

Oz Immigration Minister seems less capable when dealing with Sex Slavery and Organised Crime

by Michaela Whitbourn via bill - SMH *Monday, Dec 16 2013, 5:04pm*

international / prose / post

Women trafficked into Australia to work as sex slaves are being given a chance to start a new life thanks to a groundbreaking program giving them access to state-funded compensation.

Anti-Slavery Australia, a non-government organisation, and law firm Clayton Utz have won more than \$1 million for 22 women forced to work in brothels in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Canberra. The average payout was \$50,000.

David Hillard, a partner at Clayton Utz who runs the firm's pro bono practice, worked with young women from Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines who were the victims of "horrific acts of slavery".

He said most came from poor backgrounds, had little or no English and were forced to have sex with as many as 1500 men to pay off "debts" of up to \$60,000.

"There are probably hundreds of women brought into Australia each year for sex slavery," he said.

"What we've done has not been rocket science. But it was novel in that I think we took a particular set of circumstances and were able to recognise that you could get victims' compensation."

Mr Hillard said the compensation "means, at a practical level, that they're suddenly lifted from a hand-to-mouth existence".

Some of the women used the compensation to start up small businesses, find secure accommodation, enrol in education courses, or return home for the first time to see their parents.

Anti-Slavery Australia, part of the University of Technology, Sydney, and Clayton Utz are working on another 20 cases involving women who were forced to work in a brothel in North Sydney.

But they will be eligible for less generous recognition payments.

The state government has announced a radical overhaul of its compensation scheme for victims of violent crime in May after a review by accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers found it was financially unsustainable.

Under the new scheme, funded by proceeds of crime, the maximum payout has been cut from \$50,000 to \$15,000 and is only available in cases involving a death. For sexual assault victims that survive, the limit is \$10,000, although other payments may be available to cover immediate expenses such as emergency medical treatment.

Jennifer Burn, an associate professor at UTS and the director of Anti-Slavery Australia, said the cuts to the NSW scheme underscored the need for a national compensation scheme for trafficked people.

"We've got eight different schemes [for victims of crime] operating around Australia and every single one of those schemes has different time limits, different thresholds," she said.

"Looking at this nationally is really important."

Ms Burn said the NSW scheme also needed to be broadened to cover slavery and forced labour "in other kinds of work environments", such as people trafficked into Australia on a skilled visa to work in kitchens.

The NSW scheme, under which decisions are made by the newly created Commissioner of Victims Rights based on written evidence, generally only provides a remedy in cases of sexual assault and sexual servitude.

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The following information is supplied to all prospective immigrants and those abused in detention centres on refugee status and others housed or detained in inappropriate accommodation with inappropriate designations.

We would emphasise that all 'contracts' are two-edged swords and should be applied to the serving party with as much vigour as that party applies them to others. The conservative Immigration Minister, Scott 'racist' Morrison, is morally and legally obliged to follow certain procedures, protocols and civilised moral behaviours in executing his official duties. We hope the following is of some assistance to those seeking refuge in Oz. Keeping these government bastards honest should be the principal concern of everyone involved in these matters:

Code of Conduct:

I, SCOTT MORRISON, Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, acting under clause 4.1 of Schedule 4 to the Migration Regulations 1994 ('the Regulations'), approve the code of behaviour specified in the Schedule to this instrument for the purpose of applicants seeking to satisfy the criteria for the grant of a Subclass 050 Bridging (General) visa.

Scott Morrison -- Minister for Immigration and Border Protection

Schedule

Code of Behaviour

This Code of Behaviour contains a list of expectations about how you will behave at all times while in Australia. It does not contain all your rights and duties under Australian law. If you are found to have breached the Code of Behaviour, you could have your income support reduced, or your visa may be cancelled. If your visa is cancelled, you will be returned to immigration detention and may be transferred to an offshore processing centre.

While you are living in the Australian community:

You must not disobey any Australian laws including Australian road laws; you must

cooperate with all lawful instructions given to you by police and other government officials;

You must not make sexual contact with another person without that person's consent, regardless of their age; you must never make sexual contact with someone under the age of consent;

You must not take part in, or get involved in any kind of criminal behaviour in Australia, including violence against any person, including your family or government officials; deliberately damage property; give false identity documents or lie to a government official;

You must not harass, intimidate or bully any other person or group of people or engage in any anti-social or disruptive activities that are inconsiderate, disrespectful or threaten the peaceful enjoyment of other members of the community;

You must not refuse to comply with any health undertaking provided by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection or direction issued by the Chief Medical Officer (Immigration) to undertake treatment for a health condition for public health purposes;

You must co-operate with all reasonable requests from the department or its agents in regard to the resolution of your status, including requests to attend interviews or to provide or obtain identity and/or travel documents.

I, _____ [name to be written] _____ agree to abide by this Code of Behaviour while I am living in Australia on a Bridging E visa. I understand that if I do not abide by the Code of Behaviour my income support may be reduced or ceased, or my visa may be cancelled and I will be returned to immigration detention.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

<http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2013L02105>

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/sex-slaves-get-chance-at-life-free-of-abuse-20131020-2vutf.html>

Jungle Drum Prose/Poetry. <http://jungledrum.lingama.net/news/story-912.html>