



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC ANTI-SLAVERY NETWORK RELEASE

LOOKING FORWARD WITH HOPE TO 2025

“Advent and Christmas are a hopeful time of year. I am full of hope that in 2025 we will find better ways to lift the burden on people suffering extreme exploitation.”

Moe Turaga
ACAN Consultant & Lived Experience leader

The work of the Australian Catholic Anti-slavery Network (ACAN) to address modern slavery has received praise and encouragement from the newly appointed independent federal Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Chris Evans.

In brief remarks at an ACAN end of year function, Mr Evans warmly praised the Network’s collaborative approach to building capacity across its membership.

The new Commissioner pledged his support to businesses who uncover people in modern slavery while responding in good faith to Australia’s Modern Slavery Act. He also stressed that victim identification and remediation was the purpose of the reporting process, not simply an exercise in compliance.

The new Commissioner also said that the Domus 8.7 remediation service would provide critical assistance for businesses to safely triage potential cases of modern slavery encountered in the course of their due diligence.

Mr Evans attended the ACAN event on the third day in his historic new role. He previously served as a federal Senator and Minister for Immigration and went on to work as an executive with the global anti-slavery group, Walk Free.

ACAN lived experience leader Moe Turaga also addressed guests at the function, saying he and his colleagues were looking forward to working with Mr Evans again.

“Everyone who has worked so hard over many years for a federal Anti-slavery Commissioner is very excited – and it is great to celebrate how far we’ve come together,” Mr Turaga said.

“It’s been a big year in modern slavery in Australia, and next year promises to be even bigger.”



“In ACAN, we are pushing forward the Australian response to modern slavery, we have created a community around us as we go.

“Advent and Christmas are a hopeful time of year. I am full of hope for 2025 for people suffering extreme exploitation that we will find better ways to lift the burden on them.”

The ACAN/Domus 8.7 end of year event was hosted by Alinta Energy.

Alinta Executive Director Daniel McClelland welcomed all who attended and thanked them for the important work they were doing.

What does ACAN do?

ACAN works with governance and procurement teams and leaders across Catholic organisations to respond to Australia’s *Modern Slavery Act*. The three main aspects of ACAN’s work are governance, capacity building, and remediation advice and services.

ACAN program managers support and coordinate the production of annual Modern Slavery Statements covering around 50 Catholic organisations.

They also build capacity in Catholic organisations through a modern slavery risk management program that includes education modules, webinars, monthly newsletters and events.

ACAN managers have also established the Domus 8.7 remediation service to provide advice and support to Catholic entities who identify possible cases of modern slavery. This expert support means safely facilitating the immediate needs of people in or escaping modern slavery. In 2024, Domus 8.7 also opened to corporate membership.

The 8.7 refers to UN Strategic Development Goal 8.7 which calls on nations to take action to end modern slavery and human trafficking.

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