

Modern Slavery Act Statement

The attached is submitted as Western Health's statement in accordance with the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act

Identify the reporting entity

Western Health ABN 61 166 735 672

Describe the reporting entity's structure, operations and supply chains

Western Health is a Victorian Public Health Agency operating under the Health Act of Victoria.

Western Health (WH) manages three acute public Hospitals: Footscray Hospital, Sunshine Hospital, Williamstown Hospital and Baccus Marsh Hospital. It also operates the Sunbury Day Hospital, transition care at Hazeldean in Williamstown, Melton Hospital, Melton Health and Community Services, Baccus Marsh Community Health Centre, Caroline Springs Community Health Centre and Grant Lodge Residential Aged Care in Baccus Marsh. A wide range of community services are also managed by Western Health, along with a large Drug Health and Addiction Medicine Service.

Services are provided to the western region of Melbourne which has a population of over 900,000 people.

Western Health provides a comprehensive, integrated range of services from its various sites; ranging from acute tertiary services in areas of emergency medicine, intensive care, medical and surgical services, through to subacute care and specialist ambulatory clinics. Western Health provides a combination of hospital and community-based services to aged, adult and paediatric patients and newborn babies. Employing approximately 9,000 staff,

The majority of operating cost is staffing (80%); of the remainder the largest component is drug supplies sourced from major wholesale drug companies.

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

To the best of its knowledge there are no known risks of modern slavery within Western Health's local operations or its sole controlled entity The Western Health Foundation.

Enquiries were made into the Western Health local direct supply chain but no specific risks were identified.

In the 2020-21 year, Western Health participated with HealthShare Victoria (HSV) to undertake supplier risk assessments within HSV Collective Purchasing Agreements. During that review it was found that the sourcing of raw materials and the production of these health care goods often involves hazardous working conditions, labour exploitation, child labour and other abuses. There is a high-risk that Australian businesses are exposed to modern slavery risks and that Australian goods and services are tainted by modern slavery. This risk may be heightened for large companies and other entities with extensive, complex and/or global supply chains.

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

HealthShare Victoria (HSV), the centralised purchasing agency for Victorian Public Health services, has developed a modern slavery risk assessment tool. This was delivered through a Modern Slavery Supplier Questionnaire. The Questionnaire was rolled out to all Western Health HSV suppliers on May 3rd 2021 with a completion request date of June 30th 2021 to coincide with the conclusion of the second reporting period under the Act.

There were 146 respondents and 42 non-respondents, providing an overall response rate of 78 percent.

Modern slavery supplier risk ratings results were that there were no suppliers used during the 2020/21 year with a Very High risk rating. There were five respondent suppliers used during the 2020/21 year with a High risk rating.

Describe how the reporting entity assesses the effectiveness of these actions

Western Health believes that those suppliers who are responding to the self-reporting of the risks of modern human slavery are doing so honestly but it is not possible to report on the effectiveness of actions those suppliers might be taking to mitigate their risks.

In the third reporting period, Western Health will work collaboratively with HSV to identify the mitigation efforts being taken by suppliers to combat modern slavery risks.

Describe the process of consultation with any entities the reporting entity owns or controls (a joint statement must also describe consultation with the entity giving the statement)

Western Health has only one entity it controls. That entity, The Western Health Foundation, is staffed by Western Health employees and therefore all its procurement is undertaken by Western Health.

Provide any other relevant information.

Nil.

Endorsed by the Western Health Board April 1st 2022

Signed by Ms Robyn Batten Board Chair Western Health

Robyn Batten
