

South West Healthcare Modern Slavery Statement

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

Mandatory Criteria 1: Identify the reporting entity

South West Healthcare is a health service established under section 181 of the *Health Services Act 1988* (Vic).

Mandatory Criteria 2: Describe the structure, operations and supply chains

South West Healthcare provides a comprehensive range of specialist services from geographically separate campuses located at Warrnambool, Camperdown, Lismore and Macarthur.

South West Healthcare provides acute, rehabilitation, and aged care together with an extensive range of primary and community health services. Acute and Community based Psychiatric Services are provided from the inpatient unit (Warrnambool Campus) and community based mental health teams located in Warrnambool, Camperdown, Portland and Hamilton.

With a total of 36 aged care beds and 207 acute beds (including 15 acute psychiatric inpatient beds), the organisation services a population in excess of 110,000.

SWH Supply Chain

South West Healthcare Supply Chain supports health services from the South West Victoria region, namely:

1. South West Healthcare (SWH) (sites in Warrnambool, Camperdown, Lismore and Macarthur)
2. Western District Health Service (WDHS) (sites in Hamilton, Penshurst and Coleraine)
3. Colac Area Health (CAH)
4. Portland District Health (PDH)
5. Moyne Health Services (MHS)
6. Terang and Mortlake Health Service (TMHS)
7. Casterton Memorial Hospital (CMH)
8. Hesse Rural Health (Hesse)
9. Heywood Rural Health (HRH)
10. Great Ocean Road Health (GORH) (sites in Lorne and Apollo Bay)
11. Timboon and District Healthcare Service (TDHS)

HealthShare Victoria (HSV) is a state-wide procurement organisation that partners with Victorian 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. South West Healthcare 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.

HSV works with approximately 449 tier-one suppliers and is responsible for more than 65 contracts 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://healthsharevic.org.au/contracts-and-documents/contracts>.

HSV acknowledges the impact that COVID-19 has had on global supply chains, particularly in light of the significant increase in demand for personal protective equipment. HSV will undertake activities to investigate whether supply chains were restructured as a result of the significant procurement challenges faced during the pandemic.

Mandatory Criteria 3: Describe the risks of modern slavery practices in the operations and supply chains of the reporting entity and any entities the reporting entity own or controls.

South West Healthcare has taken a targeted, risk-based approach to assessing modern slavery risks within its operations and supply chains, consistent with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

This approach has enabled South West Healthcare to continue addressing areas of higher modern slavery risk while managing significant resourcing constraints due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a health service with a largely skilled workforce, South West Healthcare considers the risk of modern slavery within its direct business operations to be relatively low. South West Healthcare has not caused or contributed to modern slavery practices, but rather, SWH is linked to risks which exist offshore and in high-risk geographies. In line with a risk-based approach, these risks will be further examined in subsequent reporting periods.

South West Healthcare has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The continuing impact of COVID-19 on our health service has restricted South West Healthcare's capacity to conduct a detailed risk assessment of our operations and supply chains. South West Healthcare recognises the importance of this activity and will endeavour to conduct a risk assessment in the FY2023-24 reporting period. In the interim, South West Healthcare engages with HSV to understand the general modern slavery risks within our supply chains.

South West Healthcare recognises that the extensive nature of our global supply chains may expose us to modern slavery risks. Given HSV's significant role in South West Healthcare's supply chains, HSV has helped identify the general risks of modern slavery that may be present.

HSV has scoped the general modern slavery risks in health service supply chains by drawing on academic research and international and domestic reports and analysis. South West Healthcare may be exposed to a number of modern slavery risks due to the diversity of products and services sourced by HSV and the associated geographic locations, industries and regulatory systems further down those supply chains.

Some of the general risk areas present in South West Healthcare's supply chain include:

- Labour practices in offshore manufacturing facilities, some of which are located in South-East Asia;
- Labour practices in the sourcing of raw materials, including cotton and rubber; and
- Industry risks associated with textiles, electronics and cleaning services.

In addition to general risks, HSV has identified the following high risk areas specific to the healthcare sector:

- Surgical masks and examination gloves;
- Surgical instruments and equipment; and
- Linens and gowns.

Given the level of complexity in such extensive supply chains, HSV will continue to refine its risk assessment methodology to further improve the visibility of high-risk areas within health supply chains in Victoria.

HSV also recognises that COVID-19 may have increased modern slavery risks in some supply chains. These risks include:

- Increased global demand due to supply chain shortages, particularly in the category of personal protective equipment;
- Shorter production windows;
- Increased unemployment and a fear of loss of income;
- Factory closures; and
- Inability of vulnerable migrant workers to return to home countries.

HSV will continue to assess and address additional risks within healthcare supply chains caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

South West Healthcare has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic during the FY2022-23. This has again resulted in reduced capacity to undertake comprehensive actions to assess and address modern slavery risks in our operations and supply chains. South West Healthcare continues to recognise the importance of this activity and will endeavour to undertake a review of policy, due diligence, remediation, contracts and

training in the FY2023-24 reporting period. However, South West Healthcare continues to engage with HSV to understand the actions that HSV has undertaken to assess and address the modern slavery risks in South West Healthcare's supply chains.

In recognition of the significant role that HSV has in health service supply chains and the substantial ongoing resourcing constraints placed on South West Healthcare as a result of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, HSV undertook numerous activities to address modern slavery risks in South West Healthcare's supply chains.

