

Human Trafficking -in Australia- What We Know



It is a crime.

Human trafficking is a serious crime that can happen in any country of the world - even in developed countries like Australia.

It is hidden.

It is a hidden crime. The majority of human trafficking victims in Australia go undetected. It is estimated that only 1 in 5 victims of human trafficking are detected in Australia.

It is increasing.

The increased use of the internet has served as a major resource for traffickers, increasing the incidence of child sex trafficking.

It is challenging.

In a 2021 report by the Australian Institute of Criminology, prosecutors identified explaining and proving difficult concepts at trial as one of the greatest challenges of prosecuting trafficking cases.

It is hard to convict.

Since the introduction of anti-human trafficking legislation into the Australian Criminal Code in 2005, there have only been three convictions of child trafficking.

It could be anyone.

A trafficker can work with an organised group alone. They may be a stranger, family member, friend, parent, uncle, sister, boyfriend, a coach...anyone!

It needs review.

Australia's legal definition of human trafficking differs from the international definition, as it requires movement as an element of the crime. This may be a hindrance to identifying domestic child trafficking cases.

It intersects.

There is an intersection of modern slavery crimes and crimes of child sexual abuse and exploitation. Both issues lack strong definitions in Australia.