

## Key reforms needed

### Victim Support Program

- Access to any review of a government department of the Victim of Trafficking Support Program be publicly available.
- Ensure that any review of the program is done in consultation with trafficked women.

### Court Support

- An independent court support network agency be considered for when victims of trafficking have to attend court. At present the current support program is supposed to be provided by the agency, but from experience of attending a case in Melbourne, the support was inadequate.

### Visa reform:

- At present, women who are not assisting the AFP (because they do not have enough information, because they are fearful, because police do not consider that they will be good witnesses or have enough relevant information) are not eligible to receive on-going support in Australia (apart from 30 day Bridging Visa F). This should be reformed, and replaced with the Italian/US systems, where women receive support (and a related visa enabling them to stay and recover) regardless of whether they are involved in a prosecution.
- Visas (Bridging F Visa; Criminal Justice Stay Visa; Trafficked Victims Temporary Visa; Trafficked Victims Permanent Visa) can only be secured if the AFP requests DIMIA for a visa for a woman – women cannot apply themselves, and decisions are not reviewable. An alternate process should be introduced where women (or their agents) can apply directly for trafficking victim-related visas, and where processes can be reviewed/appealed.
- Women are not entitled to work visas as part of existing trafficking victim-related visas. This limits women's ability to be independent.

### Refugee definitions:

- Trafficking should be recognised as a form of gender-based violence, and trafficked women should be recognised as refugees.

### Protocols:

- More transparent protocols to be developed between state and federal police, DIMIA and support agencies. (CASA and Vic Pol protocols are public knowledge)

### Community Education

- While the federal government has developed a community education program on trafficking (focussed on sex industry clients and women in the sex industry), it appears though that the "suite of materials" available to trafficked women will miss the mark.
- There is a need for a wider community education about the issue of trafficking. This could include posters etc in brothels (that brothels were compelled through licence conditions not to remove) telling clients/women about trafficking and where to report it/seek help. Also other media (e.g. UK MTV) have produced media campaign about trafficking shown on a variety of outlets. Something similar could be developed for Australia.

*Prepared by Project Respect, 21 May 2007*