

# MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT

Under the Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth)

This Modern Slavery Statement has been prepared by WPP AUNZ Pty Ltd (ACN 001 657 370) of Level 9, 1 Shelley Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000 (**WPP AUNZ**), in fulfilment of its and its subsidiaries' obligations under the Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth).

This statement covers the following reporting period: the calendar year ending 31 December 2024. It describes our commitment and steps taken to mitigate modern slavery in our business operations and supply chain.

This statement was approved by the board of WPP AUNZ on 29 May 2025.

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**Rosemary Herceg** WPP President Australia & New Zealand



# Introduction

WPP AUNZ is a creative transformation company. We use the power of creativity to build better futures for our people, planet, clients, and communities through an integrated offer of communications, experience, commerce, and technology. We offer capabilities in advertising, branding and identity, content, media investment, public relations and public affairs, and healthcare.

WPP in Australia and New Zealand is a wholly owned, indirect subsidiary of WPP plc (**WPP**). WPP plc is a reporting entity under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 (UK) (the **UK Act**). WPP plc's Modern Slavery Statement, which covers the obligations of WPP plc and its subsidiaries (together the **WPP Group**) under the UK Act can be found <u>here</u>.

This Modern Slavery Statement for Australia and New Zealand, lodged pursuant to the Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth) (**the Act**), addresses the Act's mandatory reporting criteria, including our continued identification of modern slavery risks in our operations and supply chains and actions we've undertaken to address and mitigate these risks.

Respect for human rights is a fundamental principle for the WPP Group and we do not tolerate any form of modern slavery or human trafficking in any part of our business. As a member of the United Nations Global Compact, we remain committed to embedding its ten principles for human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption in our business and report progress against its 10 principles annually.

We know that modern slavery exists in almost every country in the world. An estimated 28 million people were in forced labour in 2021, and more than \$450 billion of goods imported into the G20 were at risk of modern slavery, according to the latest Global Slavery Index. Around the world, modern slavery risk (both forced labour and forced marriage) is on the rise, driven by increased armed conflict, environmental degradation linked to climate change and the ongoing social and economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. These factors have disrupted education and employment and driven a rise in forced and unsafe migration and extreme poverty.

We recognise the role that our business has to play in combatting exploitative labour practices from our operations and supply chain.

The work we do for our clients has the power to bring about change – it regularly changes attitudes, opinions and the way people behave. It is critical that these changes are for the better and we are committed to maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity, and acting ethically in all aspects of our business.

We support our clients to integrate sustainability into their strategies, communications, and marketing as they focus on translating targets into tangible change.

We also recognise that our sphere of influence gives us a unique opportunity



to support and acknowledge our local communities. In 2024 WPP launched its 'Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2024-2026 which will extend our reach and perspectives to build First Nations cultural thinking into our client offering. The plan, which was formally endorsed by Reconciliation Australia, paid respect to the rich culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and focused on strengthening relationships and engaging staff and stakeholders in reconciliation. In this RAP, we showcase recent examples of work that celebrates First Nations' connection to Country. These examples stand among many from within WPP, each taking inspiration from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural iconography and storytelling to shape how we communicate.

We also provide pro bono creative services to organisations working on human rights, health, education, arts and the environment, and negotiate free media space for charity campaigns, enabling them to reach a wide audience.

You can find out more information about our business here.

