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# Support for Trafficked People Program Data Snapshot: 2009 to 2019

Profiling our work with people affected by human trafficking and slavery

*"Before the program I felt tired and broken like glass.  
Now, I have a feeling of lightness and I am free."*

- Person supported by Australian Red Cross

# INTRODUCTION

## Australian Red Cross

As a humanitarian organisation and part of the broader International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, Australian Red Cross (Red Cross) fulfils an important auxiliary role to the humanitarian services of public authorities. In accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the Movement including humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality, a key priority of Red Cross is to assist people made vulnerable through the process of migration, including people who have been trafficked, or who are, or may be, forced into marriage.

Having worked directly with people in Australia affected by human trafficking and slavery over the last decade, Red Cross has developed unique insights into the humanitarian impact of these issues. Red Cross has also learnt from consulting directly with communities; collaborating with government, support services and community organisations; undertaking research and education activities; and from working with key sector partners to establish and jointly lead state and territory human trafficking and forced marriage networks. Red Cross aims to use these insights to contribute to furthering understanding of human trafficking and slavery and increasing competence to work safely and ethically with trafficked people.

## Support for Trafficked People Program

The Support For Trafficked People Program (Support Program) was established in 2004 as part of the Australian Government's whole-of-government approach to combating human trafficking and slavery<sup>1</sup> and is administered by the Department of Social Services (DSS). Red Cross, with our nationwide capacity to work with those made vulnerable by migration, has been delivering the Support Program since March 2009.

As of 24 November 2019, Red Cross has provided individualised casework support to 426 people referred to the Support Program by the Australian Federal Police (AFP), and worked collaboratively with the AFP along with other partner agencies including DSS, specialist support services and the community service sector to meet the needs of these individuals. Red Cross delivers a service that is responsive and flexible to client needs, is guided by clients' voices and utilises a strength-based casework approach.

Red Cross notes the positive developments that have been made to the Support Program since its establishment and the ongoing collaborative approach taken by the Australian Government in working with Red Cross and civil society, including members of the National Roundtable on Human Trafficking and Slavery, to ensure the Support Program is meeting the needs of people

affected by human trafficking and slavery and remains relevant in the evolving Australian context.

## Data Snapshot: 2009 to 2019

Red Cross is pleased to publish this report highlighting data gathered through our delivery of the Support Program throughout the last decade. Red Cross anticipates that the data contained in the report may help to increase understanding of the prevalence and diversity of the ways in which people have experienced exploitation in Australia, support academic studies and help to improve national, state and territory agencies awareness of human trafficking and slavery. Whilst this is a Data Snapshot, Red Cross recognises that behind each number is a human being and acknowledges both the challenges that people have overcome and the resilience of each individual we have supported.

This Data Snapshot represents persons who have been identified as victims of human trafficking and slavery by the AFP and referred to the Support Program. Therefore it only captures people who have been willing and able to engage with a policing agency for referral, and have consented to accessing support. As such, the data does not represent all individuals affected by human trafficking and slavery in Australia. Due to the hidden nature of exploitation, quantifying the extent of victimisation in Australia presents many challenges however recent research<sup>2</sup> estimated there to be four undetected victims for every detected victim in Australia.

Given the nature of risk associated with the exploitation of people, Red Cross has taken steps to ensure we are sharing data in a way that protects the identity of individuals. This includes not providing specific data when it relates to under five people, and de-identifying quotes from individuals.

The data contained in this report pertains to the people that Red Cross has worked with through the Support Program from 1 March 2009 to 24 November 2019. When presenting percentages, figures have been rounded up or down to the nearest full percent.

