

# **Modern Slavery Act Statement**

Reporting Period  
1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

## **Modern Slavery Act Statement**

This Modern Slavery Statement is made pursuant to the Commonwealth *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (the Act) by Echuca Regional Health and relates to the financial year 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

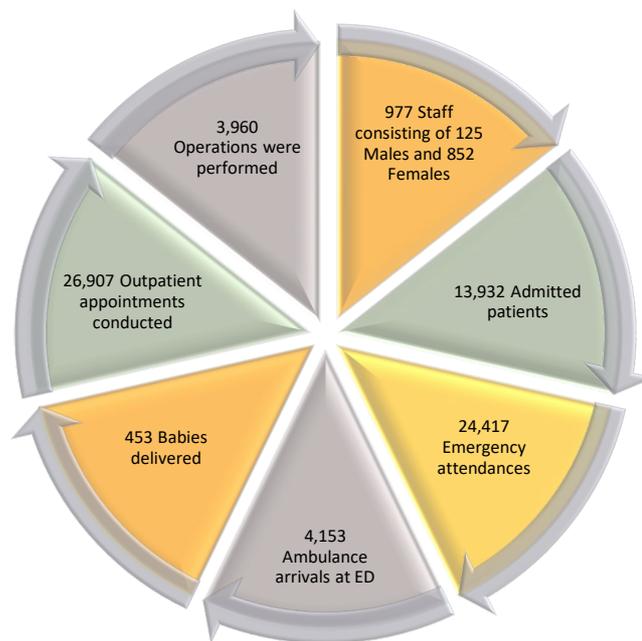
### **Mandatory Criteria One and Two**

#### **Identify the reporting entity and describe its structure, operations and supply chains:**

Echuca Regional Health (ERH) of 226 Service Street, Echuca, ABN 30 490 690 530, is a Schedule 1 Public Health Service incorporated pursuant to the provisions of the Health Services Act 1988 (Vic).

The original Echuca District Hospital opened in 1882 and was renamed Echuca Regional Health in 1993 following amalgamation with Echuca Community Health Service. It is approximately 220km north of Melbourne and is a border town situated on the Murray River with Moama located on the NSW border. The Shire of Campaspe (Victoria) with a population of 37,919 covers an area of 4,518 square kilometres and the Murray River Council (NSW) with an estimated population of 12,780 covers an area of 17,416 sq. klm. Echuca Regional Health is a 159 bed service.

Our staff and Care at a Glance:



These services are complimented by a High Dependency Unit, Medical Ward, Surgical Ward, Obstetric & Paediatric Ward, Rehabilitation & Palliative Care Ward, High care Residential Aged Care, Cancer & Wellness Centre and 3 operating theatres.

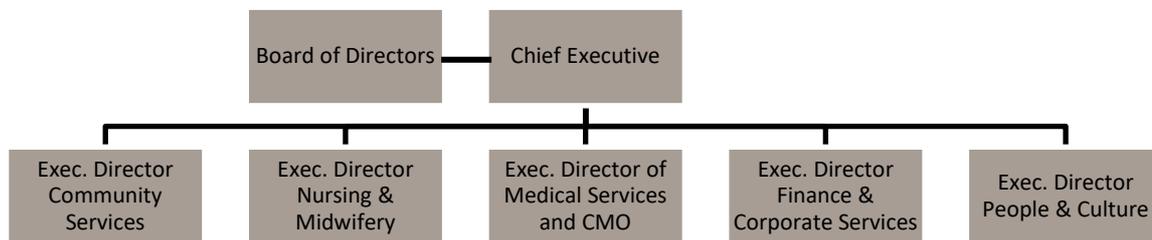
ERH provides services in emergency, maternity, women's health, medical imaging, pathology, rehabilitation, community services, residential aged care, community

dental, palliative care, cancer services and renal dialysis to the people of the Loddon Mallee region and Murray region.

