

MODERN SLAVERY ACT 2018 (Cth) STATEMENT

VERIZON AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED FOR YEAR END 31 DECEMBER 2023

1: Opening statement from senior management

The Verizon Communications Inc. (NYSE: VZ) group of companies (**Verizon**), of which Verizon Australia Pty Limited forms part, is committed to preventing acts of modern slavery and human trafficking from occurring in connection with its business operations, including its supply chain. The digital world promises a better, more connected life, and we are delivering it. We make it possible for people to stay in touch and businesses to connect with their customers. We work better because our team comprises people from diverse backgrounds and experiences. We work with suppliers who promise to follow the highest ethical standards.

This statement describes specific actions taken by Verizon in respect of due diligence in relation to modern slavery and human trafficking.

2: Structure of the organisation

This statement is submitted on behalf of, and applies to, **Verizon Australia Pty Limited**.

To find out more about the nature of our business, go to <https://enterprise.verizon.com/en-au/>.

In order to provide our services, we contract with a broad range of suppliers including telecommunications equipment manufacturers, technology solutions providers, professional services organisations, outsourcing specialists, network engineering vendors and facilities management vendors. Contracting with suppliers and diligence activities with respect to our supply chains are conducted primarily by Verizon's central supply chain functions.

3: Policies

Verizon's **Credo** defines who we are and how we operate. It states that we are accountable and that we are committed to doing the right thing.

As part of our commitment to combating modern slavery, we implement and enforce the following policies:

The Verizon employee **Code of Conduct** ([Employee Code](#)) defines our ethical business practices. All Verizon employees must complete training on the Employee Code. In 2022, we amended our Code of Conduct to specify that we do not tolerate forced labour, slavery, or human trafficking in any form, and that we will not knowingly work with any supplier or contractor who engages in such practices.

Our **Supplier Code of Conduct** ([Supplier Code](#)) defines the ethical business practices that our suppliers must adhere to.

The Supplier Code has been developed by Verizon over many years. It reflects ILO labour standards, including those regarding the elimination of child labour and forced labour. Our Supplier Code is the



primary mechanism used by Verizon to ensure suppliers promote ethical conduct in the workplace, safe working conditions and the treatment of workers with respect and dignity.

Our Supplier Code also:

- Forbids the use of child labour, forced labour and discrimination;
- Protects employees' rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining, as permitted by local laws; and
- Describes how suppliers should work with us on compliance and enforcement issues.

Under the Supplier Code, suppliers are required, and the public is encouraged, to report violations of the standards in our Supplier Code to the Verizon Group's *Office of Ethics and Business Conduct* through the Verizon Compliance Guideline at 844-VZGUIDE (844.894.8433) (within the U.S.), (+) 800.0.624.0007 (outside the U.S.), through email at vzguide@verizon.com, or online at www.verizonguideline.com. Such reports may be made anonymously. Under the Supplier Code, suppliers are further bound to prevent any retaliation against whistle-blowers.

It is our general practice to incorporate the Supplier Code into our procurement contracts and purchase orders. Verizon reserves the right to review or audit our suppliers' compliance with the Supplier Code. We also incorporate ongoing compliance into our procurement decisions.

Human Rights Policy

In 2022, Verizon continued to enhance our efforts to understand and manage our human rights impacts by further operationalizing our Business and Human Rights Program (**BHRP**) and embedding human rights considerations into responsible business decision-making processes across the company. The BHRP is championed by our executives, managed by a dedicated team and supported by partners across our business.

Verizon's [Human Rights statement](#) affirms that Verizon is committed to operating with respect for internationally-recognized human rights, including those affirmed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Guided by the human rights due diligence framework set forth in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, we are committed to assessing the impacts of our business activities on human rights and to addressing adverse impacts. Our efforts include attention to the human rights impacts of our products, services, and strategy and to our engagements with employees, customers, communities, governments, business partners, and suppliers.

We continually engage with external networks and experts to inform our approach. We also maintain communication channels so that stakeholders may raise concerns if they believe we are not operating consistent with our human rights commitments. We deliver regular training and awareness-raising activities to provide Verizon employees with guidance on our human rights commitments and with the tools they need to operate consistent with those commitments.

