

# MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT

*FY2022* 

LANDER & ROGERS

# ABOUT THIS STATEMENT

This modern slavery statement is prepared and issued by the Partnership, Lander & Rogers (A Abrahams & Others, ABN 58 207 240 529) in accordance with requirements of the Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth) (Modern Slavery Act) and covers the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. In this statement, Lander & Rogers adopts the meaning of modern slavery as defined in the Modern Slavery Act.

This statement details Lander & Rogers' approach to identifying, mitigating and managing the risks of modern slavery across our operations and supply chain.

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# INTRODUCTION

It is estimated that more than 40 million men, women and children globally are subject to modern slavery each day, with around 15,000 people living in conditions of modern slavery at any one time in Australia.<sup>1</sup>

### What is modern slavery?

It is a common term used to describe extreme labour rights abuses including slavery, servitude, human trafficking and forced or compulsory labour.

In Australia, it is characterised by extreme working conditions such as low or no pay, excessively long hours, and no recreation days. Modern slavery is common among young and migrant workers and in industries such as agriculture, construction, hospitality, and domestic services.

### **Our approach**

At Lander & Rogers we value authenticity, connection and innovation, with a strong commitment to care for our people, clients and community. In doing so, we seek to uphold the highest ethical standards in all that we do in the delivery of legal and business services.

We align with the Australian Legal Sector Alliance's (AusLSA) reporting standards, including in relation to sustainable procurement and modern slavery.

Lander & Rogers is committed to identifying, assessing and addressing the risk of modern slavery within our business, in all our business dealings and in our supply chain. We strive to contribute to global efforts to eradicate all forms of modern slavery. We regard this as part of our:

- ethical business practices;
- commitment to the wellbeing of our people; and
- commitment to giving back to the community.

As part of this commitment, Lander & Rogers has partnered with Anti-Slavery Australia - a specialist legal practice, research and policy centre dedicated to the abolition of modern slavery, human trafficking and slavery-like practices, such as forced labour and forced marriage.

### **Progress towards change**

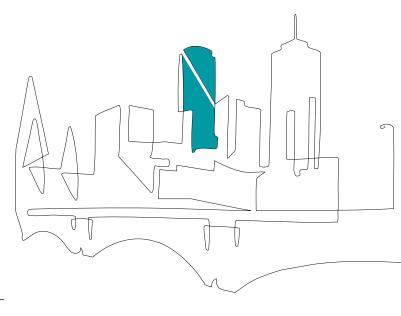
In 2022, Lander & Rogers became a signatory to the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) - a voluntary framework for the development, implementation and disclosure of responsible business practices.

The firm is one of more than 300 Australian businesses and thousands globally since 2000 to sign the compact and commit to the initiative's ten universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.

Proudly, signatories include many of our clients and partners such as Wesfarmers, Coles, Bunnings, Lion, QBE, Treasury Wine Estates, Dexus and Mirvac.

As well as demonstrating our commitment to operating responsibly and sustainably, the UNGC offers an exciting opportunity for our people to engage with likeminded professionals and benefit from resources and programs under the framework of 'Connect, Learn, Lead, Communicate'.

This public commitment is a natural progression for Lander & Rogers, reflecting our values of authentic, connected and innovative, and aligning with our commitment to community and environment under our 2025 People and Innovation Strategy.



<sup>1</sup> Global Slavery Index: https://www.globalslaveryindex.org/

# FIRM STRUCTURE

Lander & Rogers is a leading independent Australian law firm, comprising over 600 people including 80+ partners.

With offices in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, our partners and employees are engaged and based in Australia. We provide professional legal services in Australia and work closely with international firms that do not have an Australian presence.

Our key client sectors are government, insurance and financial services, real estate, retail and supply chain, and technology.

Consistent with our values and culture, we are strongly committed to pro bono and community work and minimising our impact on the environment.

## **Reporting entity and consultation**

The reporting entity for the purpose of this statement is our Partnership, Lander & Rogers (A Abrahams & Others, ABN 58 207 240 529).