# Part One: Business Structure, Operations and Supply Chains

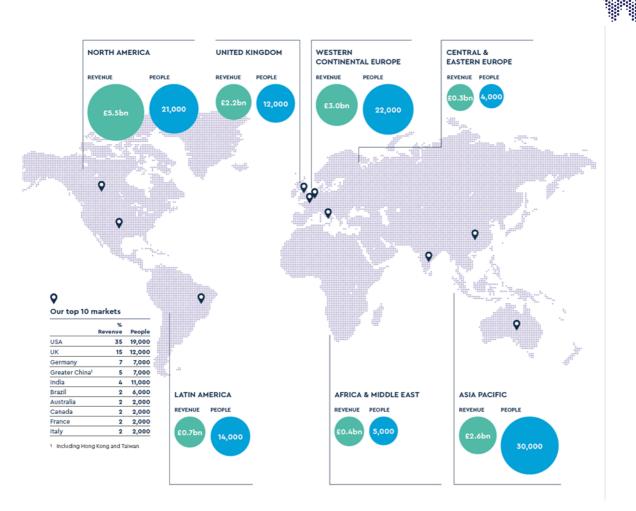
### **Our Structure**

The mandatory reporting entity under the Act is WPP AUNZ. The complete list of WPP AUNZ 's owned and controlled entities as at 31 December 2024 is set out at Appendix 1 to this Statement.

## **Our Operations**

WPP and our agencies employ 108,000 people in over 100 countries across the globe and work with clients including 300 of the Fortune Global 500. WPP is headquartered in London and is listed on the London Stock Exchange and NYSE.

Here we show our presence by region in terms of revenue and people:



WPP have offices in most major cities in Australia and New Zealand. We continue to operate using our established campus system, which is an operating model and structure that encourages extensive collaboration between various co-located brands.

The approximate breakdown of the local employees and offices:

- Australia 7 offices, 6 campuses and 2500 employees
- New Zealand 2 offices, 2 campuses and 325 employees

Following a desk-based risk assessment of WPP's direct operations we have noted that WPP has a physical presence and business operations in regions at 'high risk' of modern slavery<sup>1</sup>. However, we consider the risk of our direct employees – as skilled professionals within the advertising, marketing and communications services sector – being victims of modern slavery is low.

Our workforce also includes independent contractors which are sourced from employment platforms and recruitment agencies.

As part of the global structure, some management, IT, procurement, legal and other support services are provided by the WPP Group outside of Australia.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Global Estimates of Modern Slavery, ILO, Walk Free and IOM, 2022



## **Our Supply Chain**

WPP are committed to creating a sustainable, ethical, and diverse network of business-enabling suppliers.

Due to the organisational structure of the business and wide range of services on offer, we have a complex and dynamic supply chain ecosystem to manage. WPP works with more than 70,000 parent companies across our supply network. Goods and services are sourced from both Australia and overseas.

Our suppliers fall into two main categories: those providing goods and services used to run our companies – indirect categories of spend such as IT and telecommunications, travel, facilities management, people services, professional services and real estate; and those used in client work – direct categories of spend such as advertising & marketing services, production and media.

# Part Two: Assessing Risks of Modern Slavery Practices

## **Risk Assessment**

We continually review supply chain risks based on country, industry sector, categories of goods and services, and individual suppliers.

We continue to enhance and improve our procurement ecosystem and infrastructure and have been through an extensive procurement transformation programme to optimise how we buy. This includes our approach to how we manage WPP's Tier 1 supplier network.

In 2024:

- We continued to evolve our approach to supply chain risk assessments. Key suppliers across each indirect procurement category have been assessed and we are able to manage specific risks associated with those suppliers. The next phase will see us establish a framework for supplier relationship management, which will include risk management as an integral element.
- We established the Procurement Risk Committee to enhance governance, oversight, and risk management in indirect procurement activities. This committee will improve risk monitoring and strengthen decision-making. By fostering collaboration across the procurement function, it helps build resilience, compliance, and alignment with business objectives, with the goal of safeguarding integrity in our supply chain.
- We reviewed and enhanced our Procurement Policy and our supplier due diligence processes, leading to a more standardised and consistent approach to upfront supplier risk assessment.