Our human rights efforts are overseen by the Corporate Governance and Policy Committee of our Board of Directors and led by the BHRP, which sits within Verizon's broader Environmental Social and Governance (**ESG**) function and works in partnership with teams across the business including Legal, Public Policy, and Global Supply Chain.

4: Supplier Risk Management Program

Since January 2018 Verizon has implemented the Supplier Risk Management Program (**SRMP**) to enable Verizon to identify, assess, monitor, and manage the risks associated with suppliers engaged by Verizon throughout the supplier lifecycle. The SRMP establishes principles for identifying, assessing, monitoring, and managing risk associated with supplier products or services by identifying responsible stakeholders, establishing the supplier due diligence requirements and defining the end-to-end supplier risk management lifecycle framework, including ongoing monitoring of supplier activities. Anyone engaging with and/or managing suppliers in Verizon's supply chain is responsible for adhering to minimum supplier risk management requirements regardless of spend and assumes the ultimate responsibility and accountability for the risks related to suppliers and relevant remediation activities.

SRMP is a framework establishing governance, processes, and tools that must be followed across Verizon to continuously manage supplier risk. Continuous assessment and monitoring activities throughout the supplier risk management lifecycle phases are intended to provide effective oversight and controls. Supplier Risk Management lifecycle phases include: Planning, Due Diligence, Contracting, Ongoing Monitoring, and Termination. The Verizon Supplier Risk Office (**SRO**) oversees, monitors, and governs Verizon's supplier risk management activities and implements SRMP. The SRO is responsible for SRMP oversight, coordination, and providing support to stakeholders throughout Verizon to complete SRMP activities and managing the Verizon Supplier Risk Management Tool.

5: Planning

Verizon is committed to partnering with our suppliers to better the world collaboratively. Our procedures and policies are designed to:

- establish and assess areas of potential risk in our business and supply chains
- monitor potential risk areas in our business and supply chains
- reduce the risk of slavery and human trafficking occurring in our business and supply chains
- provide adequate protection for whistle-blowers.

6: Due diligence

Assessment of Risks in Verizon's Supply Chain

In 2021 and 2022, Verizon undertook a formal saliency assessment to identify the issues across our value chain that are most salient to Verizon's core business strategy. This assessment was inclusive of Verizon Australia Pty Limited. In this assessment, the following issues were identified as most salient to Verizon: privacy; non-discrimination; free expression; and rights in the workplace and supply chain. Noting the company's dependence on equipment manufacturers, the assessment identified modern slavery and human trafficking as potential risks in the company's supply chain. In 2023, Verizon completed a refresh of the saliency assessment, which affirmed the prior identification of salient risks.

As part of our efforts to monitor and reduce the risk of modern slavery and human trafficking occurring within our supply chains, we have adopted the due diligence procedures described below.

The Verizon Business Risk Team carries out reputational risk due diligence on new and existing vendors using search criteria related to modern slavery and human trafficking. The Business Risk Team has been trained in relation to modern slavery and human trafficking risk. Where they identify information that could be a risk factor they raise that to the SRO and Verizon Legal for review.

In 2023, Verizon continued to use the third-party assessment tool, EcoVadis, to evaluate our suppliers' performance including in relation to labour and human rights. Since 2013, Verizon has assessed 728 key suppliers through this partnership. EcoVadis validates suppliers' responses to their detailed questionnaire and researches information from other public sources to benchmark suppliers on their performance. When weaknesses are identified, we work with the supplier to create a corrective action plan to improve their current activities. Both Verizon and our suppliers benefit from this partnership.

Verizon is engaged in an ongoing assessment of the nature and extent of its exposure to the risk of modern slavery and human trafficking occurring in its supply chain by reviewing with our supervisory procurement personnel areas of Verizon's supply chain that are (i) international and (ii) high-turnover in nature, and (iii) where Verizon had the greatest leverage to influence the actions of such supply chain. In most cases, the presence or degree of these risk factors is low enough that direct action is not taken. For example, in the areas of Verizon's supply chain that reflected such risks to varying degrees such as call centres, equipment manufacturing, payment collection services, logistics and facilities management site visits, interviews with workers and evaluation of employee development programs performed by Verizon's SRO did not raise further concerns of modern slavery and human trafficking risk. The protocols for site visits include walk-throughs of the production floor, sampling reviews of HR records, review of worksite safety features, and other indicators of adequate employee treatment. We expect to add additional supplier locations to this program in the future.