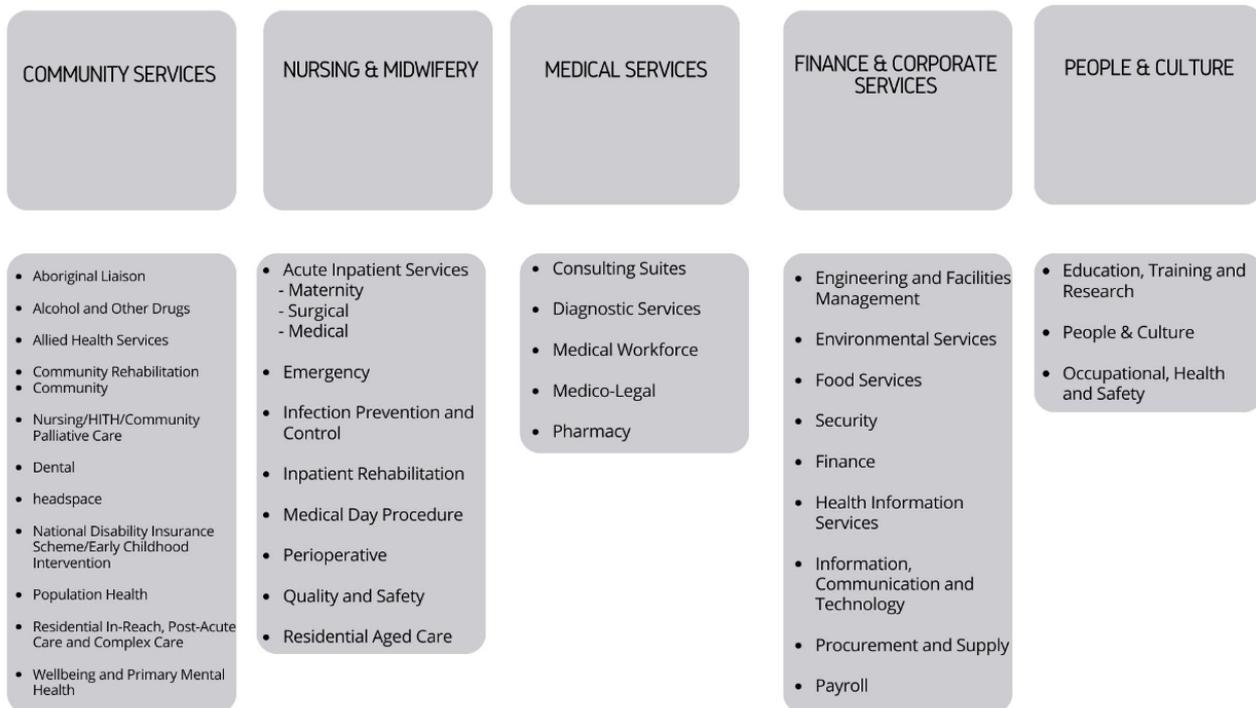
[ERH AnnualReport 2022-2.pdf](#)

There is one main campus at ERH, with many services extended to other regional settings including Rochester, Cohuna and Kyabram. ERH and the Victorian Government are committed to delivering high quality health-care to the community of Echuca/Moama and surrounds.

### Echuca Regional Health’s Organisational Chart



### Supply Chain



ERH’s supply chain includes (but is not limited to) the products and services used to deliver healthcare services including medical equipment and consumables, personal

protective equipment and ICT equipment. ERH’s supply chain also includes products and services provided by contractors including (but not limited to) consultants, support and maintenance services. ERH also supports other external Hospitals with service support and also clinical and non-clinical consumables.

ERH also utilises the contracts under the HealthShare Victoria (HSV) arrangement. HSV is a state-wide procurement organisation that partners with Victoria’s public health services to procure best-value goods and services. HSV works in partnership with public health services to understand their requirements, facilitate large-scale collective tenders and manage common-use contracts on behalf of the state. ERH purchases the goods and services it needs from the suppliers who are party to HSV collective agreements. As such, it is recognised that HSV has a significant role in health service supply chains. Analysis of our annual spend data shows that ERH purchases approximately 30% of its annual spend through HSV collective agreements and 70% of purchases are undertaken directly by ERH. Of this 70%, some purchases by ERH are small and low risk, whilst others require greater scrutiny using various risk management practices.

HSV has over 800 individual contracts with 299 suppliers across 75 categories with a spend value of over \$1.16 billion.

