

ABC Modern Slavery Statement

▶ FY 2021

ABC

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**This Statement has been approved by the Board of
the Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation is committed to building capability and transparency in its supply chain to mitigate modern slavery risks.

Each year the ABC engages with suppliers to procure goods and services to meet its obligations under the ABC Charter. Through this, the ABC has an opportunity to facilitate and promote social and sustainable outcomes as well as build awareness of modern slavery risks in its supply chains.

Since the submission of the ABC's inaugural statement, the ABC has continued to embed ethical sourcing practices in accordance with its sustainability strategy and legislative obligations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Anderson', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

David Anderson

ABC Managing Director

1. Introducing the ABC

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) belongs to all Australians. It reflects not just who we are, but also where we have come from, and where we are going as a modern nation. The ABC has been Australia's voice for almost 90 years, delivering the stories we have loved, the news and information we needed, and services that have enriched our culture and civic life. This is as true for rural and regional Australians as it is for those who live in our cities or overseas.

The ABC's independence as a provider of news and public interest journalism, including investigative journalism contributes to Australia's global reputation for good governance, institutional reliability, and rule of law.

The ABC provides a wide variety of content that enriches Australian communities and presents Australian perspectives to audiences beyond the nation's shores.

The ABC is committed to addressing modern slavery risk in its operations and supply chain. This is the second Modern Slavery Statement (Statement) produced by the ABC.

Addressing modern slavery risk is undertaken in conjunction with a continuing focus on other ABC social and sustainable procurement objectives like increasing supplier diversity and meeting the goals of its Reconciliation Action Plan.

2. ABC's structure, operations and supply chains

2.1 Structure

The ABC (ABN 52 429 278 345) is a Corporate Commonwealth Entity operating in accordance with the ABC Charter, as prescribed in the *Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act 1983*.

The ABC Board is the principal governing body of the ABC. The duties of the Board include ensuring that the functions of the ABC are performed efficiently and with maximum benefit to the people of Australia and maintaining the independence and integrity of the organisation.

The ABC's head office is situated in Ultimo, NSW. The ABC has approximately 4000 employees who work across operations in ten major metropolitan areas and forty-six regional locations nationally.

The ABC also operates multiple foreign newsgathering bureaux and conducts international training projects in several overseas countries.

The ABC had three controlled entities in the financial year ended 30 June 2021. There is no perceivable risk of modern slavery in relation to ABC's controlled entities as they either did not trade or only operated in a limited administrative capacity during the year ending 30 June 2021.

2.2 Operations

The ABC is involved in the production, acquisition, distribution, and transmission of content to audiences across Television, Radio, Online and Digital platforms.

The ABC is the independent source of Australian conversations, culture and stories.

ABC content is accessed by millions of people locally and internationally each week and this reach experienced significant growth in the past 12 months. More than two-thirds of Australians watch, read or listen to the ABC each week through its suite of digital and broadcast services. Refer to Figure 1.

Figure 1 | **ABC OPERATIONS**

On the radio

ABC NEWS on radio

A national, 24-hour radio news network

National Radio Networks

RN, ABC Classic, triple j

Capital City Local Radio

Available from all eight capital cities

Regional Local Radio

Available in regional locations around Australia

Digital Radio

Double J, ABC Classic 2, ABC Jazz, ABC Country, ABC Grandstand, triple j unearthed, and ABC KIDS Listen

ABC Radio Australia

A new, information and entertainment service for the Pacific region

On your screens

ABC

The ABC's primary television channel

ABC Kids / ABC TV PLUS

Television for preschoolers until 7.30pm, then a broad range of documentaries, entertainment and arts programs for adults

ABC ME

A dedicated children's channel

ABC NEWS on television

Broadcasting national and breaking news 24 hours a day

ABC Australia television

A multi-genre TV service available across the Indo-Pacific

ABC News Digital

In-depth journalism content, analysis and opinion

abc.net.au

Your gateway to ABC news, information, and entertainment

ABC iview

The ABC's online television catch-up and streaming service – available in Kids and international versions

