

**Submission
No 40**

**INQUIRY INTO MODERN SLAVERY ACT 2018 AND
ASSOCIATED MATTERS**

Name: Professor Louise Chappell

Date Received: 3 October 2019



3 October, 2019

The NSW Legislative Council
Standing Committee on Social Issues
Parliament of New South Wales
Sydney NSW 2000
Australia

Dear Committee Secretary,

I write on behalf of the Australian Human Rights Institute at UNSW Sydney. Established in early 2018, the Institute has three focus areas: gender justice, health and human rights and business and human rights. This year, business has been a particular focus for our work, as we held a major conference in May called Innovate Rights: New Thinking on Business and Human Rights.

At the conference, which featured international guest speakers and academics, the NSW Modern Slavery Act was noted as an innovation in the field, and as world-leading legislation. The NSW Interim Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Professor Jennifer Burn, was one of our celebrated guest speakers.

We also heard the first-hand testimony of a survivor of modern slavery, Moe Turaga. Mr Turaga's story of exploitation as an agricultural worker in Australia demonstrated how easily this can happen, and how close to home this problem is. We understand that one of the features that sets the NSW laws apart from the federal laws, is its stronger focus on victim support, and we welcome this.

We support the nature and intention of the bill, including its scope, threshold, penalties and victims' focus. It is concerning to us that the NSW Act was not implemented as expected on 1 July 2019. The NSW Government has an opportunity to lead Australia on this issue and should not withdraw its commitment to make laws that could protect the lives of many.

Sincerely,

Professor Louise Chappell
Director, Australian Human Rights Institute

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