

# **FECCA welcomes the Australian Labor Party's announcement that they will introduce a Modern Slavery Act if elected to government**

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) welcomed today's announcement by the Australian Labor Party that, if elected to Government, they would introduce an Australian Modern Slavery Act based on similar legislation in the United Kingdom.

Chairperson of FECCA, Joe Caputo said: 'A Modern Slavery Act would help to protect the most vulnerable workers including foreign and migrant workers in Australia.'

'Australia has seen repeated instances of appalling abuse of workers, many of them from overseas. They are often unable to leave situations of extreme exploitation because of a range of barriers including fear, violence and ignorance of their rights,' Mr Caputo continued.

Mr Caputo urged the Government to consider adopting a similar policy.

'We welcome today's announcement that an Australian Modern Slavery Act will be introduced by the Labor Party if they are elected to power. We hope that the Government will consider following suit,' he said.

In April, FECCA made a [submission](#) to the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Sub-Committee on Human Rights' Inquiry into Establishing a Modern Slavery Act with the Salvation Army's Freedom Partnership, the Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans and the Uniting Church's Justice and International Mission.

In the submission, FECCA and its partners called for an Australian Modern Slavery Act to be adopted to include the establishment of an independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner and enhanced disclosure around supply chains.

FECCA is the national peak body representing Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. FECCA's role is to advocate and promote issues on behalf of its constituency to government, business and the broader community.

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