

## **Eastern Health Modern Slavery Statement – FY 2021 - 2022**

### **Introduction**

This Modern Slavery Statement is made pursuant to the Commonwealth *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (the Act) by Eastern Health and relates to the financial year 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

### **Eastern Health Structure, Operations and Supply Chain**

#### Overview

Eastern Health is a health service established under section 181 of the *Health Services Act 1988* (Vic) and is one of Melbourne's largest metropolitan public health services. We provide a range of emergency, surgical, medical and general healthcare services, including maternity, palliative care, mental health, drug and alcohol, residential care, community health and statewide specialist services to people and communities that are diverse in culture, age, socio-economic status, population and healthcare needs.

A more detailed description of Eastern Health's mission, vision and values can be found in the [Eastern Health Annual Report 2021 - 2022](#)

#### Supply Chain

HealthShare Victoria (HSV) is a state-wide procurement organisation that partners with Victorian public health services to procure best-value goods and services. HSV works in partnership with public health services to understand their requirements, facilitate large-scale collective tenders and manage common-use contracts on behalf of the state. Eastern Health purchases the goods and services it needs from the suppliers who are party to HSV collective agreements. As such, it is recognised that HSV has a significant role in health service supply chains.

HSV works with approximately 449 tier-one suppliers and is responsible for more than 65 contracts with a spend value of over \$1.16 billion.

HSV contracts cover a broad range of services, equipment and supplies across a number of categories including ventilators, beds, mattresses, patient trolleys, treatment chairs, hypodermic needles and syringes, gloves, pharmaceutical products, IV fluids, agency labour, catering supplies, laundry and linen services and non-emergency patient transport. A full list of HSV's sourcing categories can be found at <https://healthsharevic.org.au/contracts-and-tenders/contracts-and-documents>.

#### **The risks of modern slavery practices in Eastern Health operations and supply chains**

Eastern Health has taken a targeted, risk-based approach to assessing modern slavery risks within its operations and supply chains, consistent with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Additionally, this approach has enabled Eastern Health to continue addressing areas of higher modern slavery risk while managing significant resourcing constraints due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a health service with a largely skilled workforce, Eastern Health considers the risk of modern slavery within its direct business operations to be relatively low. In line with a risk-based approach, these risks will be further examined in subsequent reporting periods

### Modern slavery in the health care sector

Given Australia's reliance on global supply chains for the production of health care goods, including: gloves; surgical instruments; patient clothing; uniforms and footwear of health care professionals; sheets, towels, and other textiles; and electronic health care equipment, Eastern Health's supply chain faces heightened geographic, industry and product modern slavery risks.

Some of the general risk areas present in Eastern Health's supply chain include:

- Labour practices in offshore manufacturing facilities, some of which are located in South-East Asia;
- Labour practices in the sourcing of raw materials, including cotton and rubber; and
- Industry risks associated with textiles, electronics and cleaning services.

In addition to general risks, HSV has identified the following high risk areas specific to the healthcare sector:

- Surgical and examination gloves;
- Surgical instruments; and
- Linens and gowns.

### **Eastern Health's actions to assess and address Modern Slavery risks**

Following on from the Eastern Health/HSV Joint Modern Slavery Risk Assessment in the previous reporting period to assess suppliers from HSV Collective Purchasing Agreements utilised by Eastern Health, the subsequent action has been to begin assessing Eastern Health suppliers that are not part of HSV Collective Purchasing arrangements. To this end, Eastern Health, in conjunction with HSV, initiated a survey of its largest non-HSV suppliers. Similar to the previous survey, the question focused on a macro assessment of suppliers that considered the relevant:

- Geographic Risks,
- Sector/Industry Risks,
- Entity Risks, and
- Product/Services Risks.

The follow-up survey has not yet been finalised but is seen as an important next step given Eastern Health has a number of high value out-sourcing arrangements and these have identified as potential Modern Slavery risks. The inclusion of these suppliers into Eastern Health's Modern Slavery risk assessment framework is seen as an important next step in the risk mitigation process.

### **Effectiveness of Eastern Health's actions being taken to assess and address modern slavery risks**

Despite the continued impact on Eastern Health by the COVID-19 pandemic over the reporting period, progress has been made in implementing policies and undertaking practical actions and remediate modern slavery risks both directly within the organisation and its supply chains.

Following media reports of modern slavery risks associated with the supply chain for Ansell gloves, Eastern Health took the decision to source its non-sterile chemical resistant examination gloves, the only type of Ansell gloves in use with Eastern Health, from alternate

suppliers. Supply team undertook a detailed investigation of the use of Ansell gloves within Eastern Health and identified all users of this product, removed the items from the Eastern Health product catalogue and substituted them with suitable gloves from other suppliers. Eastern Health has approved and implemented its Modern Slavery Standard into its policy framework and continues to include modern slavery provision in its tender and contract documents as part of the process to continue to incorporate modern slavery clauses into all of its procurement activities. Eastern Health has also formalised the inclusion of a Modern Slavery Remediation process into the established procurement complaint handling process. Over the last two reporting periods Eastern Health has experienced excellent co-operation with its supplier base in implementing its Modern Slavery Framework and Eastern Health has not recorded any indication of modern slavery issues with any contract/tender process or report of modern slavery issues via our dedicated complaint handling process.

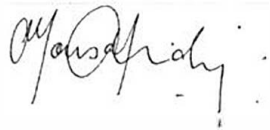
**Consultation process with any entities Eastern Health owns or controls**

Eastern Health does not own or control any other entities.

**Closing statement**

Eastern Health is cognizant of the risk of modern slavery practices in our supply chains and operations and continues to develop its staff awareness, training and operational processes to mitigate this risk.

This statement was approved by the Board of Eastern Health on 7 December 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tass Mousaferiadis', is written over a faint horizontal line.

Tass Mousaferiadis, Board Chair