- We continued to work with third-party service provider SlaveCheck to explore how their 'collective intelligence' model can help identify and flag potential slavery risks or incidences within global supply chains.
- We commenced a review of the frameworks and processes we use to conduct human rights assessments within our Tier 1 supply chain, to enhance visibility and transparency across our Tier 1 suppliers, including refining our risk assessment methodology. We continue to standardise and enhance procurement processes and systems, including those around supply risk management, procurement policy compliance, contract lifecycle management (CLM) and supplier onboarding and supplier relationship management (SRM).

## **Reporting Risks in our Operations or our Supply Chains**

Our people can report concerns or suspected cases of misconduct confidentially (and, if they wish, anonymously) through our independently managed Right to Speak facility, which is overseen by WPP plc's Group Chief Counsel and General Counsel, Corporate Risk and is available via phone or email in local languages. We publicise the facility in induction packs, on our intranet and external website, in offices, in the WPP Policy Book and via our mandatory ethics training.

Our people can also speak directly to WPP's Business Integrity team which works across all WPP companies, including in Australia and New Zealand, and who receive a number of reports through emails, calls, texts and inperson appointments.

#### **RISK IMPACT FROM WHISTLEBLOWER REPORTS 2024**

All whistleblower reports received by WPP plc's Group Chief Counsel and General Counsel, Corporate Risk, which includes all Right to Speak reports from WPP in Australia and New Zealand, are handled in line with WPP's Whistleblowing and Investigations Protocols. These are logged, investigated, and tracked through to a conclusion including any remediation or follow-up actions that might be required. Recommended remediation can include disciplinary action, changes to systems, controls and processes or wider review and monitoring for a particular period.

Every report received from a whistleblower is investigated and reported into the Audit Committee by WPP's business integrity function.

Reports are also analysed for risk impact and root causes. Learnings generated from this analysis are converted into recommendations including for training sessions, workshops, and practical resources by WPP's Business Integrity team and implemented together with the support and input of WPP's Risk Committees, including the WPP Australia and New Zealand Risk Committee. Recommended remediation can include disciplinary action, changes to systems, controls and processes or wider review and monitoring for a particular period.

The nature of each report, action taken, and outcome is reported to the



Audit Committee. WPP is committed to providing a safe and confidential way for people with genuine concerns to raise them, and to do so without fear of reprisals. WPP does not tolerate any retaliatory behaviour against individuals reporting concerns and are equally committed to preserving the anonymity of an individual who makes a report and does not wish to have their identity revealed.

The consequences of misconduct or retaliation range from individual performance management, training for a business or an office and one-onone training or coaching for an individual through to staff relocation and staff dismissal.

#### WHERE WE ARE NOW

• In 2024, a total of 609 reports were received from whistleblowers, 507 of which were through the Right to Speak hotline. All reports were followed up, investigated where appropriate by our business integrity team, and reported to the Audit Committee. The most commonly raised concerns were about respect in the workplace and protection of WPP's assets.

## Part 3: Actions to Address Risks

#### DUE DILIGENCE IN OUR SUPPLY NETWORK

Suppliers are asked to sign a copy of WPP's Code of Business Conduct or prove equivalence within their own policies as a pre-condition to engagement, to confirm they will comply with its principles.

These standards include requirements relating to labour practices (such as antiharassment and discrimination, and health and safety), human rights (including modern slavery issues such as child, forced or bonded labour), social impacts (such as anti-bribery and corruption) and other sustainability issues.

Our Code of Conduct requires suppliers to apply similar standards to companies within their own supply chains, including evidencing diversity and social responsibility in their cultures, behaviours and attitudes.

In addition to signing up to our Code of Conduct, WPP suppliers are also required to complete an on boarding questionnaire which includes specific questions pertaining to modern slavery practices.

WPP includes a "right-to-audit" provision in the supplier documentation and / or standard terms and conditions of contract. Our global Supplier Agreement includes a clause relating to modern slavery compliance. WPP reserves the right to terminate its contract with any supplier found to breach or fail to comply with, any legislation relating to modern slavery.

