

Trafficking in Persons National Action Plan 2027-2031

The Trafficking in Persons (TiP) National Action Plan is part of the *Transnational, Serious and Organised Crime (TSOC) Strategy 2026-2030* and provides New Zealand’s coordinated framework for strengthening the response to trafficking in persons. The Plan is intentionally focused on targeted uplift rather than system reform, delivering measurable improvements through better alignment, stronger governance, and more coordinated delivery while laying the foundations for longer-term change.

What is Trafficking in Persons?

Trafficking in Persons (TiP) is a serious crime and a human rights violation which causes significant harm. It is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a person for the purpose of exploitation and involves deceiving or coercing someone in order to exploit them.

TiP is happening here in New Zealand, and the crime is punishable by up to 20 years’ imprisonment, fines of up to \$500,000, or both. It can take many forms, including forced labour, forced criminality, sexual exploitation, forced marriage and domestic servitude.

TiP can occur entirely within New Zealand or involve movement across international borders. Victims may be New Zealand citizens, residents, or migrants, and can be of any age. It can occur in workplaces, businesses and private homes.

There are three elements to TiP: an act (what is done), the means (how it is done), and the purpose (why it is done). This is also known as the AMP model and is based on the definition of TiP set out in section 98D of the New Zealand Crimes Act 1961. For child victims, prosecutors do not need to prove coercion or deception, unless the accused can show they reasonably believed the victim was an adult.

THE MISSION:

To deliver an effective, coordinated, whole-of-system approach to trafficking in persons, with a focus on awareness, prevention, protection of victims, and collective accountability across government.

THE GOALS:

- Improve awareness and public understanding of TiP in New Zealand, including risks and vulnerabilities to exploitation.
- Provide for earlier and more consistent identification of victims, supported by a coordinated and accessible victim support system.
- Build greater coordination across government, private sector, civil society and international partners with improved system data, monitoring, and reporting.
- Strengthen enforcement responses to effectively detect and disrupt TiP, and hold offenders to account.
- Improve system responses to prevent and address TiP risks for vulnerable populations, including women and children.

STRATEGIC PILLARS OF THE PLAN:



PARTNERSHIP: Includes whole-of-system collaboration to deliver an effective collective response to trafficking in persons.



PROTECTION: Includes actions to ensure effective victim identification, protection, and trauma-informed and culturally- and age-appropriate support to reduce the risk of re-victimisation.



PREVENTION: Includes actions to identify and address the drivers and vulnerabilities which enable trafficking in persons, disrupting conditions that enable exploitation before it occurs.



PROSECUTION & ENFORCEMENT: Includes coordinated criminal justice, law enforcement, and regulatory actions to detect, investigate, disrupt, and enforce trafficking offending, hold offenders accountable and maintain the trust and integrity of the system response.

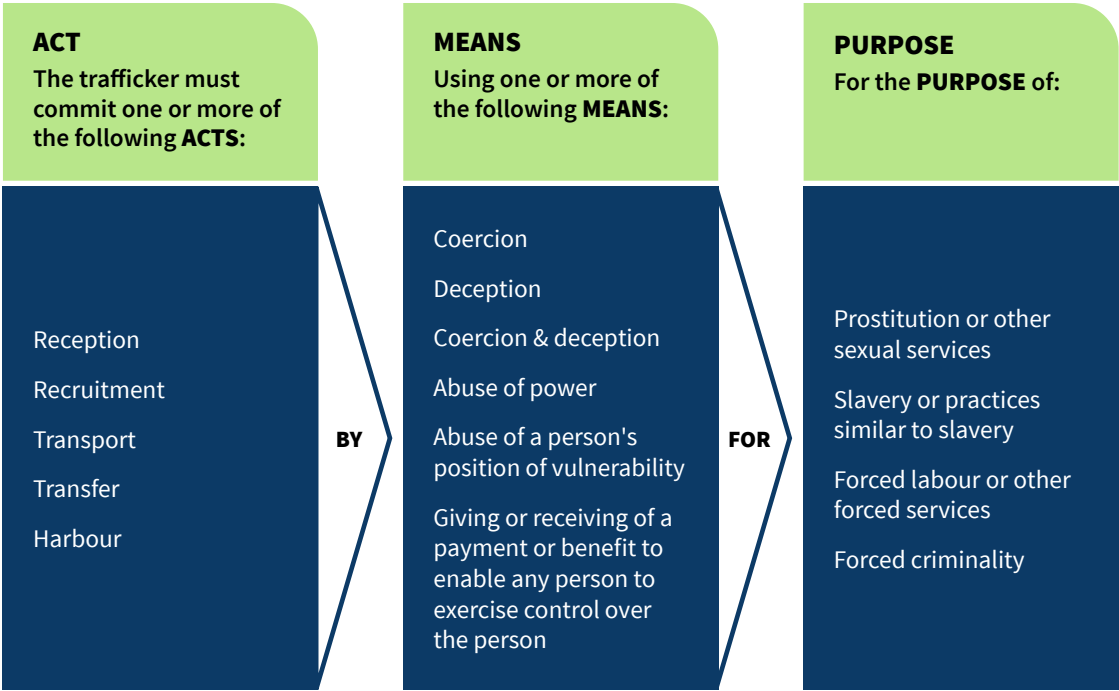


FIGURE 1: The AMP model shows the “continuum” of offending, demonstrating that all three aspects must be present to be a trafficking offence - the act committed, the means, and the purpose of exploitation, helping distinguish TiP from other offences.

Examples of high-risk industries in NZ



Horticulture



Beauty Services



Hospitality



Construction

Forms of exploitation in New Zealand



Forced Labour



Domestic Servitude



Forced Criminality



Sexual Exploitation

PRIORITY ACTIVITIES:

The National Action Plan is designed to deliver a five-year programme that focuses on awareness, prevention, protection of victims, and collective accountability across government. Activities and deliverables focus on areas where improvement is needed most and are designed to strengthen the existing system and lay the foundation for a more coordinated and effective response over time. The implementation of the Plan will be coordinated by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) as the lead agency, in collaboration with a range of government agencies, non-government stakeholders, civil society and international partners.

To support implementation, activities are divided into two phases:

- **PHASE ONE:** Foundational activities establish the governance, systems, processes, and relationships needed to support the wider response to TiP.
- **PHASE TWO:** Sequenced activities build on this foundation and will be implemented over time as earlier work is completed. While the sequencing provides a general roadmap, opportunities to progress activities earlier will be taken where resources, capacity, or existing initiatives allow.