

Submission
No 44

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

Name: Ms Abbey Cummins

Date Received: 3 October 2019

Date: 4 October 2019

To: The NSW Legislative Council's Standing Committee on Social Issues

Cc: Gladys Berejiklian, Premier NSW

NSW MODERN SLAVERY ACT

I write to you regarding the Inquiry the NSW government has asked you to undertake into the NSW Modern Slavery Act 2018 (MSA) which was passed and given royal assent in June last year. This decision brought me great pride to be living in a state that was taking real steps do their part in ending modern slavery.

However, I wish to express my concern and disappointment that the Act did not go into operation on the 1st of July- as was planned and expected. I am truly dismayed that such important legislation has been treated with seeming disregard, particularly in view of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. It is my strong wish that the Act is proclaimed and put into operation without any further delay, and with the proper sense of urgency which this pressing humanitarian issue demands.

I believe in the importance of social justice. It is a fundamental human right to live free from exploitation- yet across the world, slavery is still one of the biggest forms of exploitation. And often through this corrupt system, we in countries like Australia reap the rewards of this depravity of human rights. Change needs to happen now. NSW is the 7th largest economy in the Southern hemisphere which means it has a regional and international role to play in shaping the world for current and future generations.

I fully endorse their submission which you would have received on the 17th of September. I will continue to support their organisation and their objectives to end modern slavery- as should you.

William Wilberforce once said: "You may choose to look the other way but you can never say again that you did not know." We are at a critical turning point- and it is time for NSW to take action.

Yours Sincerely,

Abbey Cummins