This statement has been prepared in consultation with all entities that our Partnership owns or controls. All actions referred to within it have been completed by both Lander & Rogers (which operates and markets the legal business in Australia) and its business services representatives, Lansol Nominees Pty Ltd (ACN 005 232 682).

## **Supply chain**

Operating in the professional services sector, Lander & Rogers procures goods and services for the purpose of managing and delivering legal services.

Our supply chain includes:

- real estate and related property management services
- information technology infrastructure and services
- various business services and products (including catering, stationery, and marketing materials), and
- professional services (including travel services, insurance, accounting and legal).

#### Yurruwi table

Elegantly crafted by Indigenous furniture makers, Manapan, the boardroom table depicts the story of our nation's unique Indigenous heritage.

# OPERATIONS & SUPPLY CHAIN

Jurisdictionally, Australia has among the lowest prevalence of, and vulnerability to, modern slavery in the world, supported by high government intervention.

As a sector, professional services is among the lowest at risk of engaging in modern slavery. As a business, Lander & Rogers has a high level of direct control over its operations.

The firm's core operations are largely delivered by staff employed or engaged in Australia. Lander & Rogers complies with all applicable Australian labour laws regarding working conditions and remuneration, with a range of policies and management practices in place to support operations.

We consider that our supply chains present a higher risk of modern slavery than our core operations.

In addition to staff, Lander & Rogers engages suppliers from different sectors, such as corporate, real estate, catering, cleaning services, recruitment agencies, professional services, and related service providers.



# ASSESSING & ADDRESSING RISK

Lander & Rogers' governance framework is an organised system of controls, mechanisms and processes through which the firm makes decisions in pursuit of our goals and objectives.

The framework is designed to hold the firm, and our people, to account, ensuring our behaviours and objectives are aligned with our values and operate within legal and ethical frameworks. Effective governance is critical in meeting our firm's commitment to eliminating modern slavery in our supplier chains.

### Governance

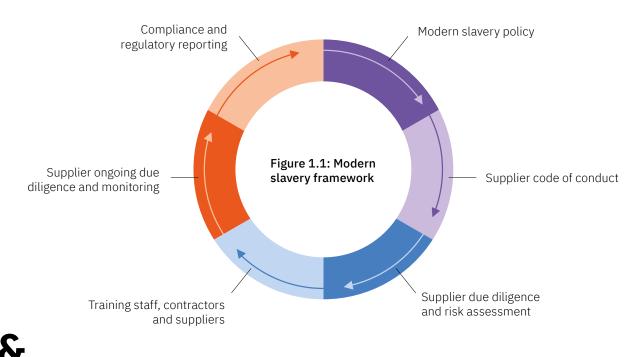
During this reporting period, Lander & Rogers has:

- recruited specialist roles in governance and procurement;
- undertaken an annual review of governance, risk, and compliance frameworks;
- developed a modern slavery framework, which has been endorsed by the firm's modern slavery working group; and
- published information and built contact protocols into the firm's website to facilitate and support discussions and queries related to modern slavery from third parties.

#### Modern slavery framework

Lander & Rogers' modern slavery framework incorporates the following elements:

- 1. Modern slavery policy;
- 2. Supplier code of conduct;
- 3. Supplier due diligence and risk assessment;
- 4. Training for staff, contractors and suppliers;
- 5. Supplier ongoing due diligence and monitoring; and
- 6. Compliance and regulatory reporting.



#### Supplier minimum requirements

Lander & Rogers expects all suppliers to comply with applicable laws, including modern slavery legislation and requirements regarding working conditions and remuneration. To strengthen and achieve supplier compliance with firm values, Lander & Rogers has developed a supplier code of conduct that suppliers are expected to adhere to.

### **Staff capability**

Raising awareness about modern slavery and ensuring staff are familiar with and able to detect it is important to our firm.

During the reporting period, Lander & Rogers:

- introduced modern slavery training to all staff and partners as part of the firm's induction program;
- developed a mechanism for reporting instances of modern slavery; and
- promoted informational content and resources on modern slavery via a dedicated intranet page and internal staff newsletter.

