



HUMAN TRAFFICKING WORKING GROUP

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NEWS REPORT

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The federal government has developed guidelines to help non-government organisations (NGOs) in their bid to curb people trafficking and help victims. The exact number of people trafficked into Australia is unknown, but advocate group Project Respect says up to 1,000 women are brought in to the country each year to work as sex slaves.

Minister for Home Affairs Bob Debus said non-government organisations were often the first point of contact for many victims. "Assisting victims to deal with and recover from the trauma associated with people trafficking presents unique challenges," Mr Debus said.

The guidelines cover key issues including getting informed consent from a victim before taking action on their case, protecting the privacy of victims and providing culturally appropriate services.

Jennifer Burn, the director of the Anti-Slavery Project at the University of Technology in Sydney, said the guidelines were the "gold standard" for ethical ways of working with trafficked people. "NGOs play a vital role working on the ground to protect the rights of trafficked people and we have an ethical responsibility to make sure trafficked people can obtain the information and services they need. "These guidelines will be an invaluable tool for the community and welfare groups who work so hard to protect the rights of trafficking victims."

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