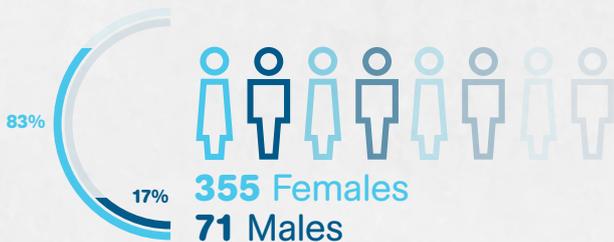
**For further information on the Support Program or this Data Snapshot, please contact the Red Cross team at [national\\_stpp@redcross.org.au](mailto:national_stpp@redcross.org.au) or on +61 3 9345 1800. To access multilingual resources on modern slavery, visit our website [redcross.org.au/stpp](http://redcross.org.au/stpp)**

1. The Support Program is a component of the Australian Government's National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery 2015-2019

2. Estimating the dark figure of human trafficking and slavery victimisation in Australia (2019), Australian Institute of Criminology

# SUPPORT FOR TRAFFICKED PEOPLE PROGRAM DATA SNAPSHOT: 2009 TO 2019

## Total People Supported by Australian Red Cross



### Total People Supported: Gender

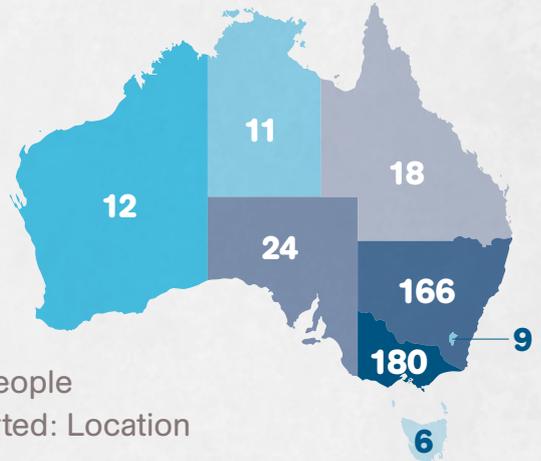
This data aligns with global trends that women and girls are disproportionately affected by human trafficking and slavery\*. From the 355 women supported to date, 38% were referred for sexual exploitation, 30% for forced marriage and 25% for labour exploitation. From the 71 men supported to date, 88% were referred for labour exploitation.

\*As observed in A Global Report on Trafficking in Persons by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2018).



### Total People Supported: Age

Approximately 1 in 7 people supported to date have been under the age of 18. Of the 60 children and young people supported, 47 were referred for forced marriage, 6 for labour exploitation and 7 for other reasons including sexual exploitation and exit trafficking.



### Total People Supported: Location

In our delivery of the Support Program, Red Cross provides a nation-wide response and has supported people in every state and territory in Australia. The location where an individual receives support may change throughout their duration on the Support Program, and therefore this data identifies only their primary location, not necessarily their location at referral.