Streaming

On ABC listen, ABC KIDS listen and via ABC websites

Apps

For smartphones and tablets

Commercial

Publishing and licensing

Magazines, books and merchandise

Content sales and distribution

Home entertainment, format and content sales, syndication

ABC Music and Events

A variety of music products and live events

Studios and Media Production

Provision of production facilities to the market

International

ABC Australia and ABC Radio Australia

Television, radio and online services for audiences across the Indo-Pacific and around the world

ABC International Development (ABCID)

Partnering with media, civil society and government organisations in the Asia-Pacific region, to assist in designing and delivering communication initiatives

2.3 The ABC's Supply Chain

The ABC supplier spend is mostly Australia based companies. There are currently around 7300 suppliers on record with the ABC.

Gaining a better understanding of the ABC's supply chain involves using a combination of internal and external data sources, particularly from suppliers in the key categories of spend (refer section 3.1). The ABC is working collaboratively with suppliers to obtain information as to how and where they source goods for the ABC.

3. Risks of modern slavery

The ABC draws on a diverse range of data sets to identify and assess the risks of modern slavery practices in its operations and supply chains.

3.1 Categories of spend

The ABC applies a risk-based approach to the identification and mitigation of the potential for modern slavery. Categories of spend being focussed on by the ABC include:

- ▶ Information Technology Equipment & Services
- ▶ Property Services (Facilities Management)
- ▶ Office Supplies
- ▶ Consultants & Contractors

- ▶ Marketing & Communications
- ▶ Program Rights & Royalties
- ▶ Production & Broadcasting
- ▶ Travel & Fleet

The ABC recognises it procures goods and services from certain categories widely acknowledged as being at increased risk of modern slavery practices; particularly IT Equipment and Services and Property Services (Facilities Management). As the two largest categories of spend at the ABC, how supply chain risks are managed in these categories sets the standard for risk management in all ABC procurement activities.

3.2 Countries of origin

According to **World Population Review**, there are over 100 countries identified as still having slavery in 2021, with the top two countries listed being India and China. Over 90% of the Corporation's first tier suppliers are Australian registered businesses.

In FY2021, tender documentation was updated to request information about countries of origin. This same question was included in the 2021 ABC Supplier Survey and identified 39 countries of manufacture (Figure 2). Collecting this information is improving our understanding of the sources of origin for goods purchased by the ABC, enabling a focus on supply chains with higher risk of modern slavery.

Figure 2 | COUNTRIES MANUFACTURING GOODS FOR THE ABC



4. The ABC's Actions

4.1 Supplier Code of Conduct

Underpinning the ABC's approach to mitigating modern slavery is the **ABC Supplier Code of Conduct** (the Code). The Code defines the expectations of its suppliers and their supply chains, positioning procurement as an enabler of the ABC's values of Integrity, Respect, Collegiality, and Innovation.

The Code permits the ABC to seek information regarding modern slavery risks from its suppliers. A supplier that fails to demonstrate sufficient openness and transparency may jeopardise current and potential arrangements with the ABC.

To support Code efficacy, the ABC's tender documentation was recently updated to indicate the possible use of ABC identified referees in assessing whether a supplier meets the Code's expectations. Concerns regarding supplier behaviour

can be reported to the ABC via email: abc.suppliers@abc.net.au. The ABC applies equitable and non-discriminatory complaint-handling procedures.

