

Submission  
No 101

## INQUIRY INTO MODERN SLAVERY ACT 2018 AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS

**Organisation:** Taldumande Youth Services

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## TO THE PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO THE NSW MODERN SLAVERY ACT

We are writing on behalf of Taldumande Youth Services in support of the NSW Modern Slavery Act being proclaimed and put into force.

Taldumande Youth Services is a charity that cares for homeless and at risk children and young people aged 0-21 through a range of support services and accommodation program. We accommodate 65 homeless young people every night and at any one time up to six of these young people are victims of forced marriage referred to us by the Australian Federal Police, Red Cross or The Salvation Army. Four of the of the beds dedicated to young girls escaping forced marriage are in one of our semi-independent programs that Taldumande independently raises money for.

We are well aware of the vulnerability of young people forced into marriage against their will, who by fleeing this intolerable situation become homeless and are totally estranged from their family and community.

Taldumande is disappointed that the NSW Modern Slavery Act was not implemented this year and that there is talk of abandoning it in favour of the weaker Commonwealth Act.

It is hard to think of any legislation that has such an urgent need of implementation.

Yours sincerely,

Virginia Howard.  
Chair

Lisa Graham  
CEO