**Note:** The location of where a situation of exploitation occurs and where an individual is supported often differs.

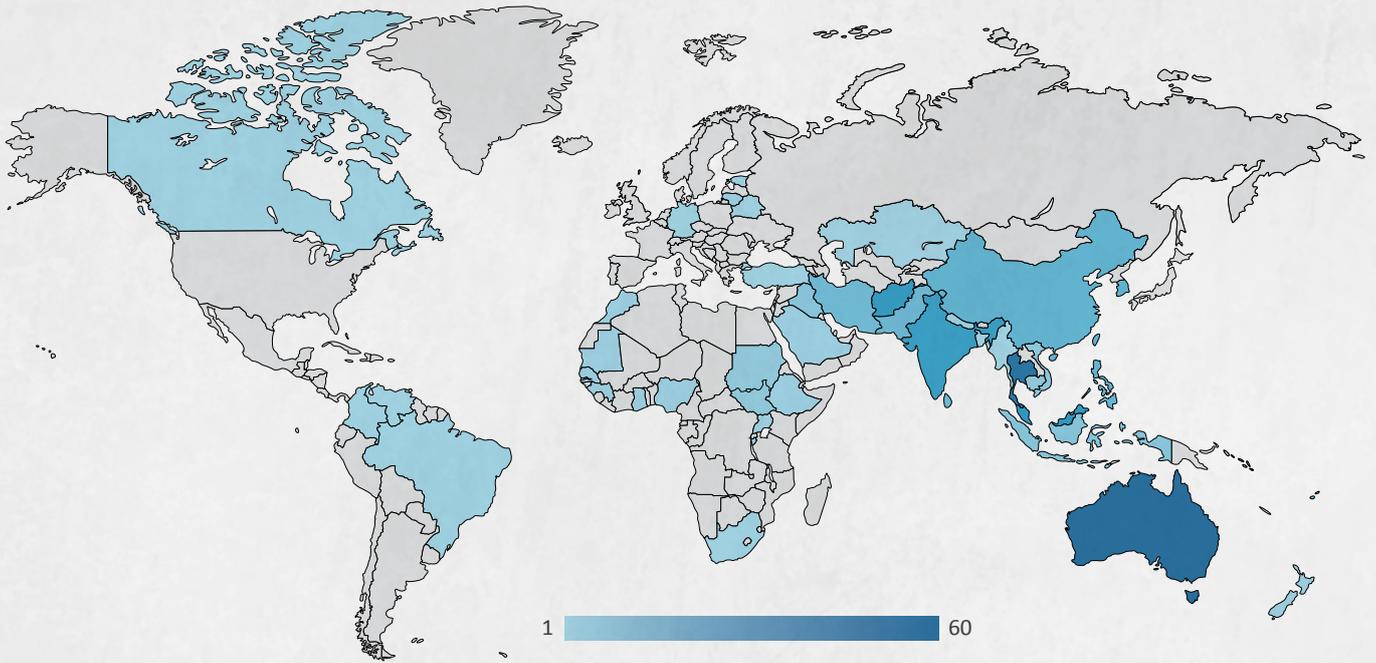


### Types of Support Provided

In supporting people affected by human trafficking and slavery, Red Cross utilises a strength-based casework approach that is responsive and flexible to individual needs. This graphic highlights some of the needs that are most frequently identified by individuals and the most common types of support provided. Access to these supports is often facilitated through referrals to specialist agencies.

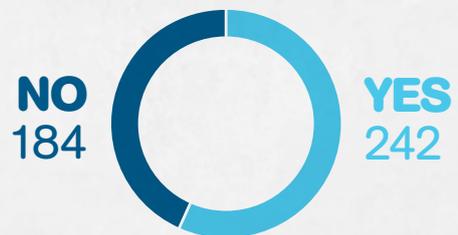
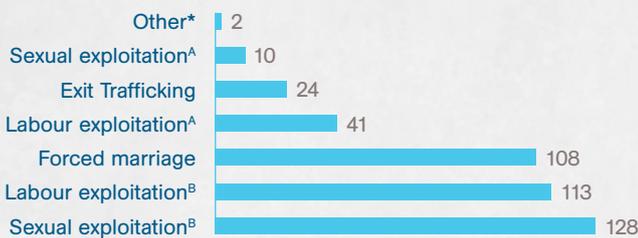
\*Referral to legal and migration services.





### Total People Supported: Nationality

To date, Red Cross has supported individuals identifying as being from 48 different countries. Nationality is self-identified by each person. The nationalities most represented include Australian (60), Thai (54), Malaysian (35), Afghan (32), Indian (29), Fijian (24), South Korean (23), Chinese (21), Filipino (18), Pakistani (17), Iranian (15), Sri Lankan (9), Indonesian (9), Iraqi (8), Vietnamese (6), Cambodian (6) and South Sudanese (6).



### Total People Supported: Reason for Referral

This data aligns with global trends that the most common form of human trafficking identified is sexual exploitation and the second most common identified is labour exploitation<sup>1</sup>. As of November 2019, people referred for sexual exploitation in a commercial setting comprise 30% of total referrals, while labour exploitation in a commercial setting and forced marriage comprise 27% and 25% respectively.