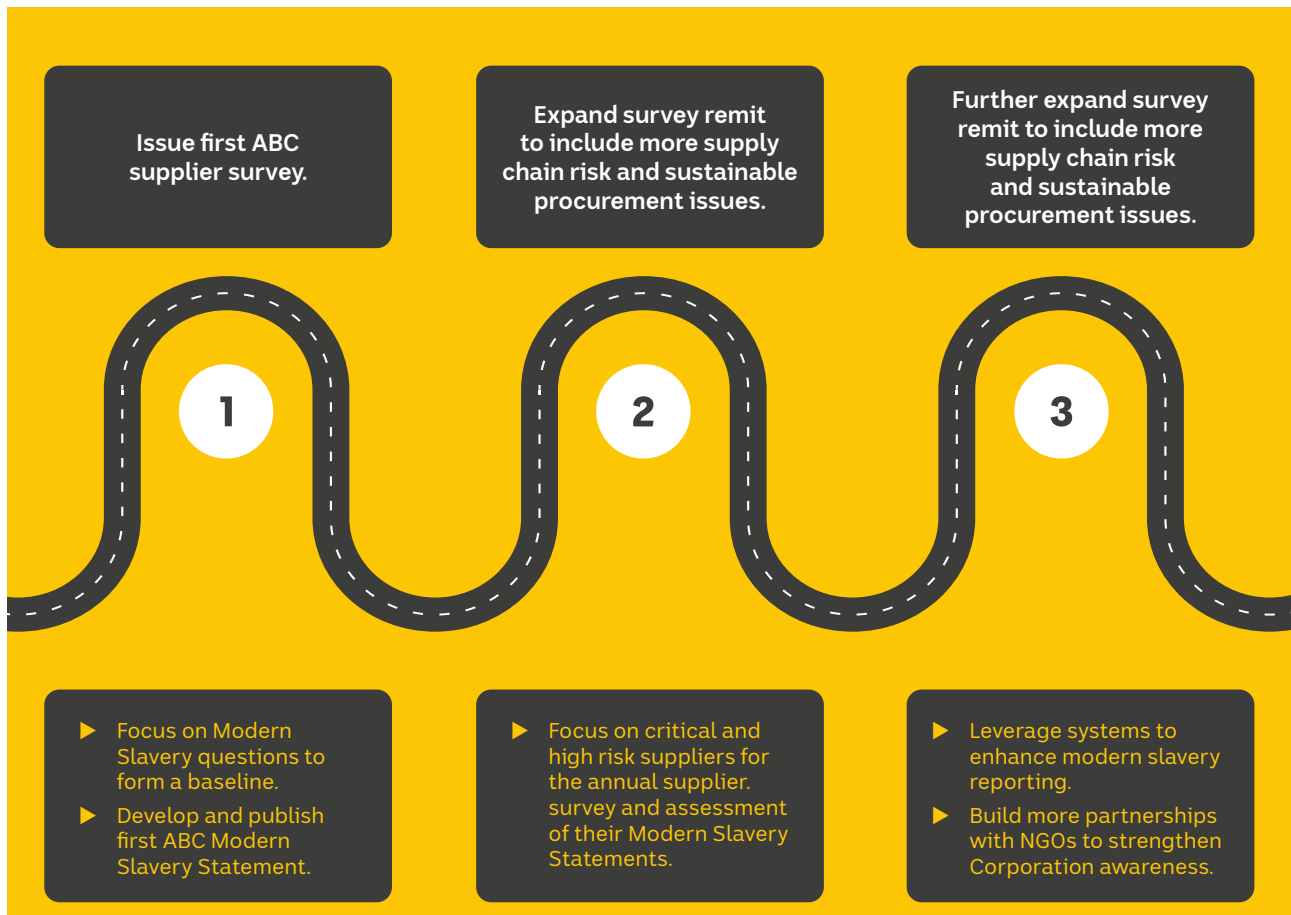
In addition, the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2013* (PID Act) promotes accountability and integrity in the Commonwealth public sector by encouraging the disclosure of information about suspected wrongdoing and ensuring that public interest disclosures are properly investigated and dealt with.

Parties internal or external to the ABC can email concerns to whistleblower.hotline@abc.net.au where matters are addressed in accordance with the ABC's Whistleblower Policy.