HSV has a modern slavery program with a dedicated Supply Chain Risk Manager to implement the program and support Victorian health services to address modern slavery risks in their operations and supply chains. The program encompasses health service education and support, supplier engagement, due diligence and remediation, amongst other activities.

HSV upholds the Australian Government's position on modern slavery. HSV has updated its Procurement Policy to include a statement on combatting modern slavery in health supply chains and capturing allegations of modern slavery practice(s) in its remit of complaints management, enabling the development of remediation processes. The Procurement Policy is an important internal document that outlines HSV's position on procurement governance and activities, including its response to Government policy.

The amendment to the Procurement Policy consolidates HSV's position on modern slavery, which will in turn inform other internal governance amendments and educational resources for the health sector. The modern slavery section of HSV's website contains information and resources to assist reporting entities required to submit a Modern Slavery Statement.

As part of its due diligence, HSV has included a modern slavery clause in some Invitation to Supply (ITS) documentation to ensure prospective suppliers acknowledge their responsibility to health services that are reporting entities pursuant to the Act. In addition to its inclusion in the ITS, this clause has been incorporated into select executed contracts.

SWH will require suppliers to complete a set of questions aligned to the Standards as part of our market approach and supplier selection process. This will assess their policies and practices to identify, assess and mitigate the risk of modern slavery practices in their operations and supply chains.

SWH will develop and incorporate appropriate evaluation methodologies to contribute to modern slavery issues in a meaningful way to the evaluation process.

Once awarded, suppliers progress towards realising the Standards. Commitment to the Program will be a condition of participation and a contractual requirement.

As well as specific modern slavery provisions, suppliers wishing to conduct business with HSV, public hospitals or any other branch of the Victorian Government must aspire and commit to meet the Supplier Code of Conduct. Under the Supplier Code of Conduct, suppliers are expected to proactively identify, address and – where required by legislation – report on risks of modern slavery practices in their business operations and supply chains.

To further enhance its approach to due diligence, HSV is in the process of implementing a Program for direct and indirect suppliers through a modern slavery function. The Program will embed modern slavery risk considerations and mitigation actions in the HSV end-to-end procurement cycle.

The Program will establish a minimum set of mandatory standards for conduct for suppliers and require suppliers to commit to and demonstrate progressive realisation of the Standards.

The Standards align with the universally recognised UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the expectations of the Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth), and the Victorian Government Supplier Code of Conduct.

- The Program requires suppliers to understand the risks of modern slavery in their operations and supply chains and take appropriate action to identify and address those risks.

In addition to the program development, HSV will continue to facilitate training workshops for HSV staff and key health service stakeholders on modern slavery practices and the requirements of the Act.

The significant impact that COVID-19 has had on health procurement and supply chains has meant that HSV has had to postpone planned supplier engagement activities, however these remain an important part of the modern slavery program of work. While the priority for the first reporting period was to implement actions to address identified high-risk areas, HSV will continue to investigate what actions it can take in response to the modern slavery risks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mandatory Criteria Five: Describe how the reporting entity assesses the effectiveness of actions taken to assess and address modern slavery risks

South West Healthcare has continued to be significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has resulted in limited capacity to implement mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of actions taken to address our modern slavery risks. South West Healthcare recognises the importance of this activity and will endeavour to introduce assessment mechanisms in the FY2023-24 reporting period. In the interim, South West Healthcare has engaged with HSV to understand the effectiveness of the assessments they have conducted.

HSV has introduced several mechanisms for monitoring the effectiveness of the actions it has taken to date. Representatives from mandated health services who attend training sessions on the requirements of the Act periodically complete surveys to self-assess their progress against several criteria. The results are used to measure the success of engagement programs, inform future workshop content and identify potential gaps in training.

In addition to this, HSV's senior leadership has taken ownership of the modern slavery program and progress is regularly discussed at senior committees. Feedback from committee members is used to inform decision making and future activities within the program.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has delayed the implementation of further monitoring activities, however HSV aims to define modern slavery key performance indicators within the FY2023-24 reporting period.

Mandatory Criterion Six: Describe the process of consultation with any entities the reporting entity owns or controls

South West Healthcare does not own or control any other entities.

Mandatory Criterion Seven: Any other relevant information

In order to support the implementation of the Act within health services, HSV has developed a toolkit to assist with meeting the requirements under the Act. The toolkit contains:

- A modern slavery plan to support the implementation of the governance structures, policies, processes and risk registers needed to underpin a successful modern slavery framework;
- Advice on implementing a modern slavery policy;
- A modern slavery risk register to capture and address the key modern slavery risks that a health service might cause, contribute or be directly linked to;
- A modern slavery risk assessment tool, including advice on modern slavery risk assessments, supplier questionnaires for ITS due diligence and incumbent suppliers and advice on how to interpret questionnaire results;
- A modern slavery fact sheet to facilitate staff training; and
- Supplier contract considerations, including the addition of modern slavery clauses in contracts.


The rollout and implementation of the toolkit will support health services to conduct their own risk assessment, due diligence and remediation activities.

South West Healthcare intends to implement the toolkit.

Closing statement

South West Healthcare is confident that the steps taken this year have built a strong foundation for a robust modern slavery framework. We recognise there is more to do and South West Healthcare is committed to continually improving our approach, partnering with our stakeholders and working to eradicate modern slavery.

This statement was approved by the Board of South West Healthcare on 23/03/2023.

Signature 

Name Bernadette Northeast
Chairperson