

**INQUIRY INTO MODERN SLAVERY RISKS FACED BY  
TEMPORARY MIGRANT WORKERS IN RURAL AND  
REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Name:** Name suppressed  
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Partially  
Confidential

## SUBMISSION TO INQUIRY INTO MODERN SLAVERY RISKS FACED BY TEMPORARY MIGRANT WORKERS IN RURAL AND REGIONAL NSW

My name is .

I am a Philippine national, now living in Australia with my husband. I work in the horticultural industry and daily I meet with people who have been the victims of human trafficking.

Current issues I have witnessed, or that I have been informed of include:

- Although there is the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility Scheme in place to bring migrant workers to Australia, my observations are that as many as 70% of the migrant workers in the Swan Hill, Tooleybuc, Robinvale and Murray Downs region are arriving on tourist visas and then applying for protection visa's. The migrant workers on bridging visas are generally employed through sub-contractors and not direct hire as is case with those on the PALM Scheme.
- In most cases, human traffickers are involved in orchestrating the arrival of the people in Australia on tourist visas, with the enticement of jobs and wealth.
- I have been informed by recent arrivals from the Philippines, that the local human traffickers have been colluding with travel agents located in the Philippines to encourage and coordinate the arrival of their citizens into Australia on tourist visas, under the belief that they will be entitled to work permits.(See below, face book post showing a travel agent from the Philippines who has been advertising harvest jobs for migrant workers in our region)
- I was told of a young lady from the Philippines who had recently arrived in Australia under a human trafficker. She was experiencing psychosis and was at risk of self-harm. With the assistance of my husband, we were able to take the person to the nearest emergency and arrange ongoing care with mental health services. The human trafficker declined to assist this person.
- A migrant worker in the horticultural industry, who was on a bridging visa A, having applied for a protection visa, was sadly informed of the death of her father while at work. Knowing that under the conditions of her bridging visa this person knew that she could not return to her home country for the funeral. The young lady was in tears and cried for the entire afternoon.
- A Philippine national arrived in Australia on a visitor visa under a human trafficker and later applied for a protection visa. She was able to get work at a local fruit farm picking fruit at 3\$ per bucket. Her daily wage amounted to 30\$ for 8 hours.
- A human trafficker was fraudulently selling jobs to migrant workers for \$1500 per person. The jobs never existed and the person selling the jobs was not known to the company concerned.

- Some migrant workers, despite receiving payslips, on accessing MyGov are discovering that no tax has been deducted from their wages, and no superannuation has been paid to their account.
- Philippine citizens working in the Middle East have been targeted by a human trafficker. One has said that including airfare, that they had paid 8000\$ to the human trafficker for entry to Australia. On top of that, they then paid 3000\$ for their protection visa application and one month's accommodation. The real shame here is that in the Middle East they were working under legitimate work visas and not the uncertainty with employment and living conditions that they are now enduring.