

Modern Slavery Statement
 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

Introduction

This statement is made in accordance with the *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (the Act) which requires qualifying entities to report on the risks and mitigating actions of Modern Slavery within the organisation against seven mandatory criteria.

The Act requires reporting entities to provide an annual Modern Slavery statement for each reporting period, this statement has been prepared for the reporting period FY2023-24.

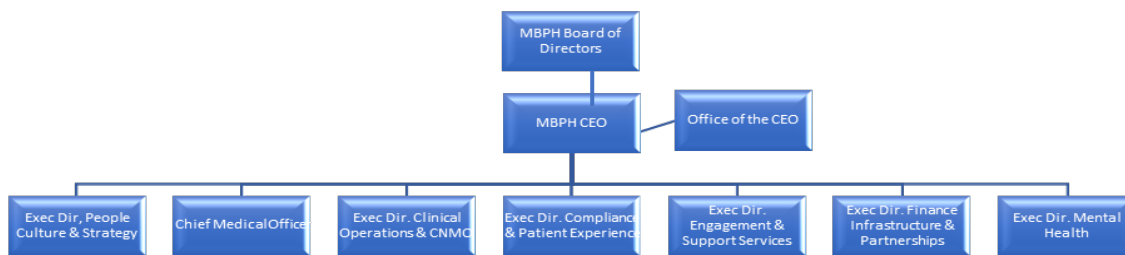
Identify the reporting entity

Mildura Base Public Hospital ABN 73 543 496 421

Describe the structure, operations and supply chains of the reporting entity

Mildura Base Public Hospital (MBPH) is a Public Health Service operating under the *Health Services Act 1988 (Vic)*.

MBPH organisational structure;



Mildura Base Public Hospital is a sub-regional public hospital, servicing a population of approximately 80,000 in the Sunraysia area.

The hospital is the major public referral health service for the Northern Mallee sub-region of the Loddon Mallee region which encompasses other hospitals in Ouyen, Robinvale and Manangatang. It is also a referral health service for the far west region of New South Wales including Wentworth and Balranald, and the Riverland of South Australia.

Acute service provision includes emergency, obstetrics and gynaecology, intensive care, general medicine and surgery, medical imaging, pathology, dialysis, chemotherapy, mental health, rehabilitation, palliative care and a range of ambulatory services.

32,779	24,719	5901	6711	798
ED Presentations	Admitted patients	Surgical Operations	Ambulance arrivals	Babies born

Mildura Base Public Hospital held a corporate agreement with Bendigo Health to provide procurement services and support during the reporting period.

Our supply chain includes products and services used to deliver medical consumables and equipment, the supply chain is also utilised in the purchasing of items and equipment for ICT, pharmacy, maintenance, food and cleaning services, with all purchasing accessed from Health Share Victoria (HSV) state wide contracts where available.

Health Share Victoria is a state-wide procurement organisation that partners with Victorian Public Health services and suppliers to deliver best value goods and services through Collective Purchasing Agreements (CPA).

Where HSV CPA's are not used, MBPH establishing agreements with the suppliers through the corporate agreement with Bendigo Health.

Describe the risks of Modern Slavery practices in the operations and supply chains of the reporting entity, and the entities that the reporting entity owns or controls

MBPH has made considerable advancement in aligning procurement activity to HSV Collective Purchasing Agreements (CPA), allowing for a consolidated approach to suppliers of major purchasing categories in the medical consumable, PPE, labour and textile fields.

By utilising HSV CPA's Mildura Base Public Hospital has engaged with Health Share Victoria to assist in identifying and understanding any potential risks in our supply chain, this work will also be done in collaboration with Bendigo Health's procurement division in accordance with a corporate agreement.

Mildura Base Public Hospital is at low risk of Modern Slavery practices in our direct operations, by reducing contractor services, implementing contracts with Modern Slavery clauses and utilising HSV contracts where possible, however we understand that due to the diversity of items procured through our supply chains there is a risk of exposure to such practices, these risks most commonly occur in the sourcing of raw materials and production of health care goods.