4.2 Modern Slavery Road Map

During FY2021, the ABC focused on the implementation of the initiatives set out in its Modern Slavery Road Map (Figure 3) to mitigate and manage its modern slavery risks.

Figure 3 | ABC MODERN SLAVERY ROAD MAP



4.3 Supplier survey

The 2021 supplier survey was sent to 140 companies, applying risk-based approach targeting:

- ▶ 15 business-critical suppliers.
- ▶ The top 20 suppliers by spend.
- ▶ Suppliers of goods and services with a higher risk of modern slavery in their supply chain.

Half of the respondent organisations are required to prepare Modern Slavery Statements, while most have policies addressing human rights.

There were varying levels of maturity in processes and systems being used to manage modern slavery risk. Mature ABC suppliers are evaluating suppliers by using third-party platforms, compliance audits,

questionnaires, supplier codes of conduct, factory visits, and industry and ethical sourcing certifications.

Respondents also reported on the number of tiers in their own supply chains.

4.4 Statement assessment

The examination of major and business-critical suppliers' statements has informed the ABC's understanding of the supply chain risks associated with these products. The actions being taken by these suppliers are largely consistent with the ABC's own experience in identifying modern slavery risks.

Supplier consultation is also used to understand supply chain risks and their management. An example case study is provided (Figure 4).

Figure 4 | PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT - CASE STUDY



4.5 Other activities

The ABC's Modern Slavery Road Map is also supported by a suite of activities designed to improve our effectiveness in reporting on supply chain risk.

- ▶ **Staff training:** To raise awareness of modern slavery risks, modern slavery content has been included in the eLearning procurement course "Before you Buy". The course has been completed by over 600 ABC staff and contractors with purchasing responsibilities.
- ▶ **Guidance:** The ABC has introduced a Social and Sustainable Procurement Evaluation Guide. This assists staff apply social and sustainable criteria, including modern slavery requirements, when making procurement decisions.
- ▶ **Supplier due diligence:** Tender documentation was updated to expand supplier modern slavery obligations and requirements are embedded in contractual terms and conditions.
- ▶ **External collaboration:** The ABC's Procurement Team participated in sector webinars addressing the outcomes of the first year of modern slavery reporting and the opportunities to improve practices.

4.6 Impact of COVID

The ABC continues to play a vital role in keeping Australians informed about the global crisis presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In early 2020, the ABC moved swiftly to safeguard the health and wellbeing of staff while prioritising coverage. Teams have adapted to the constraints and risks inherent in the pandemic, using innovative approaches to gathering content, leveraging social media platforms and other networks to reach people and continue to tell their stories.

Procurement templates were updated in 2021 to require that suppliers have COVID Safety Workplans to ensure that ABC suppliers are meeting their workplace health and safety obligations and that they continued to engage their supply chains in accordance with the [ABC Supplier Code of Conduct](#).

5. Effectiveness and the ABC's next steps

The ABC assesses the effectiveness of its actions by considering:

- ▶ The quality of information submitted by potential suppliers during procurement activities.
- ▶ Staff feedback on procurement eLearning courses.
- ▶ Supplier feedback during debrief sessions.
- ▶ Responses to annual supplier surveys.
- ▶ Respondent feedback on the questions used in the annual supplier survey.

The ABC is committed to continually improving its approach to managing modern slavery risk. The short-term focus is to increase awareness and education in its operations and supply chains, with a focus on the following actions:

- ▶ Delivering the initiatives outlined in the ABC's Road Map.
- ▶ Reviewing and updating procurement training.
- ▶ Developing guidance to help internationally based staff to consider modern slavery risks when engaging local suppliers.
- ▶ Continuing to actively collaborate with other CCEs on modern slavery approaches to inform better practice.
- ▶ Broadening consultation with business-critical suppliers to foster a collaborative approach to managing supply chain risks like modern slavery.