1. As observed in A Global Report on Trafficking in Persons by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2018).

\*Six of the eight types of exploitation are represented here with an additional two types grouped as 'other' as data is under five.

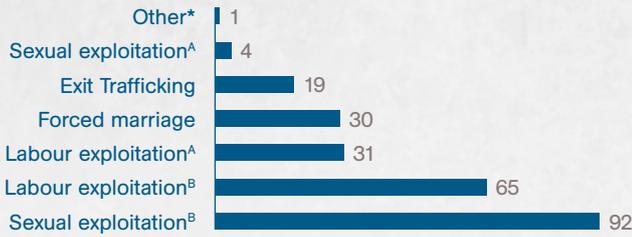
<sup>A</sup> Personal setting. <sup>B</sup> Commercial setting.

### People on the Justice Support Stream

The Justice Support Stream provides ongoing support for people who choose to participate in the criminal justice process. People who do not participate in the criminal justice process are able to access either 45 days or 90 days of support\* and a standard transition (exit) period of 20 working days.

\*Please see forced marriage data on page 7 for an explanation of the Forced Marriage Support Stream Trial.

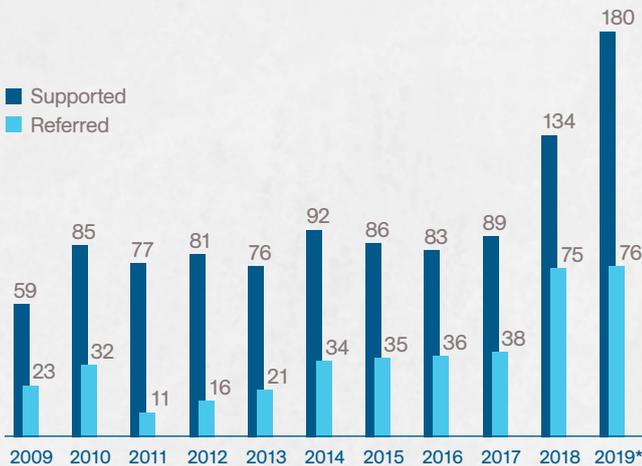
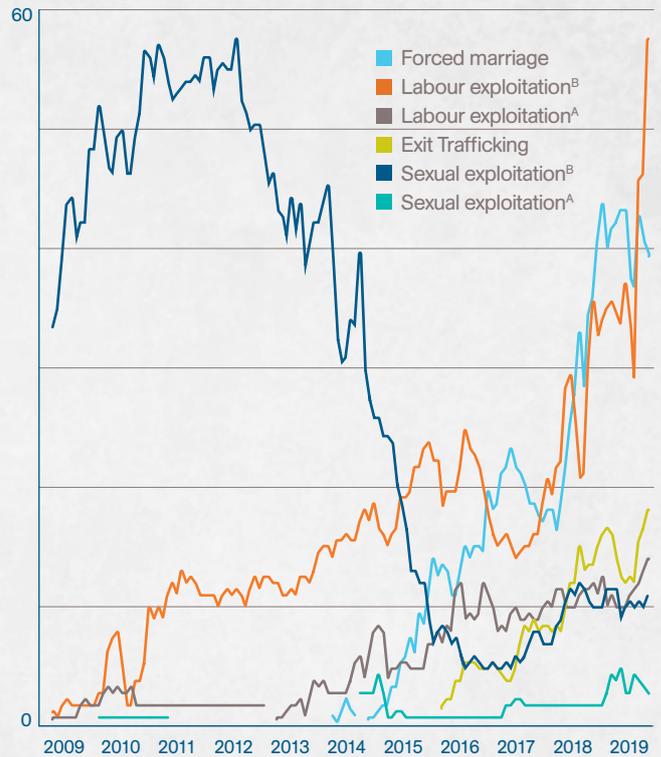




### People on the Justice Support Stream: Reason for Referral

Of those who accessed the Justice Support Stream, 38% were referred for sexual exploitation in a commercial setting, 27% for labour exploitation in a commercial setting with 13% and 12% for labour exploitation in a personal setting and forced marriage respectively.