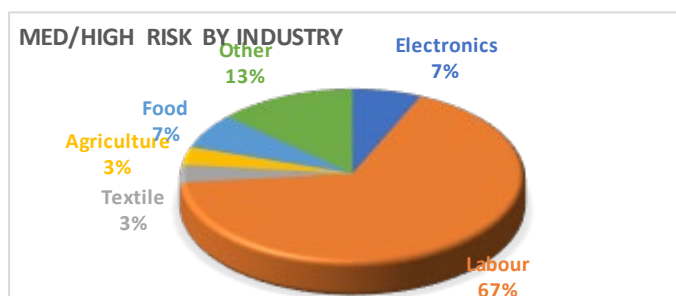
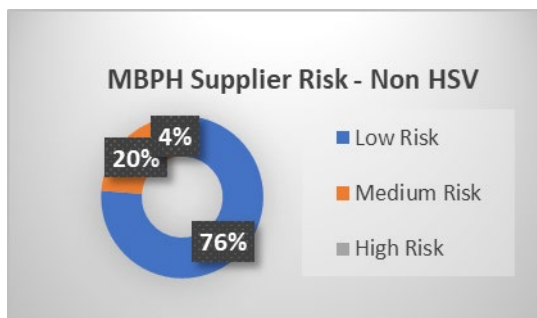
For MBPH, this presents potential risk in equipment and products that are manufactured in high risk countries within Africa, Asia and Europe.

Our exposure to high risk industries of Information Technology, Transportation, Food supplies, Pharmaceuticals, Technology Hardware, Health Care Supplies and Distribution provide risk to Modern Slavery practices, these industries have close ties to material sourcing, undefined supply chains and manufacturing challenges that expose workers to conditions that are vulnerable to exploitation.

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

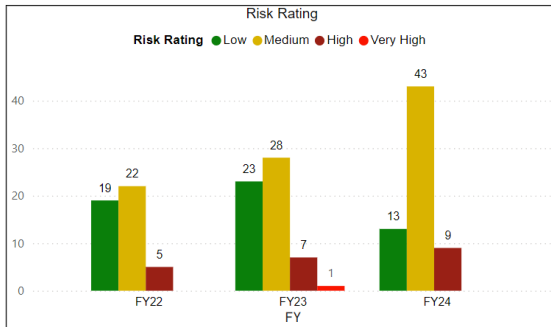
The focus of our reporting period under the *Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth)* was to undertake supplier risk assessments of suppliers that MBPH have direct contracts with and are not included in HSV's supplier risk assessment.

A selection of suppliers were assessed when implementing agreements as well as including a select group from high risk industries such as computer and electronic components, recruitment agency labour, food distribution and clothing.



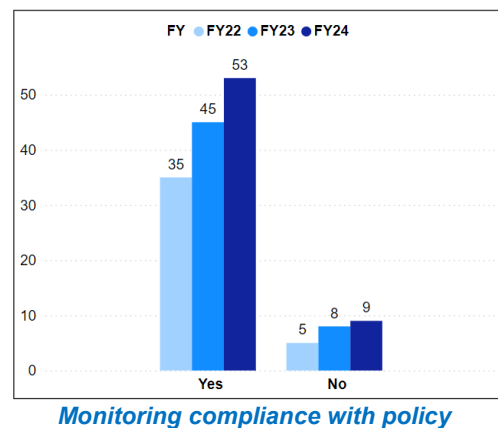
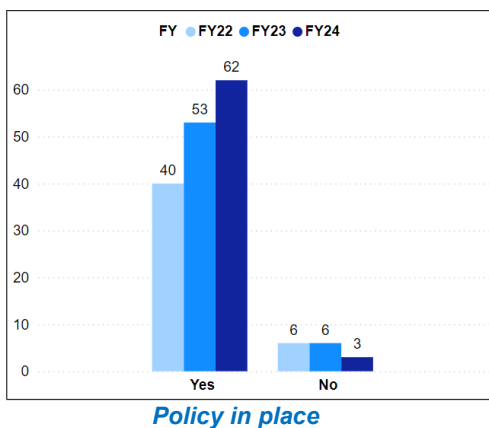
From the 91 suppliers assessed utilising HSV risk assessment template, MBPH was able to identify 3 suppliers as high risk and 27 as medium risk.

