

# Modern Slavery Statement

**FY2020**

**ABC**

**This statement has been endorsed 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 and will continue to do this through the ABC's National Procurement Team.

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

**David Anderson**

ABC Managing Director

## Our Structure, Operations & Supply Chain

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) presents its first statement under the *Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth)* (MS Act) for the reporting period ending on 30 June 2020. The ABC is a Reporting Entity for the MS Act and is required to produce an annual Modern Slavery Statement (Statement) describing the risks of modern slavery in its supply chain and the actions being taken to address those risks. The ABC is committed to building capability and transparency in its supply chain to mitigate risks like modern slavery.

The ABC (ABN 52 429 278 345) is a Corporate Commonwealth Entity and provides content to audiences in accordance with its Charter, contained in the *Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act 1983*. The ABC's head office is situated in Ultimo NSW. The ABC operates with approximately 4,000 employees (FTE) from more than 50 sites across all States and Territories of Australia, operates foreign newsgathering bureaus and conducts international training projects in a number of overseas countries.

During the reporting period, the ABC owned four entities listed below, all of which were dormant in the financial year ended 30 June 2020 and preceding financial years:

- ABC AustraliaPlus (Shanghai) Cultural Development Co Ltd
- Music Choice Australia Pty Ltd
- National DAB Licence Company Ltd
- The News Channel Pty Ltd

During the reporting period, the ABC had interests in the two entities listed below, but did not control the entities for the purposes of the MS Act:

- Freeview Australia Limited
- MediaHub Australia Pty Ltd

The ABC's key operations are the provision of content to audiences. This involves the production, acquisition, distribution, and transmission of content across Television, Radio, Online and Digital platforms. ABC content is accessed by millions of people locally and internationally each week.

### The ABC's Supply Chain

Each year the ABC engages with suppliers to procure goods and services to meet its obligations under the ABC Charter. Through this spend the ABC has an opportunity to facilitate and promote social and sustainable outcomes.

The ABC's commitment to social responsibility is outlined in the 2020 Annual Report (ABC Annual Report) covering the areas of:

- Social responsibility in the workplace
- Social responsibility in the community
- Social responsibility in the supply chain

**While recently the ABC's focus has been on achieving environmental and Indigenous business opportunities within its supply chain, this focus is now expanding to address a much wider range of social and sustainability issues like diversity and inclusion, labour practices and human rights.**

The ABC's supply chain encompasses the following key categories of spend:

- Information Technology Equipment and Services for transmission services, content distribution services, and technology goods and services for computing and telecommunications;
- Production and Broadcasting which includes suppliers of content production equipment such as cameras, editing equipment and studio consoles; co-production arrangements with independent video and audio production companies; and the acquisition of the rights to broadcast video and audio across all platforms including digital platforms produced by Australian and overseas producers;
- The production and licensing of goods and merchandise which includes books, DVDs, music, clothing, and toys;
- Travel and Fleet which covers the transport requirements for ABC operations;
- Property including the construction, maintenance, and facilities management of the ABC's offices nationally;
- Uniforms and protective clothing for field-based staff;
- Marketing materials for the promotion of ABC content; and
- Office and Hygiene consumables to conduct business.

## Supply Chain Risk Assessment

A risk assessment was conducted of the ABC's suppliers and operations to assess the potential for modern slavery risks. Recognising that there are risks based on both the type of good or service being produced, as well as the location (country) in which it is manufactured, the ABC now monitors its supply chain on a more comprehensive basis.

## Risk Countries

A recent review of the ABC supply chain indicates that over 90% of the corporation's first-tier suppliers are Australian registered businesses. Recognising that this only reflects the first-tier in the ABC's supply chain, mechanisms are now being developed to better understand the global footprint of the ABC's second-tier suppliers.