\*Reason for referral cannot be identified as data is under five.  
<sup>A</sup> Personal setting. <sup>B</sup> Commercial setting.



### Total People Referred and Supported Each Year

This data indicates an overall gradual increase in the number of people referred and supported each year, and a substantial increase in the calendar years of 2018 and 2019. When Red Cross began delivering the Support Program in March 2009, 36 clients were transferred into our care. Since that time, we have received a total of 397 referrals, including 7 for individuals who had previously been referred to the Support Program. Therefore Red Cross has supported 390 individuals from their first point of referral and 426 individuals in total. An individual is often supported across multiple calendar years.

\*Data is representative of this calendar year until 24 November 2019.

### TIME SERIES - Total People Supported: Reason for Referral

In 2009, the primary reason for referral to the Support Program was for sexual exploitation in a commercial setting, with only a small percentage of people referred for purposes of labour exploitation both in a commercial and personal setting. Referrals for labour exploitation in a commercial setting steadily increased in 2018 and even more so in 2019. With the criminalisation of forced marriage in 2013, people were initially referred at a slow pace, with this increasing steadily to the end of 2017. In 2018, coinciding with the introduction of the Forced Marriage Support Stream Trial, a sharp increase in referrals made forced marriage the most common reason for referral at that time. Also interesting to note is the gradual increase in referrals for exit trafficking since 2016 and both sexual exploitation and labour exploitation in a personal setting trending upward in 2019.

<sup>A</sup> Personal setting. <sup>B</sup> Commercial setting.

**2015**

- The Australian Governments' National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery 2015-2019 came into force in January
- Reforms were made to the Visa Framework accessible to people referred to the Support Program

**2016**

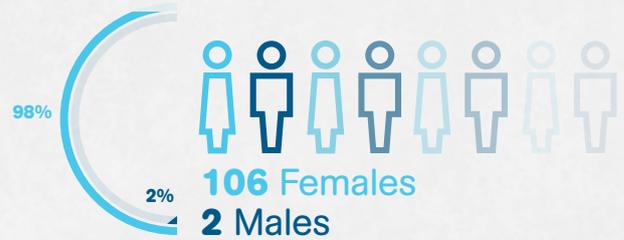
- Began seeing exit trafficking as a reason for referral

**2017**

- For the first time in a calendar year, Red Cross supported more people referred for forced marriage than any other type of exploitation

