

# **MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT FINANCIAL YEAR 2024-25**

## **THE ROYAL VICTORIAN EYE AND EAR HOSPITAL**

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*The Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital  
ABN 81 863 814 677  
32 Gisborne St  
East Melbourne, 3002, Victoria, Australia  
[www.eyelandear.org.au](http://www.eyelandear.org.au)*

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## Introduction

This Modern Slavery Statement is made by The Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital under the Commonwealth Modern Slavery Act 2018 for the financial year 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. Since 2020, the hospital has worked with Health Share Victoria to embed the Act's principles into its supply chain and employment practices. This is the fifth statement submitted, covering previous years from 2019-20 to 2023-24.

## Overview of the Eye and Ear

The Royal Victorian Eye and Ear health service, established under section 181 of the Health Services Act 1988 (Vic), operates independently and does not oversee any other organisations. As Australia's sole specialist hospital for eye and ENT care, the Eye and Ear have been serving the community for more than 160 years. Based in East Melbourne, it acts as the main centre for ophthalmology and ENT services across Victoria and is the state's leading provider of public cochlear implants.

### Emergency:

- 45,395 presentations
- 100% of ambulance patients transferred to emergency within 40 minutes
- Mean ED length of stay (admitted) in minutes – 268 minutes.
- Mean ED length of stay (non-admitted) in minutes – 229 minutes

### Surgical Services/ Inpatient admissions

- 10,695 patients admitted from elective surgery waiting list
- 100% of Category 1 elective surgery patients admitted within 30 days
- 84.2% of Category 1, 2 and 3 elective patients were admitted within clinically recommended time

### Specialist Clinics/ Outpatient

- 160,167 appointments
- 68.3% of urgent referred patients attended first appointment within 30 days

In 2024-25 the Eye and Ear employed 1,110 staff, for a total of 613 FTE, across Nursing, Medical, Allied Health and Administrative labour categories.

The supplier risk assessment used a questionnaire distributed to all identified suppliers, following the same methodology as previous years. The questions focus on changes in how suppliers identify, assess, and address modern slavery risks.

The Eye and Ear this year requested HSV to undertake risk assessments of 21 of its suppliers. The following outcomes are noted.

HSV has categorised the list of 21 suppliers into three categories

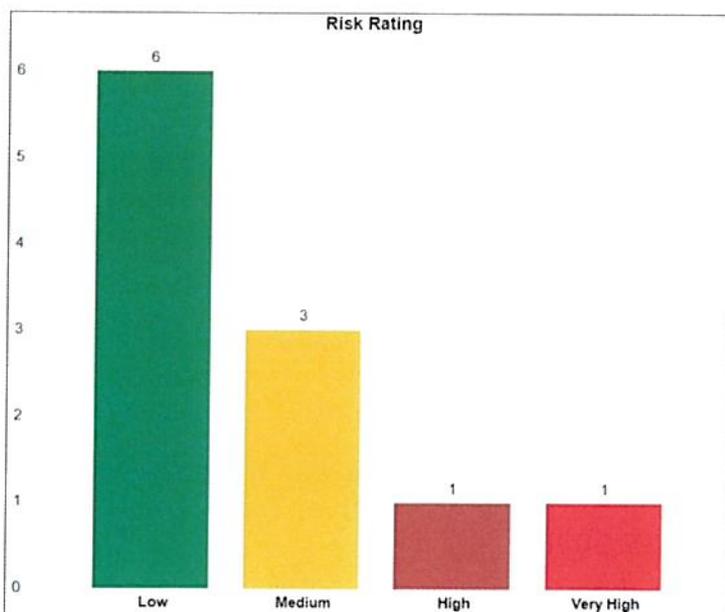
No	Supplier type	Number
1	Health service supplier (not on HSV CP Agreement)	15
2	Health service Supplier (but also on HSV CP Agreement)	3
3	HSV collective purchasing (CP) agreement suppliers*	3
<b>Total suppliers</b>		<b>21</b>

\*These suppliers are assessed separately through HSV assessment process

\*Total number of Eye and Ear suppliers reviewed below is 18

Of the 18 suppliers asked to complete a risk assessment, 11 responded, resulting in a response rate of 61%. This outcome is regarded as satisfactory, and it is anticipated that response rates will continue to improve as suppliers become more familiar with the requirement to complete HSV’s modern slavery risk assessment questionnaire on our behalf.

Supplier risk ratings are collated in the table below.



Risk rating	Percent of total
Low	55%
Medium	27%
High	9%
Very High	9%
Non-response	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Of the above list of suppliers, 9 had reported having a policy in place regarding modern slavery. With all these suppliers actively communicating this policy within their organisation. This promotes and encourages modern slavery awareness and is an important step in mitigating this risk.

## Assessing the effectiveness of actions taken

1. The Eye and Ear will maintain its collaboration with HSV to ensure a thorough understanding of, and compliance with, modern slavery obligations. This partnership aims to mitigate modern slavery risks within the Health Service's supply chain. As part of this commitment, the Eye and Ear will continue active participation in the HSV Risk Mitigation Program, working closely with the consultation group to offer suppliers a unified sector approach.
2. The Eye and Ear will keep promoting the Modern Slavery e-learning module, and key staff members will stay engaged in HSV's Modern Slavery Community of Learning sessions.

## Closing statement - Approval and signature

The Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital has prepared the 2024–25 Modern Slavery Statement, which details the organisation's actions to identify, address, and mitigate modern slavery risks within its operations and supply chains.

The hospital believes that the measures implemented this year strengthen its foundation for an effective modern slavery framework. It acknowledges that further progress is necessary and remains committed to continually enhancing its strategies and evaluations to detect and address the risk of modern slavery within the organisation.

Health Share Victoria's continued leadership in identifying and addressing broader Modern Slavery risks throughout the sector provides significant advantages to the Victorian Public Health Service and supports the establishment of a cohesive supplier approach.

This statement has been prepared in compliance with the Australian Modern Slavery Act 2018, which commenced on 1 January 2019.

The Board of The Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital approved this statement 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

  
Brendon Gardner  
Chief Executive Officer