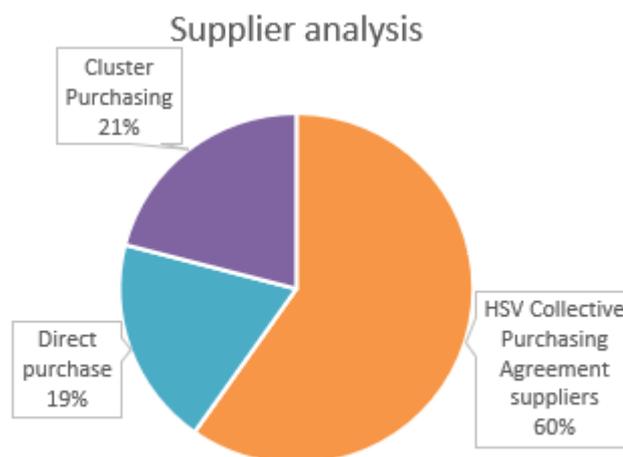
HSV contracts cover a broad range of services, equipment and supplies across a number of categories including ventilators, beds, mattresses, patient trolleys, treatment chairs, hypodermic needles and syringes, gloves, pharmaceutical products, IV fluids, agency labour, catering supplies, laundry and linen services and non-emergency patient transport. A full list of HSV’s sourcing categories can be found at:

<https://www.healthsharevic.org.au/contracts-and-documents/contracts>.

For this reporting period, ERH engaged with 837 suppliers/service providers with the top 10 representing 44 per cent of our overall category spend. The intent for this reporting period is to focus on our top 30 per cent of suppliers/service providers.

Analysis of the top 30 percent of suppliers ERH engaged with shows that 60% of these suppliers were also suppliers under HSV collective purchasing agreements.

This has assisted us to better focus our attention and risk review on suppliers.



## **Mandatory Criteria Three**

**Describe the risks of modern slavery practices in the operations and supply chains of the reporting entity and any entities the reporting entity owns or controls:**

As a health service with a largely skilled workforce, ERH considers the risk of modern slavery within its direct business operations to be relatively low. In line with a risk based approach, these risks will be further examined in subsequent reporting periods.

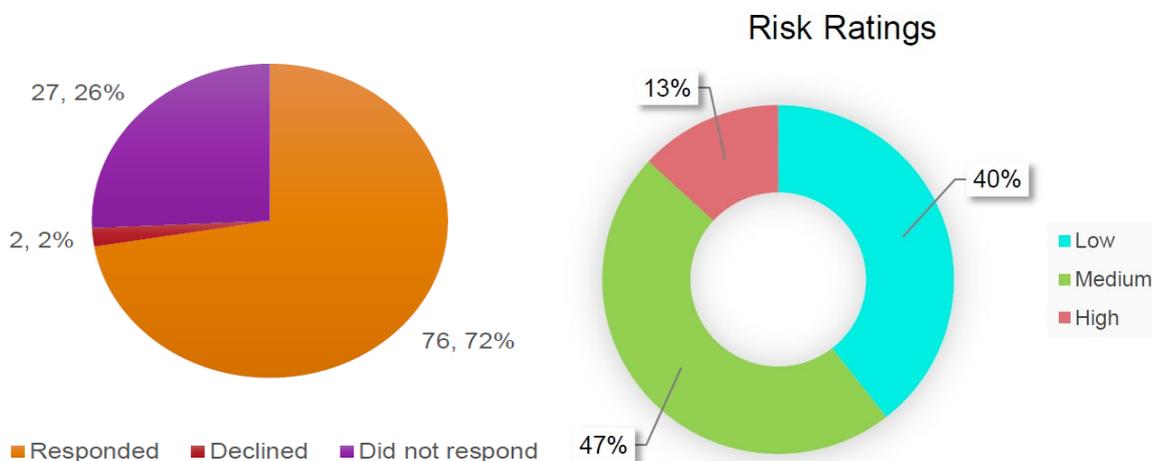
ERH supply chain activities consist of the following procurement approaches to the market:

- Group sourcing activities:
  - HSV led cluster sourcing – collectively led by HSV on behalf of participating health services.
  - HSV led collective purchasing – collectively led by HSV on behalf of participating health services.
  - Health service led cluster sourcing – collaborative procurement by a group of health services, where the lead health service ensures modern slavery requirements.
- Direct sourcing activities where ERH directly engages with each supplier on its own.

HSV assisted ERH with the assessment of modern slavery risk in the supply chains of our Collective Purchasing Agreements. In 2022-2023 HSV has provided a support focus to the health service in fostering collaboration between HSV, Health Services and Suppliers to prioritise risk mitigation actions. As a result, HSV rolled out 105 Questionnaires to HSV collective agreement suppliers that were accessed by ERH for the period FY2022 (July-December). Of the 105 invited suppliers, 76 responded, whilst 2 declined to respond and 27 did not respond.

