

Modern Slavery Statement for Harness Racing Victoria

Reporting period for the year ended 30 June 2023

Introduction

HRV's 2023 Annual Report reported more than \$100 million of consolidated revenue for 2022-23 (largely attributed to the receipt of significant government grants). HRV would not ordinarily be required to publish a Modern Slavery Statement, however, as a result of the reported revenue, HRV will be required to publish a statement for the 2022-2023 financial year. (*The Modern Slavery Act 2018 defines a reporting entity as an entity that has a consolidated revenue of at least \$100 million for the reporting period*).

This Modern Slavery Statement is made pursuant to the Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth) and outlines the steps Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) has taken to identify, assess, and address modern slavery risks in its operations and supply chains for the financial year ending 30 June 2023.

Criterion 1: Identifying the Reporting Entity

Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) is the reporting entity. HRV is a statutory body established under the Racing Act 1958 (Vic) and is responsible for overseeing the harness racing industry in Victoria. HRV's Australian Business Number (ABN) is 22 674 910 853, and its registered office is located at 400 Epsom Road, Flemington, Victoria.

Criterion 2: Structure, Operations, and Supply Chains

HRV's structure includes a board of directors and various operational departments such as Racing Operations, Integrity, Finance, Legal and Marketing. HRV oversees harness racing clubs and industry participants, including owners, breeders, trainers, and drivers of harness racing horses.

While HRV helps the racing clubs, it is important to note that each club is its own independent entity, and as such, follows their own processes that HRV cannot influence outside of the minimum operating requirements. The only exception to this is when HRV is providing items or services that are considered assets to HRV and the work is funded by HRV. For example, the supply of lighting upgrades to clubs is governed by HRV procurement, and by extension, government requirements.

HRV's supply chains include all standard office services for their head office, such as cleaning, stationery & IT. Their statewide supply chains include services that are provided related to racing events and the upkeep of HRV assets, such as first aid services, equipment, veterinary services and facility maintenance.

Criterion 3: Risks of Modern Slavery Practices

HRV recognises that the risks of modern slavery practices may exist in its supply chains, particularly in areas such as procurement of goods from overseas suppliers. The primary risks identified include forced labour, debt bondage, and human trafficking, especially in the supply of equipment and materials sourced from high-risk regions.

Criterion 4: Actions Taken to Assess and Address Risks

HRV is implementing several actions to assess and address modern slavery risks:

- Conduct of a high-level risk assessment of its supply chains to identify potential modern slavery risks. Where potential risk is found and the supplier is not already engaged via a State Purchasing Contract (SPC) they will be asked to complete a Modern Slavery declaration.

Where applicable HRV uses the Victorian Government SPCs to reduce risk, as these suppliers have already confirmed they will abide by the Supplier Code of Conduct which includes labour and human rights.

All new contracts entered into will include Modern Slavery as part of the risk assessment and any contract identified as a medium or higher risk of Modern Slavery will include a specific Modern Slavery declaration that any supplier tendering for the work must complete in order to be considered eligible.

- Develop and implement a Modern Slavery Policy, to be made publicly available on HRV's website.

- Provide training to relevant staff and key stakeholders on modern slavery risks and compliance requirements.

- Include modern slavery clauses in appropriate supplier contracts to ensure suppliers adhere to ethical labour practices.

- Established an external complaint handling process to report any concerns.

Criterion 5: Assessing the Effectiveness of Actions

HRV is beginning to implement key performance indicators (KPIs) and metrics to assess the effectiveness of its actions, as this is the first year it has been a requirement. We are setting out a 12-month plan to fully integrate Modern Slavery prevention into our practices, using Criterion 4 as the foundation for our plan. This includes regular reviews of our supply chains and procurement processes. Our KPIs will monitor compliance, such as the number of suppliers completing modern slavery questionnaires and the number of staff trained on modern slavery issues.

Criterion 6: Consultation Process

HRV will consult with and communicate to its owned and controlled entities, including harness racing clubs, the modern slavery policy and HRVs approach to addressing modern slavery risks.

Criterion 7: Other Relevant Information

Whilst modern slavery is a low risk in the operations of HRV, HRV is committed to continuous improvement in its efforts to combat modern slavery. HRV participates in industry forums and collaborates with other racing bodies to share best practices.

Approval

This Modern Slavery Statement has been approved by the Board of Harness Racing Victoria.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Saundry', followed by a stylized flourish.

Bernard Saundry
Chairman

27/11/2024

Harness Racing Victoria

This Statement was approved by our Board of Directors on 27 November 2024