In the next reporting period, we plan to host virtual events about modern slavery, which will be compulsory for all staff to attend.

### **Supplier review and consolidation**

During the reporting period, Lander & Rogers mapped its supplier network in accordance with the following criteria:

- identifying and documenting suppliers' sector or industry;
- the inherent risk(s) attached to each sector or industry;
- the products and/or services provided by each supplier; and
- the geographic region(s) in and from which suppliers provide goods and services to us.

This has enabled Lander & Rogers to identify suppliers

at greater risk of modern slavery in their supply chains - to which the firm issues a more in-depth risk assessment questionnaire. The questionnaire extends to the assessment of tier-two suppliers i.e., questions about Lander & Rogers' suppliers' supply chains.

#### Laptops, computer devices and mobile phones

There is a risk of modern slavery in the manufacture and assembly of electronic devices such as laptops, keyboards, mice and headsets commonly used in professional service businesses in jurisdictions that have poor labour conditions and/or use child labour.

This risk of modern slavery in the technology sector may have been exacerbated by increased global demand for equipment to facilitate remote working during COVID-19 lockdowns and the risk may have continued/increased further during the reporting period when many companies around the world introduced flexible working arrangements for staff/contractors.

In order to help assess this risk during the reporting period, Lander & Rogers has included questions about tier-two suppliers (our suppliers' supply chains) in its supplier questionnaire. Questions are designed to confirm the country from which products are sourced and identify cases of reported modern slavery misconduct, which can prompt further auditing of suppliers and their supply chains.

In addition, we also reviewed the modern slavery statements of some of our key technology suppliers.

# A S S E S S I N G E F F E C T I V E N E S S

Global events and uncertainty continue to apply pressure to supply chains. Lander & Rogers monitors and assesses its actions to address modern slavery risks and takes necessary action in response to findings.

Lander & Rogers' modern slavery framework includes compliance and regulatory reporting to assess the effectiveness of our actions to assess and address risks of modern slavery. To date, our due diligence has not revealed evidence of modern slavery that requires remediation. However, we remain vigilant.

### Cleaners

We are aware that there is an increased risk of modern slavery among labour hire providers of unskilled workers such as those involved with cleaning. Therefore, during the reporting period, Lander & Rogers conducted due diligence on its primary cleaning services supplier in each office location (Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane) but did not identify any modern slavery misconduct. Pleasingly, some of the firm's cleaning suppliers now also provide modern slavery statements.

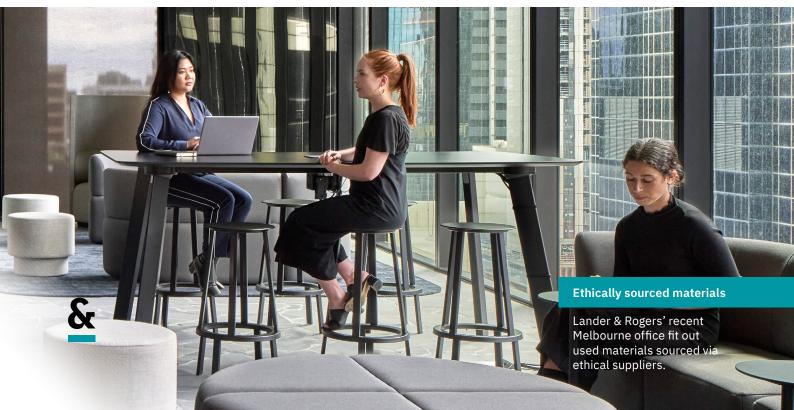
### **Personal protective equipment (PPE)**

As global demand for personal protective equipment increased in response to COVID-19, there are reports of manufacturers relying on forced and bonded labour recruited from impoverished countries.

Lander & Rogers is aware of the presence of modern slavery in the associated manufacturing industry and remains vigilant.

## **Ethically sourced materials**

The Modern Slavery Index analysis identifies timber as one of the top-five products at risk of modern slavery in G20 countries. The risk is higher where the timber originates from South American and South-East Asian countries. Lander & Rogers ensured furniture purchased during the reporting period was ethically sourced.