# SUPPORT FOR TRAFFICKED PEOPLE PROGRAM DATA SNAPSHOT: 2014 TO 2019

## People Affected by Forced Marriage

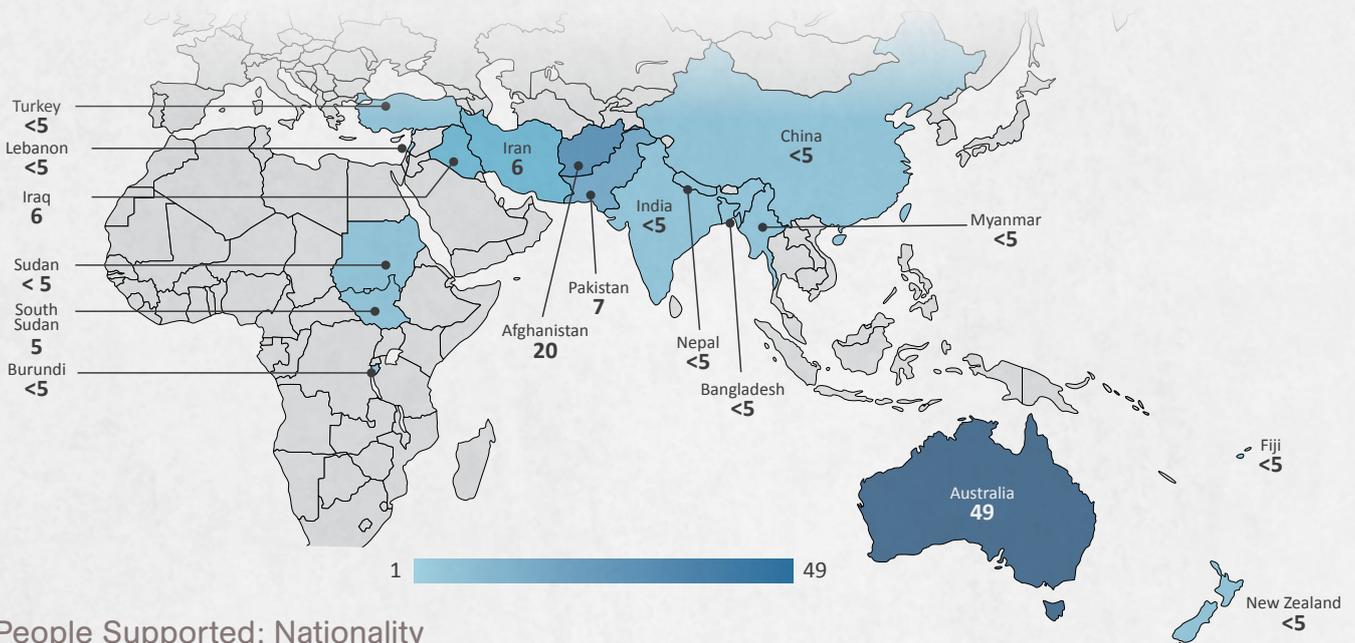


### People Supported: Age

Almost half of the people Red Cross has supported to date who were referred for forced marriage have been children or young people under the age of 18.

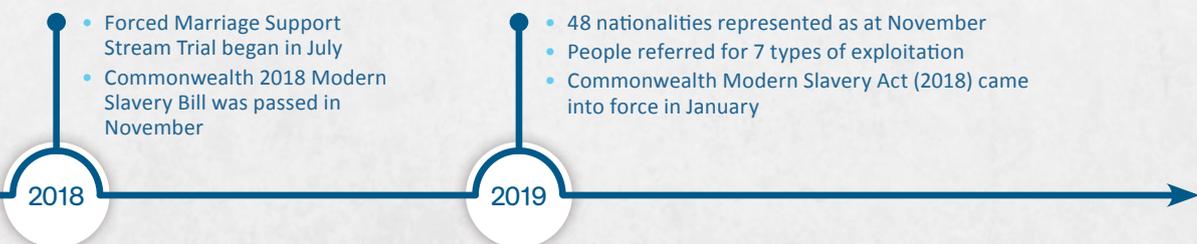
### People Supported: Gender

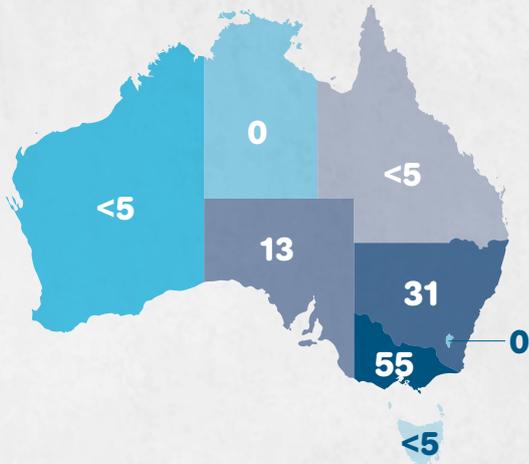
This data aligns with global trends that women and girls are disproportionately affected by forced marriage. However men can also be at risk of, or have experienced, forced marriage. Despite being under the value of five, Red Cross has chosen to provide details on the specific number of men who have accessed the Support Program having been referred for forced marriage in order to contribute to sector understanding. We have ensured there are no other associated identifying factors.



