



# Whole of Government Approach to Combating People Trafficking, including Victim Support

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# Introduction

- Opportunities for people trafficking into Australia are low
- International instruments
- Domestic legislative measures
- Whole-of-Government approach to combat trafficking and support victims



# Anti-trafficking Strategy

- 4 main parts:
  - Prevention
  - Detection & Investigation
  - Prosecution
  - Victim Support



# Whole-of-Government Approach

- Government agencies work together to address the full trafficking cycle
- Government work under the strategy coordinated through the Inter-Departmental Committee on People Trafficking (IDC)
- Collaboration of Federal, State and Territory Governments and non-government sectors

**Trafficking is a complex, multi-faceted crime with no single solution that requires a multi-dimensional approach**



# Agencies involved in the Anti-Trafficking Strategy

- Attorney-General's Department
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Department of Immigration and Citizenship
- Australian Federal Police
- Commonwealth Director of Prosecutions



## Agencies continued

- Office for Women
- AusAID
- Australian Crime Commission
- Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Australian Institute of Criminology
- Dept Education Employment and Workplace Relations



# Regional Cooperation

- Capacity building
  - UN Transnational Organised Crime Conference Of Parties
  - Asia Regional Trafficking in Persons (ARTIP)
  - Bali Process Workshops
- Joint work in region
  - Out posted officers (AFP, DIAC)
  - Bilateral, multilateral meetings
- Legislative frameworks
  - Implement treaty requirements





# Common Regional issues

- Collecting accurate data
- Allocating sufficient law enforcement resources
- Effective victim support



# Victim Support Program

- Australia has operated the Support for Victims of People Trafficking Program since 2004
- Case management approach
  - An independent NGO provides support based on individual client needs
- Access to income support, secure accommodation, medical treatment, basic legal advice, counselling, training and social support



## Victim Support - Services

- 124 victims on the Program since Jan 2004.
- Currently 36 victims on the program (as at 23 February 2009)
- Majority of victims are female and from the region



# Victim Support - Lessons Learnt

- Difficulty in estimating numbers and resources required
- Link between victim support and criminal justice obligations
- Whole of community engagement



# Whole of Community

- Government liaises with NGOs, employer/employee bodies, victim support groups, medical & legal professions
- Benefits:
  - draws upon experience and expertise of groups working with victims
  - input from stakeholders fosters commitment to implementing ideas
  - open and transparent relationship with community where policy is developed and tested
  - creates better and more informed policies
- National Roundtable on People Trafficking
- Guidelines for NGOs dealing with victims



# Future Challenges

- Labour trafficking
- Innovative and entrepreneurial nature of organised crime groups



# Questions