# WHAT'S NEXT?

Lander & Rogers continually encourages its people to develop their capabilities in ways that foster meaningful connection, authenticity and innovation.

### **Supplier onboarding**

Supplier onboarding is a channel through which the firm can consider and reduce modern slavery risks in its supply chains, with consistent, careful due diligence processes.

The process for choosing an appropriate supplier includes ethical, social, and environmental evaluation with the aim to choose business partners that share the firm's values.

Where appropriate, the firm will consolidate its supply chain while introducing ethical procurement policies and procedures that are robust, adaptable, and inclusive of ethical business processes.

Based on the risk assessment conducted in the reporting period, Lander & Rogers' primary focus in the next reporting period will be:

- extending capability across the organisation; and
- refining our supplier due diligence process.

The above steps ensure that, while onboarding new suppliers, the firm consistently requests and obtains modern slavery statements and/or other information to assess the risk of modern slavery, including forced labour, in suppliers' supply chains.

### **Supplier standards**

Each new supplier will be assessed against Lander & Rogers' standards and will be expected to adhere to the standards on a continuous basis.

The supplier code of conduct stipulates the level of ethical conduct expected from suppliers with regards to:

- human rights;
- labour, including anti-modern slavery;
- social and environmental responsibility;
- anti-bribery and corruption; and
- · data security, protection and privacy.

#### **Future focus**

As Lander & Rogers continues to further enhance its framework and procedures, additional training will be provided to ensure responsible due diligence is embedded in not just the firm's processes but its way of thinking.

Lander & Rogers' primary focus in the next reporting period will be:

- further implementation of the firm's modern slavery policy;
- the launch and implementation of a supplier code of conduct;
- further embedding processes that address modern slavery;
- promoting respect for human rights; and
- · continuous staff education and training.

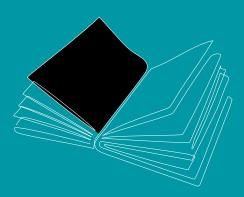
The firm's procurement framework will be further developed to include environmental, social and governance factors, inclusive of modern slavery risk evaluation.



# STATEMENT ANNEXURE

*This modern slavery statement addresses each of the mandatory criteria in section 16 of the Modern Slavery Act, as outlined below.* 

Mandatory criteria	Page number/s
a) Identify the reporting entity.	2
b) Describe the reporting entity's structure, operations and supply chains.	4-5
<ul> <li>c) Describe the risks of modern slavery practices in the operations and supply chains of the reporting entity and any entities it owns or controls.</li> </ul>	5 and 8
<ul> <li>d) 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.</li> </ul>	6-8
e) Describe how the reporting entity assesses the effectiveness of these actions.	8
<ul> <li>f) Describe the process of consultation on the development of the statement with any entities the reporting entity owns or controls (a joint statement must also describe consultation with the entity covered by the statement).</li> </ul>	4
g) Any other information that the reporting entity, or the entity giving the statement, considers relevant.	9



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# STATEMENT ENDORSEMENT

In accordance with section 13 of the Modern Slavery Act, this statement was approved by the Board of A Abrahams & Others T/A Lander & Rogers on 29 September 2022.

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Genevieve Collins Chief Executive Partner Lander & Rogers



# ABOUT US

Founded in 1946, Lander & Rogers is one of the few remaining truly independent Australian law firms and a leader in legal tech innovation.

With offices across the eastern seaboard of Australia, Lander & Rogers has grown organically resulting in a unified firm with a strong focus on client and staff care.

We believe legal services involve more than just the law – practical, commercial advice and exceptional client experience are equally important to our clients and to us.

Lander & Rogers advises corporate, government, not-for-profit and private clients in insurance law and litigation, family law, workplace relations & safety, real estate, corporate transactions, digital & technology and commercial disputes.

The firm is global in approach, working closely with a network of leading firms to provide advice to clients, both domestically and abroad. Lander & Rogers is also the exclusive Australian member of the world's leading independent network of law firms, TerraLex.



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