1958* (Cth), primarily offences related to work by non-citizens, and seven defendants were charged with 13 offences against the *Criminal Code Act* (Cth; child sexual abuse material and proceeds of crime offences), *Crimes Act 1914* (Cth) or *Foreign Passports (Law Enforcement and Security) Act 2005* (Cth). Two defendants were charged with both Migration Act ($n=20$ offences) and other Commonwealth offences ($n=4$ offences).

Fewer defendants were charged with state and territory or common-law offences. Three were charged with a total of 62 state and territory offences and two with 12 common-law assault offences.

Table 16: Modern slavery charges, 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025				
	Defendants		Charges	
<i>Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth)</i>	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
270.3(1) Slavery	7	23.3	18	10.6
270.5(1) Causing a person to enter into or remain in servitude	12	40.0	45	26.5
270.5(2) Conducting a business involving servitude	1	3.3	20	11.8
270.6A(1) Causing a person to enter into or remain in forced labour	4	13.3	17	10.0
270.6A(2) Conducting a business involving forced labour	6	20.0	6	3.5
270.7(1) Deceptive recruiting for sexual services	1	3.3	8	4.7
270.7 Recruiter engages in conduct with the intention of inducing another person to enter into an engagement to provide labour or services causing deception	2	6.7	15	8.8
270.7B(1) Causing a person to enter into a forced marriage	5	16.7	6	3.5
270.7C Cause a person to enter into debt bondage with intent	5	16.7	20	11.8
271.2(1A) Organises or facilitates exit of a person using coercion, threat or deception	5	16.7	6	3.5
271.2(2) Trafficking in persons—facilitates entry/receipt by deception	1	3.3	4	2.4
271.4(1) Organising/facilitating entry into Australia of another person under 18 to provide sexual services	1	3.3	3	1.8
271.8(1) Offence of debt bondage	1	3.3	2	1.2
Total	30		170	100.0

Note: Defendants may have been charged with one or more offences. The number of defendants by charge thus exceeds the total number of defendants charged

Source: AIC HTMS NMDS 2024–25 [computer file]

Defendant pleas

Three of the 30 defendants pleaded guilty to four modern slavery charges while 10 pleaded not guilty to 36 modern slavery charges. Nine defendants had a total of 42 modern slavery charges withdrawn. The plea stage had not been reached for 14 defendants relating to 88 modern slavery charges.

Among the 11 defendants charged with a single modern slavery offence, one had pleaded guilty, one had pleaded not guilty and three had their charge withdrawn. The plea stage had not been reached for the remaining six defendants.

Among the 19 defendants charged with multiple modern slavery offences, 13 had entered a plea for at least one charge. Eight of these 13 defendants had the same plea type for each of their charges. Seven had pleaded not guilty to a total of 26 modern slavery charges and one defendant had all three modern slavery charges withdrawn. Five defendants had a combination of plea outcomes for 48 modern slavery charges that included three guilty pleas, nine not guilty pleas and 36 withdrawn charges. The plea stage had not been reached for 38 charges from these five defendants.

Outcomes

Thirteen defendants whose matters were referred to or continued by the CDPP in 2024–25 were committed to trial or sentence during the 12-month period. Five defendants had all nine modern slavery charges proven. The remaining eight defendants were awaiting trial or sentencing at 30 June 2025 for a total of 31 charges.

All but one of the five defendants who had charges proven either appealed the sentence ($n=3$) or appealed both the sentence and conviction ($n=1$). The appeal was upheld or proven in each case.

Defendant characteristics

Almost two-thirds (63%, $n=26$) of the 41 defendants were male and a quarter were female (27%, $n=11$; see Table 17). The gender of the other four defendants was not provided. Most of the defendants were aged 35–44 (37%, $n=15$) or 45–54 years (39%, $n=16$). Male defendants were similarly aged, while the highest proportion of female defendants were 35–44 years of age (45%, $n=5$). Nine in 10 defendants were born in Australia (88%, $n=36$).

Table 17: Defendant characteristics, 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025		
	<i>n</i>	%
Gender		
Male	26	63.4
Female	11	26.8
Non-binary	0	0.0
Different term	0	0.0
Not stated/unknown	4	9.8
Age group		
18–24	1	2.4
25–34	4	9.8
35–44	15	36.6
45–54	16	39.0
55 and over	3	7.3
Not stated/unknown	2	4.9
Country of birth		
Australia	36	87.8
Overseas ^a	5	12.2
Total	41	100.0

a: Includes Southern and Central Asia, North Africa and the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa

Source: AIC HTMS NMDS 2024–25 [computer file]

Victim-witnesses

One hundred victim-witnesses were involved in the 30 matters received or continued by the CDPD in 2024–25. The number of victim-witnesses ranged from one to 25 with an average of three per matter.

There were similar numbers of male ($n=37$) and female ($n=42$) victim-witnesses, although the gender of the other 21 victim-witnesses was not available (see Table 18). Where age was known, victim-witnesses were generally younger than defendants. Almost a third (31%, $n=31$) were between 18 and 34 years of age.

Most of the victim-witnesses were born in Australia (51%, $n=51$) or the Pacific region (23%, $n=23$). Smaller numbers of victim-witnesses were born in one of six other regions, with around one in 10 victim-witnesses born in Southern and Central Asia (9%, $n=9$) or South-East Asia (8%, $n=8$).

Table 18: Victim-witness characteristics, 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025

	<i>n</i>	%
Gender		
Male	37	37.0
Female	42	42.0
Non-binary	0	0.0
Different term	0	0.0
Not stated/unknown	21	21.0
Age group		
Less than 18	3	3.0
18–24	13	13.0
25–34	18	18.0
35–44	11	11.0
45 and over	10	10.0
Not stated/unknown	45	45.0
Country of birth		
Australia	51	51.0
Overseas	48	48.0
Not stated/unknown	1	1.0
Region of birth		
Oceania and Antarctica	74	74.0
South-East Asia	8	8.0
Southern and Central Asia	9	9.0
Other ^a	8	8.0
Not stated/unknown	1	1.0
Total	100	100.0

a: Includes North Africa and the Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa, North-West Europe and the Americas

Source: HTMS NMDS 2024–25 [computer file]

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Statistical Report

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