

Modern Slavery Statement

1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

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 FY2022-23.

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).

Mildura Base Public Hospital currently employs more than 1200 staff.

Mildura Base Public Hospital is a 172 bed (level 1) tertiary teaching hospital providing services to the community of Mildura and the Northern Mallee region in Emergency Care, Maternity, Intensive Care, General Medicine and Surgery, Oncology, Dialysis, Mental Health (inpatient and community services), Ambulatory Services, Pathology, Medical Imaging, Pharmacy and Allied Health Services.

Mildura Base Public Hospital is the major public referral health service for the Northern Mallee sub-region of the Loddon Mallee region of Victoria, the Far West region of New South Wales and the Riverland area of South Australia, servicing over 60,000 people in these regions.

Mildura Base Public Hospital holds a corporate agreement with Bendigo Health to provide Procurement direction and support.

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, maintenance, food and cleaning services, with all purchasing accessed from Health Share Victoria (HSV) state wide contracts where available.

Pharmacy items are purchased using HSV collective contracts.

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.

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.

MBPH also acknowledges the increased risk of Modern Slavery as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, with disruptions to material sourcing, interrupted supply chains and manufacturing challenges that caused many workers to become unemployed and forced to seek opportunities in 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 within HSV Collective Purchasing Agreements. In this reporting period, MBPH intends to continue to work collaboratively with HSV to identify mitigation efforts to combat modern slavery risks, and foster collaboration between MBPH and suppliers to seek to address these risks.

Health Share Victoria has assessed suppliers used by MBPH through a risk assessment and has rated respondents in one of four categories from low to very high risk.

41% of respondents were rated as low risk, up from 19% for the last reporting period.

48% as medium, down from 71% for the last reporting period.

11% as high, up from 10% for the last reporting period.

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.

Mildura Base Public Hospital has implemented elements of the framework through contract management and procurement direction from Bendigo Health, HSV collective purchasing agreements and internal processes.

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 reducing contractor services, utilising HSV contracts where possible and to execute contracts on procurement activity that include clauses on Modern Slavery controls and a supplier questionnaire.

An MBPH representative actively attends the monthly HSV modern slavery community of learning sessions.

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 eliminating all modern slavery risks in recruitment, procurement, contract management and supply chains, this reporting period has allowed for continued education within MBPH and from HSV.

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 to engage suppliers to understand the steps they are implementing to 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.

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. This will assist in the development of policies, risk assessment, risk registers, supplier and supply chain compliance, fact sheet 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 25/10/2023

Frank Piscioneri

Frank Piscioneri
Board Chair
Mildura Base Public Hospital