## **OUR POLICIES**



We do not tolerate any form of modern slavery or human trafficking in any part of our business. WPP is committed to tackling the risk of modern slavery from our supply chain and operations at a global scale.

As a member of the United Nations Global Compact, WPP views this as an essential component of our obligations to support the basic human rights of our people and their families, including the right to fair conditions of work, freedom from forced labour and child labour. We outline this commitment and set clear ethical standards for our people and companies through our policy framework.

**Our Business Code of Conduct** outlines how we are committed to acting ethically in all aspects of our business and to maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity. We specifically reference the Modern Slavery Act to highlight how seriously we take this issue. All our people are required to uphold our Business Code of Conduct, which is available in multiple languages.

The principles of the Code are embedded in our training courses and workshops and our senior managers are required to certify compliance with the Code on an annual basis.

**Our Business Code of Conduct - Supplier Version** sets out our expectations of suppliers and is based on the WPP Code that applies to all our companies and people. The supplier version includes requirements for labour practices (such as anti-harassment and discrimination, and health and safety), human rights (including no child, forced or bonded labour), and social impacts (such as anti-bribery and corruption) as well as other sustainability issues. It is available in nine languages.

WPP's Code of Business Conduct is set within a wider policy framework, which includes our Human Rights Policy.

**Our Human Rights policy** reflects international standards and principles including the International Bill of Human Rights, the UN's Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the International Labour Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the Children's Rights and Business Principles.

**Our Sustainability Policy** is reviewed and approved by the Board on an annual basis and outlines our positive contribution to society and the environment underpinned by our responsibility to respect human rights. It is complemented by our Environment Policy to reflect our climate commitments.

**Our Procurement Policy** outlines a clear procedure for responsible procurement. This includes the provision that, wherever possible, our companies should use centrally negotiated contracts with approved suppliers for commonly purchased goods and services. Regardless, anyone who buys goods and services in any WPP company should consider sustainability risks and criteria to determine whether suppliers are fit for purpose.

**Our talent policies** set out our core principles for responsible recruitment and people management as part of our responsibility to treat our employees with dignity and respect.

WHERE WE ARE NOW



- WPP is a dynamic group with ever-evolving business operations and we recognise that there are always improvements that can be made to the way we work. To ensure that our policies are kept up-to-date and compliant with international and national regulatory frameworks we conduct regular reviews.
- Our Sustainability Policy is reviewed and approved by the Board on an annual basis, most recently in February 2025.
- Our Procurement Policy was reviewed in 2024 and provides a clear set of rules and documentation for supplier engagement.
- The application of our policies and procedures is monitored within each agency and by the internal audit, legal, business integrity and risk and controls functions. Breaches are investigated by our legal and business integrity teams and, where appropriate, external advisors.

## **Training & Awareness**

All our people (including freelancers working for more than four weeks) are required to complete our online ethics training, How We Behave, promptly upon joining and then on an annual basis thereafter. Topics covered include diversity, human rights, anti-bribery and corruption, conflicts of interest and avoiding misleading work.

WPP has issued guidance and training materials on modern slavery for our businesses to communicate to relevant people in their operations, such as HR Directors. We continue to ensure that all group Procurement employees complete mandatory modern slavery training upon joining WPP. The training covers the basic principles of the Modern Slavery Act and explains what modern slavery encompasses, how to assess risk in different aspects of our business and supply chain, our key policies, and our remediation process.

#### WHERE WE ARE NOW

- For the training period 2024-2025, nearly 90,000 employees, freelancers and contractors have to-date completed WPP's online ethics training.
- We commenced a refresh of our ethics training, including an update to the sustainability module which covers human rights and modern slavery. This activity will be finalised in 2025.
- All members of our global procurement team successfully completed mandatory Modern Slavery and Human Rights training. New team members will complete the training as part of their induction.