Furthermore, Health Share Victoria has assessed suppliers used by MBPH through HSV Collective Purchasing Agreements, the risk assessment report was compiled from data obtained through a questionnaire that sought supplier details and their risk exposure to Modern Slavery. The report has identified suppliers overall risk rating in one of five categories from very low to very high risk.



Risk Category	Supplier percent in each risk category		
	2022	2023	2024
Very High	0%	1%	0%
High	9%	9%	10%
Medium	37%	36%	49%
Low	31%	30%	15%
Very Low	0%	0%	0%
Non-Response	23%	24%	26%

The significant swing in risk has been achieved through supplier policy, due diligence, screening, auditing, training and oversight, providing MBPH with increased assurance and transparency of the supply chain. Health Share Victoria has a modern slavery program of work with a Modern Slavery Risk Manager to assist and support Victorian Health Services to understand their requirements, identify and address Modern Slavery risks in their procurement and supply chains. HSV has written to all very high risk, high risk and medium risk suppliers providing these suppliers with tools and resources to develop and enhance their modern slavery risk management systems. HSV also outlined their contractual obligation under collective purchasing agreements and expectation under the Victorian Government Supplier Code of Conduct to respond to modern slavery risk in their operations and supply chain. As a result, there is an increase in supplier responses that have policy in place regarding modern slavery and monitoring of that policy.



MBPH includes a Modern Slavery questionnaire on all executed contracts seeking response and action from suppliers on their approach to combating Modern Slavery. MBPH is actively working to reduce its potential to risk by utilising HSV contracts where possible, conduct a risk rating for direct contract suppliers and to build education for procurement staff by completing Modern Slavery Awareness training. An MBPH representative actively attends online modern slavery community of learning sessions hosted by HSV.

In this reporting period, MBPH intends to continue to work collaboratively with HSV to identify mitigation efforts to combat modern slavery risks, continue to risk assess suppliers and foster collaboration between MBPH and identified high risk suppliers to seek to address these risks.

Describe how the reporting entity assesses the effectiveness of actions being taken to assess and address modern slavery risks

With an understanding of the requirements to comply with the act and Mildura Base Public Hospitals responsibilities in identifying and mitigating modern slavery risks in recruitment, procurement, contract management and supply chains, this reporting period has allowed for continued education within MBPH and from HSV by increasing internal training of supply chain risks in contracts and purchasing processes, and the completion of Modern Slavery training modules for procurement, purchasing and contract managers.

Alignment of procurement activity to HSV's CPA's simplifies the supply chain and enables transparency of supplier responses and activity through the HSV risk assessments.

MBPH will work with HSV by participating in supplier risk assessments for all suppliers, allowing HSV to engage with suppliers to understand the steps they are implementing to understand, identify, mitigate or reduce modern slavery risk.

The mechanisms used for assessing supplier responses during the reporting period will identify any risks which can be documented and addressed with support from Health Share Victoria, allowing for a detailed report of any identified risks and actions for the next reporting period.

MBPH will identify the top ten suppliers by spend for risk assessment and questionnaire, along with those identified as high or very high risk from the last reporting period, responses will be stored within our register and actioned as per the framework, encouraging online training, education or provision of resources to uplift capacity.

The success of supplier responses and engagement from MBPH, along with continued support and education will lead to a reduction in the risk rating of suppliers against modern slavery through a continual improvement method.

Describe the process of consultation with any entities the reporting entity owns or controls

Mildura Base Public Hospital does not own or control any other entity

Any other relevant information

Health Share Victoria has developed support mechanisms to assist health services understand and implement the elements of a Modern Slavery framework to meet the requirement of the Act. For the next reporting period these resources will be provided to the Managers, Directors, Senior Leaders, Executives and Board to complete.

This will assist in the understanding of policies, supplier requirements, supply chain compliance and also guide education to staff across the organisation who are involved in any aspect of potential risk or exposure to Modern Slavery.

Mildura Base Public Hospital recognises the importance of implementing a robust Modern Slavery Framework and is committed to continually improve our approach, assessment and awareness to eradicate Modern Slavery in our contract, procurement and supply chains.

This statement was approved by the principal governing body of Mildura Base Public Hospital on 27 November 2024.



Kashif Hayat
Acting Board Chair
Mildura Base Public Hospital