

## **Destiny Rescue applauds the announcement of Australia's inaugural Anti-Slavery Commissioner.**

Destiny Rescue, a leading Australian-based NGO dedicated to rescuing children from exploitation and abuse, welcomes last week's landmark appointment of Chris Evans as the inaugural Australian Anti-Slavery Commissioner.<sup>1</sup>

Destiny Rescue considers the Commissioner's role pivotal in strengthening the national response to modern slavery, including child exploitation, both in Australia and internationally.<sup>2</sup>

In recent years, Australia has increasingly become a global leader in the fight against human trafficking, forced labour and child exploitation. The appointment of Mr Evans comes at a critical moment, as new measures and heightened awareness of these issues are required to tackle the growing global problem.

The issue of child sexual exploitation in international travel, as well as online continues to be a major focus for Destiny Rescue. Paul Mergard, CEO of Destiny Rescue, welcomes the appointment, noting that the new Commissioner's role will be crucial in providing leadership, education, and effective coordination with international partners to protect vulnerable children.

*"Modern slavery is not just a global issue—it's a national issue, and Australia must remain at the forefront of driving change,"* said Destiny Rescue's CEO, Paul Mergard. *"As we work to protect children on Australian soil, we must also address the complex realities of Australians offending. The Commissioner's leadership will be vital in ensuring that those who attempt to engage in exploitative practices against children are stopped before they can cause harm."*

Destiny Rescue has actively called for more robust awareness campaigns targeting Australian travelers, including a nationwide 'Safe Children, Safe Traveller' initiative. The campaign would be aimed at educating travellers about the risks and consequences of child sexual exploitation.<sup>3</sup>

Destiny Rescue welcomes future consultation with the Commissioner on issues related to child sexual exploitation and modern slavery, both locally and internationally.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ministers.ag.gov.au/media-centre/appointment-australias-first-anti-slavery-commissioner-11-11-2024>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.destinyrescue.org.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2024/06/Modern-Slavery-Amendment\\_DR-Response.pdf](https://www.destinyrescue.org.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2024/06/Modern-Slavery-Amendment_DR-Response.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.destinyrescue.org.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2024/08/24-25-Pre-Budget\\_digital.pdf](https://www.destinyrescue.org.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2024/08/24-25-Pre-Budget_digital.pdf)

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*Contact us for interviews and information.*

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