



NSW MODERN SLAVERY ACT

IJM's Key Policy Asks

International Justice Mission Australia is calling for the following baseline inclusions in the *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (NSW). We consider this to be the **bare minimum** in what the NSW MSA should cover.

1. INDEPENDENT ANTI-SLAVERY COMMISSIONER

- A truly independent Commissioner to hold the government and government agencies accountable for their modern slavery practices
- They must be a Statutory Officer Holder, at arm's length from the Government of the day (the Ageing and Disability Commissioner is a good model)

2. EFFECTIVE ANTI-SLAVERY COMMISSIONER

- The Commissioner's functions must include educating and empowering NSW businesses to engage with modern slavery risks in supply chains and operations
- The Commissioner should be a friend for the NSW business community who better equips them to understand modern slavery as it relates to business

3. REPORTING BY NSW STATE OWNED CORPORATIONS (SOC'S)

- NSW SOC's should play on an even playing field with other businesses and report annually on the risks of modern slavery in their supply chains and operations
- Such a report could be submitted to the Commonwealth Modern Slavery Statement Register, as similar private businesses in other states are already doing

4. REPORTING BY LOCAL COUNCILS

- As significant procurers of goods and services, Local Councils should report annually on the risks of modern slavery in their supply chains and operations

5. REPORTING ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

- As significant procurers of goods and services, the government and its departments must take modern slavery risk reporting seriously
- Government and departments should submit an annual report on modern slavery risks and steps taken to address those risks to the Auditor General, and make that report available on the NSW Anti-Slavery Commissioner's public register
- There must be strong and clear provisions on best practice – whether through legislation or regulation – with a clear outline of what constitutes “reasonable steps”