There is no indication at present that the ABC sources anything from the Top 10 countries for modern slavery risk as reported by the Global Slavery Index ([www.globalsslaveryindex.org](http://www.globalsslaveryindex.org)). However, the proximity of ABC Foreign Bureaus and International Training Projects to those Top 10 countries requires additional analysis as the supply chains tiers are not immediately visible to the ABC.

## Risk Categories

From a spend category perspective, the ABC is particularly focusing on its suppliers involved in the manufacturing, distribution and/or disposal activities associated with:

- Information & Communications Technology
- Clothing and Personal Protective Equipment
- Contract Labour
- Production
- Travel
- Property Services
- Merchandise and Licensing

These categories of interest were identified based on modern slavery reporting locally and internationally, and the experience of other public broadcasters.

## Modern Slavery Actions

### Our Approach

The ABC is taking a multi-faceted approach to social responsibility in its supply chain, which includes addressing its obligations under the MS Act. Over the past 12 months, the ABC's approach has encompassed:

- Including social and sustainable requirements in procurement market engagement documents and supplier contracts;
- Developing an internal Social and Sustainable Procurement Strategy;
- Conducting a sustainability risk assessment and supplier segmentation of its first-tier suppliers;
- Developing and distributing a supplier survey;
- Developing and externally publishing a Supplier Code of Conduct;
- Including modern slavery risk content in new online procurement training for ABC staff; and
- Reporting on social responsibility in the supply chain in the 2020 Annual Report.

The ABC through its procurement spend, can play a role in protecting and promoting human rights in close collaboration with its suppliers. The ABC's goal is to partner with its suppliers to realise social and sustainable procurement outcomes and foster capable, ethical, and resilient supply chains.

To provide focus to ABC suppliers of its priority of social responsibility within its supply chain, the Corporation published its inaugural Supplier Code of Conduct (the Code) which is the public mechanism for driving supply chain improvement.

In accordance with ABC's market engagement documentation, all suppliers are obligated to comply with the Code. The Code outlines how the ABC wants to partner with organisations and maintain a supply chain that reflects our values. The Code creates a shared foundation

for social and sustainable procurement from which supply chain decisions are made.

## Measuring & Building Effectiveness

The breadth of actions taken by the ABC to assess and manage the risk of modern slavery demonstrates the Corporation's commitment to taking a whole of ABC approach to increasing awareness of this global issue.

Addressing modern slavery is the responsibility of all purchasers within the ABC, and for this reason raising awareness necessitated the wide range of actions being taken by the Corporation. To address the varying level of organisational awareness about modern slavery, it was included as an area of focus in procurement training which is mandatory for ABC staff with purchasing responsibilities.

### Supply Chain Risk Reporting

As part of the multi-faceted approach, there are two mechanisms which will continue to inform modern slavery risk reporting at the ABC; the annual Supplier Survey; and supplier responses to procurement activities. Both mechanisms have demonstrated their capacity to capture modern slavery risk management practices of the ABC's current and potential suppliers.

The ABC's first supplier survey targeted medium to high risk suppliers covering most categories of spend. The responses highlighted the varying level of awareness about modern slavery among predominantly Australian-based suppliers. Suppliers demonstrating well developed approaches to modern slavery risk (including a number already reporting under the *UK Modern Slavery Act 2015*) were not required to participate in the survey. This included suppliers who had been identified by their responses to modern slavery questions which were embedded in the ABC's market engagement documents from mid-2019.



## Looking Ahead

In preparation of this Statement, the ABC took a multi-faceted approach which established a strong baseline from which to build and measure its ongoing treatment and reporting of modern slavery risk.

Looking forward to the Statement for the 2021 reporting period, the ABC will continue to implement the strategies outlined in this Statement, but with an additional focus on:

- Increasing the awareness and application of modern slavery risk treatment by ABC staff in their procurement and contract management activities;
  - Further segmenting suppliers into different risk categories based on the type or manufacturing location of what they supply to the ABC; and
  - Identifying the second-tier of current ABC suppliers in high risk categories.
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