

# WHAT CAN GO WRONG

Case studies from survivors of modern slavery in Australia.

## MYTH 1

Modern Slavery is a thing of the past.

### REALITY

Modern slavery is a current and widespread issue, manifesting in various forms such as forced labour, debt bondage, and forced marriage. It affects people globally, including in Australia.

#### Case Study: Aranya's Story (ABC News)

Aranya, originally from Thailand, came to Australia with high hopes for a better future. Instead, she was trapped in exploitation, working 12-hour days, seven days a week in a restaurant, with her passport confiscated by her employer. This exploitation left her with no means to escape or seek help.

## MYTH 2

Modern Slavery always involves physical violence.

### REALITY

Modern slavery often involves coercion and psychological manipulation rather than overt physical violence. Victims can be controlled through threats, deception, or abuse of power.

#### Case Study: Flynn's Story (Australian Red Cross)

Flynn, an international student, was exploited by a relative in Australia. He was forced to work long hours without pay and was denied basic necessities like food and access to communication. This exploitation, while not involving direct physical violence, used psychological manipulation and isolation to control Flynn.

## MYTH 3

Modern Slavery is only in some industries.

### REALITY

Modern slavery can be found in various industries, not just those traditionally associated with exploitation. Agriculture is a significant area where modern slavery occurs in Australia.

#### Case Study: Silas's Story (The Guardian)

Silas Aruf from Vanuatu came to Australia seeking work and became trapped in bonded labor. He was forced to work long hours without food and was paid only \$150 for six months of work. He and other workers were moved from farm to farm without explanation, faced threats when they asked for their wages, and slept on buses and in chairs.

## DID YOU KNOW

Modern slavery in Australia manifests in various forms, impacting vulnerable individuals who are exploited for personal or commercial gain. Real-life case studies of survivors illustrate the complexities and challenges they face.

# WHAT CAN GO WRONG (CONT.)

## MYTH 4

Modern Slavery only happens in developing countries.

## REALITY

Modern slavery occurs globally, including in developed countries like Australia. Exploitation is not confined to poorer nations but is a significant issue even in countries with robust legal systems.

### Case Study: The Fijian Domestic Servant (ACRATH)

In 2021 a Melbourne couple was convicted of forcing a Fijian woman to work as their domestic servant for eight years. The couple lured the woman to Australia on a tourist visa, seized her passport, and made her work long hours for minimal pay.

## MYTH 5

Modern Slavery doesn't occur in the waste sector.

## REALITY

Modern slavery is prevalent in many sectors, including waste management and recycling. Workers in these industries may be subjected to exploitation, with criminal networks employers controlling their earnings and living conditions while they perform legitimate jobs.

### UK case of waste company held responsible

In 2014 and 2015, three Polish workers were trafficked to the UK and subcontracted to sort waste for Biffa, a national recycling firm. Despite being paid by the company, their wages were funneled into accounts controlled by a criminal gang, leaving them with only £5 per week. The workers lived in overcrowded, substandard housing and faced exploitation despite performing legal work. The criminal network responsible for trafficking up to 400 Polish workers was eventually uncovered, leading to multiple arrests. However, the victims are now suing Biffa, claiming the company failed to implement procedures that could have prevented this exploitation, which took place openly within their workforce.

**If you suspect someone may be a victim of modern slavery, or if you're in a situation where you're experiencing exploitation, it's crucial to seek help.**

### **Australian Federal Police (AFP)**

Report suspected cases of human trafficking and slavery.

Call: 131 AFP (131 237)

### **Anti-Slavery Australia**

Confidential legal advice and support for those affected by modern slavery.

Call: 02 9514 8115 | Email: [asalegal@uts.edu.au](mailto:asalegal@uts.edu.au) | [antislavery.org.au](http://antislavery.org.au)

### **Salvation Army**

Call: 1800 000 277 | Email: [arp@salvationarmy.org.au](mailto:arp@salvationarmy.org.au)

[salvationarmy.org.au/additional-referral-pathway](http://salvationarmy.org.au/additional-referral-pathway)

### **Red Cross**

Call: 1800 113 015 | Email: [national\\_stpp@redcross.org.au](mailto:national_stpp@redcross.org.au)

**If someone is at immediate risk or requires urgent assistance call 000.**