In 2021, the SRO, working with the BHRP, worked to enhance Verizon's screening efforts with respect to new suppliers in order to be able to prioritise higher-risk industries for due diligence with respect to modern slavery and human trafficking. In 2022, we further updated our screening for suppliers that supply hardware to Verizon in order to assess the capacity of those suppliers, through appropriate policies and standards, to manage the risk of modern slavery and human trafficking in their operations and supply chains.

Engagement in Industry Initiatives

Verizon is a member of the Joint Alliance for CSR (**JAC**) program, an association of telecommunications operators who share resources to develop and enforce standards and best practices within the information communication technology supply chain. Verizon joined JAC in 2013 as the first U.S.-based member.

In 2021, Verizon joined JAC's Human Rights workstream, which has focused its efforts on addressing human rights challenges in telecom industry supply chains, including the risk of modern slavery and human trafficking.

The JAC ongoing audit activities cooperatively assess and verify compliance with recognised labour, social and environmental standards, including with respect to forced labour, underage labour, and

working hours. Reviews of pertinent records such as disciplinary log books, age/identity documents, facility rules and grievance records, along with worker interviews, make up part of JAC's audit process. Members of JAC fund shared assessments and audits of their common suppliers; audits are conducted by independent auditors. JAC reduces redundancy and increases efficiency in supply-chain audit approaches by auditing shared suppliers once per cycle, using uniform protocols and methods.

The JAC furthers our efforts to capture not only what suppliers are pledging through their policies but also to survey their performance on-site. 1,060 supplier audits have been completed since JAC's inception in 2010. 150 of these audits were completed in 2023.

7: Issue Management

In general, we respond to suspected or actual violations of our Supplier Code in a flexible manner appropriate for the nature of the violation. While egregious violations can result, and have resulted, in Verizon exiting a supplier relationship, most noncompliance is addressed by investigation and, where appropriate, cooperation with the supplier to establish a corrective action plan to improve their current program. Both Verizon and the supplier benefit from this program.

8. Contracting

When Verizon uses a supplier to obtain products and services, we establish a contract with the supplier incorporating, at a minimum, the Supplier Code. Issues identified as a result of the due diligence are addressed within the contract terms and conditions.

9. Training

We train our procurement employees in recognising the risks of modern slavery and human trafficking in our business and supply chains, and to assist in the risk assessment described above. The training also focuses on the procurement team's role in interacting with suppliers to improve our due diligence. The training is currently delivered in live sessions by members of our Legal team. Most of the sourcing personnel at the supervisory level in Verizon have been given such live training.

10. Monitoring and Effectiveness

Verizon is engaged in an ongoing assessment of both the nature and extent of our exposure to the risk of modern slavery and human trafficking and the effectiveness of our efforts to manage this exposure. We continually review areas of our supply chain that may be at higher risk. Members of the SRO, Business Risk Team, Sourcing, Sustainability, and BHRP regularly meet to discuss risk areas and potential process improvements. As noted above, in 2022, we sought to enhance our capacity to assess the readiness of hardware suppliers to manage the risk of modern slavery and human trafficking in their operations and supply chains through appropriate policies and standards.

We are also engaged with relevant industry initiatives as part of a commitment to stay abreast of best practices and to support continuous assessment and improvement of our own efforts.

11: Further actions

Verizon will continue to assess any potential risks associated with modern slavery and human trafficking in connection with its operations and will also assess emerging legal and regulatory trends with regard to human rights due diligence. In this context, we expect to continue to identify opportunities to strengthen our due diligence efforts with respect to modern slavery and human trafficking risks.

12. Consultation and management approval

Verizon Australia Pty Limited does not have any owned or controlled entities. Verizon and its affiliated entities are supported by various functions on a global basis, including SRO, Business Risk Team, Sourcing, Sustainability, and BHRP, the functions most involved in assessing and addressing the risk of modern slavery. These functions work collaboratively and regularly consult regarding the risks and processes reflected in this statement prepared on behalf of Verizon Australia Pty Limited.

This modern slavery statement relates to the financial year ending 31 December 2023 and has been approved on 12 JULY 2024 by the board of directors of **Verizon Australia Pty Limited** for publication in accordance with the *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (Cth). The statement is executed by Darren Day as a director of this entity.

Signature:



Darren Day
Director
Verizon Australia Pty Limited