

TRAFFICKING



Human trafficking is a hidden crime, often occurring in plain sight. Incidents of human trafficking can be difficult to detect with victims being adults and children of any age, ethnicity, nationality, immigration status and socioeconomic background.

Human Trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, deception, or other means, for the purpose of exploitation for profit. It is a serious crime and a violation of human rights.

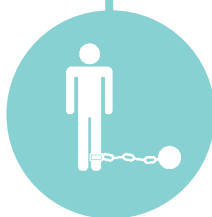
Many people think that trafficking only happens in poorer nations, particularly those in Asia or Africa, but in recent times the Australian Federal Police has intervened in a significant number of cases where children have been trafficked domestically in Australia. Experts acknowledge that incidents of child trafficking are massively under-reported and complicated by difficulties in the recognition and identification of victims, primarily due to their age and vulnerability. Many are too frightened to speak out, fearing they won't be believed or anxious that making a report will result in harmful repercussions from the perpetrators. Research into this form of abuse in Australia is limited, but case studies suggest that trafficking is a significant issue across all states and territories.

Trafficking can occur domestically in towns and cities, regionally across and within state and territory borders or internationally to locations outside of Australia.

Human trafficking can involve:



Slavery, servitude or forced labour in industries such as hospitality, service industry (hair salons/nails, cleaning, housekeeping) brothels, karaoke bars, manufacturing industry, construction, forestry, mining, or agriculture, as well as in intimate relationships.



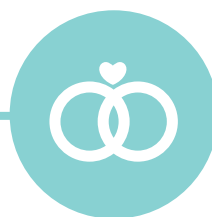
Debt
bondage



Deceptive
recruiting



Sexual
exploitation



Forced
marriage



Trafficking for the
purpose of organ
removal

Some groups, such as migrant workers or young people, are particularly vulnerable to exploitation. People who are being trafficked or at risk may not seek help because of fear and suspicion/distrust of authorities, or from trauma.

Child Sex Trafficking

Child sex trafficking involves the process of trapping children and young people through the use of violence, deception or coercion and exploiting them for financial or personal gain. Children and young people are groomed before then being moved (locally or regionally) and forced into acts of sexual exploitation. The element of transportation itself does not need to take place over a significant distance to be defined as trafficking.



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Research into child sex trafficking identifies three core elements used by perpetrators, targeting, testing and trapping.

TARGETING

Perpetrators start to observe children, marking them out for someone to watch, finding their vulnerabilities, gaining and developing their trust.

TESTING

Perpetrators test out the child's loyalty, start manipulating them and introduce them to more established members.

TRAPPING

Children and young people are trapped physically, psychologically and by way of sexual violence. Dependency is reinforced and they are isolated from family, friends and the broader community.

Signs that could indicate a young person is being trafficked or is at risk can include if a young person:



Goes missing overnight or longer



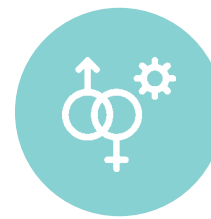
Is seen entering vehicles driven by unknown adults or older young people



Uses public transport to visit locations beyond their usual radius of travel



Is in a relationship with a controlling older young person/adult



Has contracted an STI and/or had a terminated pregnancy



Has developed a dependence on controlled or illegal substances such as methamphetamine (ice)

Australia's laws criminalising human trafficking and slavery are contained within Divisions 270 and 271 of the Criminal Code Act 1995.

How to help:

If you believe a child is in immediate danger, or you have immediate concerns for the welfare of a child, call **"000"** or local police on **131 444**.

If you would prefer to report in confidence visit Crime Stoppers at **www.crimestoppers.com.au** or by phoning **1800 333 000**.

If you are a victim of trafficking or know someone who is, contact the AFP on 131AFP (**131237**) or **click here** to use the online form to report information regarding human trafficking.

24 hour support is also available for children and young people at Kids Helpline **1800 55 1800** or **kidshelpline.com.au**