

Australia's Commitment to Combating Child Exploitation in International Travel

Destiny Rescue, a leading Australian-based NGO dedicated to rescuing children from exploitation and abuse, applauds the Australian Federal Police (AFP) for their relentless efforts to target Australian child sex offenders travelling overseas.

The sexual exploitation of children by Australian travellers overseas is a significant concern. It was reported this week that the arrest of an Australian man at Sydney Airport following travel to the Philippines subsequently led to the unravelling of a global child abuse ring and the removal of 28 Filipino children from harm.¹

This case reveals the tactics employed by Australian offenders who exploit vulnerable children abroad. Destiny Rescue is committed to raising awareness about safe travel practices to help prevent such heinous acts.

CEO Paul Mergard commended the AFP for their proactive measures and global collaboration to protect vulnerable children from Australian offenders. *"This ongoing awareness and the repercussions faced by offenders represent a crucial step in deterring Australians from considering child exploitation while traveling internationally,"* he stated.²

Mr. Mergard continued, *"We believe all Australians have a role in the fight against global child exploitation by staying informed and vigilant, both at home and abroad. As an organisation rescuing children daily from the horrors of sexual exploitation, we recognise our responsibility on home soil and will continue to advocate for funding for a nationwide 'Safe Children, Safe Traveller' campaign targeting departing travellers."*

This week, Destiny Rescue will participate in the inaugural Australian Travel Industry Association (ATIA) Beyond Borders summit.³ The Australian travel industry will engage with global leaders to discuss emerging trends in the future of travel. Destiny Rescue will advocate for a collaborative approach with the tourism industry to educate Australian travellers about safe travel practices.

¹<https://www.smh.com.au/world/asia/the-sydney-airport-arrest-that-unravelled-a-global-crime-ring-and-caught-a-demon-20241015-p5kico.html>

² [AFP targets child sex offenders travelling overseas | Australian Federal Police](#)

³ [Beyond Borders \(atpieventsau.com\)](#)

Destiny Rescue continues to engage with the Federal Government on issues related to child sexual exploitation and modern slavery, both locally and internationally.

For interviews or more information, please contact Paul Mergard, CEO of Destiny Rescue.

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Contact us for interviews.

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