# Part Four: Mapping our Progress

In 2023 we stated that: Prog	to date: Next steps:
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Identifying and managing the risk of modern slavery	We would commence the roll out of a new Source to Contract IT Platform, intended to automate, standardise and streamline many of our currently manual procurement processes and systems relating to indirect supply risk management, procurement policy compliance, contract lifecycle management and supplier onboarding and supplier relationship management.	At the end of 2024, we commenced the roll out of our new Source to Contract IT Platform and shall conclude its implementation in the first quarter of 2025.	In 2025, we will continue to build upon this digital risk management infrastructure, by adopting a 3 <sup>rd</sup> party Risk Identification and Monitoring platform, which will allow us to effectively identify, prioritise and monitor ESG risks across our indirect supply base.
Awareness and training	In 2023, we continued to ensure that as part of the onboarding process for new Procurement team joiners, mandatory modern slavery training is carried out, with periodic refresher training for the Procurement team.	In 2024, all new Procurement team members took part in and completed modern slavery awareness training.	In 2025, we will develop refreshed modern slavery training for the Procurement Team.
Monitoring	Right to speak: In 2023, we reviewed and followed up concerns received through our Right to Speak facility. We received a total of 612 whistleblower reports, none of which identified modern slavery.	Right to speak: In 2024, we reviewed and followed up concerns received through our Right to Speak facility. We received a total of 609 whistleblower reports.	Ongoing monitoring: We will continue to address concerns received from stakeholders.

# **Part Five:** Consultation with controlled entities & other relevant information

During the reporting period, our Modern Slavery Working Group has consulted with all owned and controlled entities' Governance Committees to understand any actual or perceived risks over Modern Slavery as well as to confirm if they had received any reports of any actual modern slavery identified in their operations or supply chains. No reports had been received during the reporting period.

Our modern slavery response is uniform across all our subsidiary entities. The operational activity and core supply chains of all



subsidiaries have adopted a streamlined approach for consistency.



# Appendix 1: List of Subsidiaries during the reporting period

COMPANY	Country of Incorporation/ Formation
Choreograph Technology Solutions Pty Ltd (formerly Acceleration Consulting Pty Ltd)	Australia
AKQA Limited	New Zealand
AKQA Media Pty Ltd (i)	Australia
AKQA Pty Ltd	Australia
Barton Deakin Pty Limited	Australia
Blaze Advertising Pty Ltd (i)	Australia
Brand Communications Pty Ltd (ii)	Australia
Brand Power Pty Ltd	Australia
Brand Power Inc	Canada
TBPC Sdn Bhd	Germany
TBPC Sdn Bhd (formerly Buchanan Advertising (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd)	Malaysia
Brand Power Limited	United Kingdom
The Brand Power Company LLC	USA
The Brand Power Company Pte Ltd	Singapore
Buchanan Licencing Singapore Pte Ltd (iii)	Singapore
Burson Pty Ltd (formerly Burson Cohn & Wolfe Pty Ltd)	Australia
Cannings Advisory Services Pty Limited	Australia
Designworks (NZ) Limited	New Zealand
Essence Global Australia Pty Ltd	Australia
EssenceMediacom Australia Pty Ltd	Australia
EssenceMediacom New Zealand Limited	New Zealand
Ethnic Communications Pty Ltd (i)	Australia
GroupM Communications Pty Ltd	Australia
GroupM New Zealand Limited	New Zealand
GTB Australia Pty Ltd (i)	Australia
Hawker Britton Group Pty Ltd	Australia
Hill and Knowlton Australia Pty Ltd	Australia
Hogarth Australia Pty Ltd	Australia
Landor Associates Pty Ltd (formerly Landor & Fitch Pty Ltd)	Australia
L'Atelier Media Pty Ltd	Australia
Life Agency Pty Ltd (i)	Australia
M Media Group Pty Ltd	Australia



(i) The entity was deregistered during the reporting period.

(ii) The entity was sold during the reporting period.

(iii) Merged into The Brand Power Company Pte Ltd