In many instances those that did not respond are required to do a Modern Slavery Statement and so there is an understanding of their progress around modern slavery.

### **Response Rate & Supplier Risk Ratings**



Risk Category	No. Suppliers
Very High	0
High	10
Medium	36
Low	30
Very Low	0

The HSV assessment identified 10 high risk suppliers within ERH’s supply chain. It should be noted that these results do not imply ERH has caused or contributed to modern slavery practices, but rather, ERH is linked to risks which exist offshore and in high-risk geographies. ERH support HSV’s approach to collaborate with suppliers to assist them to understand their risks and understands that HSV wrote to high risk suppliers to provide support and guidance to improve modern slavery awareness with these suppliers. That engagement continues.

For direct sourcing activities, ERH acknowledges that there is a risk of modern slavery practices, especially upstream within tier two suppliers (manufactures for our direct tier one suppliers) within the supply chain. We continue to progress in this space to better understand these risks; again, we use a risk based approach which allows us to build on our focus and achievements from foundational levels.

## **Mandatory Criteria Four**

**Describe the actions taken by the reporting entity and any entities that the reporting entity owns or controls to assess and address these risks, including due diligence and remediation processes:**

- Echuca Regional Health prepared its Modern Slavery policy and this was approved in January 2023 by ERH Non-Clinical Policy and Procedure Committee and communicated to ERH staff via the ERH newsletter.
- A risk assessment template has been created for all market approach procurement activities.
- A short form AND long form supplier questionnaire has been created to assist with determining risk-appropriate modern slavery clauses for inclusion in the contract documents, dependant on the risk assessment rating.
- A modern slavery register has been created to populate and monitor, and will be maintained by the Procurement/Contracts team.
- A modern slavery clause has been incorporated into ERH’s contract template.
- Supplier Code of Conduct Commitment is included in all RFX documents.
- All ERH procurement staff will be provided with training via the ECHO training modules on the HSV website. HSV also provides monthly MS Community of

Learning sessions to educate and spread awareness to Health Service procurement staff. Topics covered include: demonstrating progress, HSV supplier risk assessments, modern slavery statement trends, and preparing and writing the modern slavery statement.

## **Mandatory Criteria Five**

### **Describe how the reporting entity assesses the effectiveness of actions being taken to assess and address modern slavery risks:**

Echuca Regional Health, recognising the importance of this activity will commence to implement mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of its actions over the 23-24 reporting period.

ERH will continue to mature in our understanding of the Modern Slavery Act and work actively with HSV to embed the learnings and risk management tools into our end to end procurement cycle. This includes risk assessing suppliers ERH directly engages with (and which have not been otherwise assessed under HSV collective agreements) utilising the HSV-developed Supplier Risk Assessment Tool.

ERH will continue to work collaboratively with HSV to greater understand the 10 high risk level suppliers identified under the collective purchasing agreements, and which appear in our supply chain, and actions that can be taken to reduce these modern slavery risks. This includes supplier engagement activities for example, directing them to free training resources and tools and templates.

## **Mandatory Criteria Six**

### **Describe the process of consultation with any entities the reporting entity owns or controls:**

Echuca Regional Health does not own or control any other entities.

## **Mandatory Criteria Seven**

### **Any other relevant information:**

Echuca Regional Health will continue to plan, review and implement the measures required to further enhance the HSV implementation guidance provided to assist Health Services. Further, ERH will also continue to work closely with HSV to continue to develop and enhance the practices and processes that underpin a successful Modern Slavery framework. This will include reporting on numbers of staff completing the Echo Modern Slavery training modules, details of risk ratings of suppliers directly engaged and measures taken by ERH to engage with them for the purposes of raising awareness.

## **Closing Statement**

Echuca Regional Health continues to remain confident that the steps taken to date will continue to enhance the strong foundation for a robust modern slavery framework. ERH continue to also recognise there is more to do and remains highly

committed to continually improving our approach, working closely with HSV, partnering with our stakeholders and working to eradicate modern slavery.

This statement was approved by the Board of Echuca Regional Health on **Thursday 7 December, 2023.**



Board Chair: Stacy Williams