



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

MODERN SLAVERY COMMITTEE

MEDIA RELEASE

MODERN SLAVERY COMMITTEE TO HOLD FIRST HEARING ON RISKS FACED BY TEMPORARY MIGRANT WORKERS IN RURAL AND REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

28 April 2025

The NSW Parliament's Modern Slavery Committee will hold its first hearing for the inquiry into modern slavery risks faced by temporary migrant workers in rural and regional New South Wales on Wednesday 30 April 2025 at Parliament House, Sydney.

The committee will hear from stakeholders that advocate for and work with victim-survivors of modern slavery, including to help them report, access support and seek justice. This includes the NSW Anti-slavery Commissioner, the Australian Anti-Slavery Commissioner and legal advocates.

The committee will also take evidence from the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, Professor Tomaya Obakata, following his visit to regional New South Wales at the end of last year.

Dr Joe McGirr MP, Committee Chair stated: 'As the first of several hearings for this important inquiry, the Sydney hearing on 30 April will be an opportunity to hear from stakeholders working hard to support victim survivors and advocate for change. It's an opportunity to place on the record their perspectives on the risks facing temporary migrant workers in regional locations, including their causes and consequences.'

'Later in the year, the committee will travel across New South Wales to hear from stakeholders in relevant regions. We are also committed to hearing from individuals with lived experience. Decision makers and legislators often look to experts to inform their decision making – but this is an area of policy where so much expertise lies in peoples' lived experience. This experience should be central to the public policy dialogue about how best to respond to this most serious deprivation of a human being's agency, rights and dignity', Dr McGirr added.

Tuning into the hearing

The hearing will be open to the public and live streamed on the NSW Parliament's website: <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Pages/webcasts.aspx>

Engaging with the committee

Submissions from organisations closed at the end of February 2025 but remain open for individuals with lived experience who wish to share their experience in writing with the committee. Individuals can make a submission by emailing modernslavery@parliament.nsw.gov.au.

Resources on the inquiry [webpage](#) include the inquiry's terms of reference and a guide to help people with lived experience share their experience in writing. These have been translated into the following languages: Dari; Pashto; Urdu; Hazaragi; Persian (Farsi); Turkish; Arabic; Tamil; Bislama; Fijian; Chinese (Mandarin); and Korean.

For further information about the inquiry, including the translated terms of reference and submission guide, please visit the committee's [website](#).

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For further information please contact Committee Chair, Dr Joe McGirr MP, on (02) 6921 1622.