



Modern Slavery Act Statement

1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023

Modern Slavery Act Statement

The attached is submitted as Bendigo Health's annual statement in accordance with the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act.

Mandatory Criteria One and Two:

Identify the reporting entity and describe its structure, operations and supply chains:

Bendigo Health of 100 Barnard Street, Bendigo, ABN 26 875 445 912, is a Public Health Service incorporated pursuant to the provisions of the Health Services Act 1988 as amended.

Bendigo Health with over 5,000 staff and covering an area a quarter the size of Victoria, Bendigo Health is a 766 bed service that annually:

- a. treats over 51,000 in-patients;
- b. admits more than 1,500 children aged under 16 years to our Child and Adolescent Unit;
- c. deals with over 57,000 emergency attendances, including almost 17,000 ambulance arrivals to the Emergency Department;
- d. delivers more than 1,600 babies;
- e. conducts almost 110,000 outpatient appointments.

These services are complemented by an 80 bed psychiatric inpatient unit including a five bed Parent Infant Unit, a Regional Integrated Cancer Centre, a 20 bed Intensive Care Unit and capacity for 11 operating theatres where more than 15,000 surgical procedures are performed annually.

The organisation provides services in emergency, maternity, women's health, medical imaging, pathology, rehabilitation, community services, residential aged care, psychiatric care, community dental, hospice, palliative care, cardiology, cancer services and renal dialysis to the people of the Loddon Mallee region.

The three main campuses of Bendigo Health are in Bendigo, with many services extended to regional settings including areas such as Mildura, Echuca, Swan Hill, Kyneton and Castlemaine. Demand on services is increasing rapidly with Bendigo being one of Victoria's fastest growing regional cities. Bendigo Health and the Victorian Government are committed to delivering high quality health-care to the community of Bendigo and the greater Loddon Mallee region.

Bendigo Health's supply chain includes (but is not limited to) the products and services used to deliver healthcare services including medical equipment and consumables, personal protective equipment and ICT equipment. Bendigo Health's supply chain also includes products and services provided by contractors including (but not limited to) consultants, support and maintenance services.

Bendigo Health also utilises the contracts under the HealthShare Victoria (HSV) arrangement. HSV is a state-wide organisation that partners with Victoria's public health services and suppliers to deliver best-value goods and services including medical consumables.

Mandatory Criterion Three:

Describe the risks of modern slavery practices in the operations and supply chains of the reporting entity and any entities the reporting entity owns or controls:

Due to the significant impact of Covid-19, Bendigo Health has been unable to undertake a formal risk assessment of its operations and supply chains with all Procurement Staff working from home during the period of this Statement. Bendigo Health will endeavour to conduct a risk assessment for the 2023-2024 reporting period.

Bendigo Health is at a low risk of modern slavery practices within the organisations direct operations due to all employees being employed under the relevant Enterprise Business Agreement. No known risks have been identified at the time of writing this Statement.

The Bendigo Health Foundation is an entity of Bendigo Health and is at a low risk of modern slavery practices within its direct operations consisting of a small group of Foundation Board members and Bendigo Health employees. No known risks have been identified at the time of writing this.

Some general risks in Bendigo Health's supply chain include:

- Labour and manufacturing in overseas facilities for medical consumables and equipment and ICT equipment;
- Labour and manufacturing in overseas facilities for textiles including uniforms;
- Labour for the security and cleaning industries.

It is understood that a number of medical consumables manufacturers contracted with HSV have high modern slavery risks and that HSV is addressing this on behalf of all health services.

Mandatory Criterion Four:

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:

Bendigo Health completes risk assessments for new tenders and contracts and records the results of these in our Modern Slavery Risk Register.

Due to the significant impact of Covid-19, Bendigo Health has been unable to undertake a formal risk assessment of its operations and supply chains as all Procurement Staff have been working from home during the period of this Statement.

Bendigo Health has implemented modern slavery clauses and schedules into relevant policies.

Bendigo Health understands that its supply chains may be impacted by modern slavery practices. As a result, Bendigo Health has implemented modern slavery clauses and questionnaires for all contractors to comply with and provide further information to assist in reporting on modern slavery practices in our Tender and Request for Quotation documentation and all resultant contracts.

Bendigo Health will engage with its supply chain to ensure all contractors are aware of their requirements under the Modern Slavery Act.

The focus of HSV's reporting period under the Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth) was to undertake supplier risk assessments within HSV Collective Purchasing Agreements. HSV has undertaken the supplier assessment and has provided Bendigo Health with a HealthShare Victoria Modern Slavery Risk Assessment Report (attached marked as 'Bendigo Health Report 2022-2023') showing the results of the assessment as it applies to our health service.

Mandatory Criterion Five:

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

Due to the significant impact of Covid-19, Bendigo Health has been unable to undertake a formal risk assessment of its operations and supply chains.

As a result of this Bendigo Health is unable to assess the effectiveness of actions being taken.

Bendigo Health will endeavour to undertake a formal risk assessment in the 2023-2024 period and will provide an assessment on the effectiveness of actions that have been taken to assess and address modern slavery risks during that period.

Mandatory Criterion Six:

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

Not applicable – the Bendigo Health Foundation is administered by Bendigo Health employees and all procurement is undertaken by Bendigo Health.

Mandatory Criterion Seven:

Any other relevant information

Bendigo Health has updated all relevant policies.

All contract, tender and Request for Quote documents now include Modern Slavery requirements, clauses and Questionnaires.

A Modern Slavery Register has been developed and is now in use.

Bendigo Health will endeavour to undertake a risk assessment of each of its direct contracts using the risk assessment tool and will then develop a strategy to address, manage and report on risks including engagement with its contractors on Modern Slavery requirements.

Bendigo Health will also endeavour to develop a Modern Slavery fact sheet as an education tool for its staff to understand their requirements in relation to the Modern Slavery Act as an employee of Bendigo Health.

Closing Statement

Bendigo Health recognises the importance of identifying and bringing modern slavery practices to an end and is therefore committed to working with its supply chain to eliminate these practices.

Endorsed by the Bendigo Health Board this 5 day of December 2023.

Signed by:

Dr Ewa Piejko

Board Chair and Director
Bendigo Health



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