

# Modern Slavery Statement

1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020

## Introduction

The Australian Government introduced the *Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth)* (the Act) which requires certain entities to report on the risks of modern slavery in their operations and supply chains and actions to address those risks. The Act commenced operation on 1 January 2019. The Act requires reporting entities subject to the Act, to produce an annual modern slavery statement. This statement is prepared for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 (**Reporting Period**).

Modern slavery describes situations where coercion, threats or deception are used to exploit victims and undermine or deprive them of their freedom. The Act defines modern slavery as including eight types of serious exploitation: trafficking in persons, slavery, servitude, forced marriage, forced labour, debt bondage, deceptive recruiting for labour or services, and the worst forms of child labour.<sup>1</sup>

According to the estimates of the Global Slavery Index around 15,000 individuals are held in modern slavery in Australia by way of migrant worker exploitation, debt bondage and deprivation of liberty.<sup>2</sup>

## **Identify the reporting entity**

Wimmera Health Care Group ABN 21 203 855 611

## **Describe the reporting entity's structure, operations and supply chains**

Wimmera Health Care Group is a Victorian Public Health Agency operating under the Health Act of Victoria. We are based in the Wimmera sub-region of the Grampians, 310km west of Melbourne and is close proximity to the Grampians National Park.

With an operating budget over \$100 million, Wimmera Health Care Group is a leading rural health service providing allied, acute, subacute, primary and residential care in the Grampians region of Victoria. Employing more than 1000 team members, we are the subregional, acute referral hospital for the Wimmera Region and provide a wide range of specialist services.

Our campuses in Horsham and Dimboola service an area of 61,000 square kilometres and a population of approximately 54,000 people.

The majority of Wimmera Health Care Groups operating cost is absorbed by workforce (70%), of the remainder the largest component is conventional and chemotherapy drug cost and this is acquired under a Health Purchasing Victoria (HPV), state-wide contract. HPV collective contracts account for a large percentage of our non-salaried spend these contracts include Slade, Symbion and Clifford Hallam Healthcare (CH2). See link to CH2 2020 Modern Slavery Statement <https://modernslaveryregister.gov.au/statements/185/>

WHCG is the reporting entity for all purposes of the Act, having met the reporting threshold in the reporting period.

Wimmera Health Care Group has another trade entity involved in the provision of health care services known as Wimmera Community Options operating under the same ABN as WHCG however trade as Wimmera Community Options.

***Describe the risks of modern slavery practice in the operations supply chains of the reporting entity and any entities it owns or controls***

To the best of its knowledge there are no known risks of modern slavery within Wimmera Health Care Group operations. Enquiries were made into the Wimmera Health Care Group supply chain but no specific risks were identified.

***Describe the actions taken by the reporting entity and any entities it owns or controls to assess and address these risks, including due diligence and remediation processes***

Enquiries have been made of all suppliers regarding the risks of modern slavery within their organisation or their supply chain.

None have been identified but some suppliers have, or are, putting in place procedures and processes to identify such risks if they exist.

***Describe how the reporting entity assesses the effectiveness of these actions***

There are no specific identified risks and therefore there can be no assessment of the effectiveness of any actions.

***Describe the process of consultation with any entities the reporting entity owns or controls (a joint statement must also describe consultation with the entity giving the statement)***

Wimmera Health Care Group is a standalone entity.

This Modern Slavery Statement is made in accordance with section 14 of the *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (Cth) and represents the Wimmera Health Care Group's Statement for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020. Approved March 2021 by the Board of Management of Wimmera Health Care Group.



Marie Aitken (Mar 23, 2021 13:35 GMT+11)

**Mrs Marie Aitken**

Board Chair

Wimmera Health Care Group