### People Supported: Nationality

To date, Red Cross has supported individuals referred for forced marriage identifying as being from 17 different countries. Nationality is self-identified by each person. The nationalities most represented include Australian (49), Afghan (20), Pakistani (7), Iraqi (6), and Iranian (6).

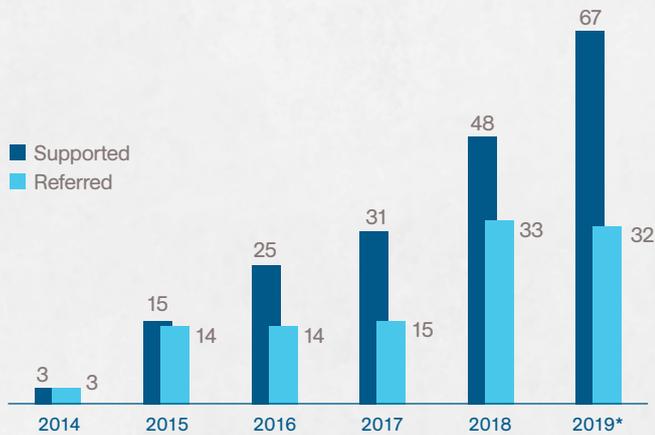




### People Supported: Location

To date, Red Cross has supported people referred to the Support Program for forced marriage in 6 states. Of these people, 51% were supported in Victoria, 29% in New South Wales and 12% in South Australia. The location where an individual receives support may change throughout their duration on the Support Program, and therefore this data identifies only their primary location, and not necessarily their location at referral.

**Note:** The location of where a situation of exploitation occurs and where an individual is supported often differs.

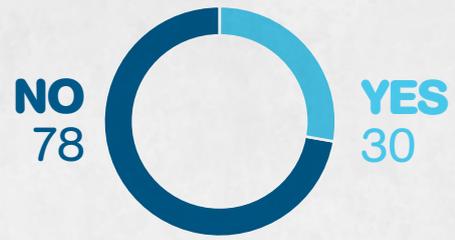


### People Referred and Supported Each Year

This data indicates a gradual increase in the number of people affected by forced marriage referred and supported each year, and a substantial increase in the calendar years of 2018 and 2019.

Since forced marriage was criminalised and the Support Program was able to receive referrals for forced marriage in 2014, Red Cross has received a total of 111 referrals, including 3 for individuals who had previously been referred to the Support Program. Therefore Red Cross has supported 108 individuals referred for forced marriage. An individual is often supported across multiple calendar years.

\*Data is representative of this calendar year until 24 November 2019.



### People on the Justice Support Stream referred for Forced Marriage

The Justice Support Stream provides ongoing support for people who choose to participate in the criminal justice process. Prior to April 2018, people referred for forced marriage who did not participate in the criminal justice process were able to access either 45 days or 90 days of support and a standard transition (exit) period of 20 working days. However in recognition that people affected by forced marriage are often under 18 and have complex needs which require longer term assistance, the Australian Government introduced the Forced Marriage Support Stream Trial which allows people referred for forced marriage to access 180 days of support plus a standard transition (exit) period of 20 working days. Red Cross started delivering this stream of the Support Program in April 2018.



### TIME SERIES - People Referred for Forced Marriage and Other Types of Exploitation

With the criminalisation of forced marriage in 2013, people were initially referred at a slow pace, however, by 2015 referrals for forced marriage had increased five-fold, whilst referrals for all other types of exploitation decreased. Referral trends stabilised for both forced marriage and all other types of exploitation until 2018. Coinciding with the introduction of the Forced Marriage Support Stream Trial in 2018, forced marriage referrals more than doubled whilst referrals for others types of exploitation increased almost two-fold. By November 2019, referral trends had once again stabilised.



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November 2019

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