

Modern Slavery Statement

The Royal Women's Hospital

2019/2020



the women's
the royal women's hospital
victoria australia

The Royal Women's Slavery Act Statement

This Modern Slavery Statement is made pursuant to the Commonwealth *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (the Act) by the Royal Women's Hospital and relates to the financial year 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

Identify the reporting entity

The Royal Women's Hospital ABN 62 787 822 077.

Describe the reporting entity's structure, operations and supply chains

The Royal Women's Hospital (the Women's) is a health service established under section 181 of the *Health Services Act 1988* (Vic). The Women's is Australia's first and largest specialist hospital dedicated to improving the health of all women and newborns. Each year, we provide in excess of 250,000 episodes of care for women from 189 countries, who speak 90 different languages, and follow 69 separate religious faiths.

For more than 160 years, the Women's has led the advocacy and advancement of women's health and wellbeing across Victoria and further afield. We are committed to a holistic philosophy of health. We provide comprehensive services ranging from health promotion to clinical expertise and leadership in maternity, gynaecology, women's cancer services and in the specialist care of newborns.

The Women's outsources its procurement of clinical products and supply chain services to Melbourne Health. Melbourne Health Supply Chain provides the following services:

- Management of all Health Share Victoria (HSV), contracts for the Women's including commercial assessments, product trials, implementation, product substitution and reporting
- Delivery of goods to the Women's
- Imprest system to nominated areas for stock and non-stock purchases.

HSV is a state-wide procurement organisation that collaborates 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. As part of the Melbourne Health supply chain agreement, the Women's purchases the majority of the goods and services that it needs from suppliers who are party to HSV collective agreements. As such, it is recognised and accepted that HSV has a significant role in the Women's supply chain.

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.

Melbourne Health, and also Health Share Victoria (HSV), formerly Health Purchasing Victoria (HPV), were consulted in preparation of this year's statement, and they have confirmed that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they were insufficiently resourced to undertake any Modern Slavery risk assessments during the 2019-20 reporting period. The Women's will continue to work with both Melbourne Health and HSV throughout 2020-21, to ensure reporting is provided in our next Statement.

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

The Women's has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has resulted in reduced capacity to conduct a detailed risk assessment of our operations and supply chains.

The Women's recognises that the extensive nature of our global supply chains may expose us to modern slavery risks. Given HSV's significant role in the Women's supply chains, HSV has helped identify the general risks of modern slavery that may be present.

HSV has scoped the general modern slavery risks in health service supply chains by drawing on academic research and international and domestic reports and analysis. The Women's may be exposed to a number of modern slavery risks due to the diversity of products and services sourced by HSV and the associated geographic locations, industries and regulatory systems further down those supply chains. Some of the general risk areas present in the Women'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.

The Women's holds a number of investments with the Victorian Funds Management Corp. (VFMC). VFMC has a global investment portfolio spanning most major industries and countries and sectors such as energy, food and beverage, and materials.

The Women's recognises the importance of the role that both HSV and Melbourne Health have in our supply chain, and VFMC with its investments, and will continue to work with these organisations throughout 2020/21 to understand modern slavery risk.

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

The Women's has been able to prepare a framework for identifying and addressing modern slavery. This will be further developed and implemented throughout 2020/21, in accordance with the Act.

The Women's upholds the Australian Government's position on modern slavery, and will continue to work throughout 2020/21, in partnership with HSV, to understand modern slavery risk in our supply chain. However, in the meantime, the Women's has undertaken a significant amount of work in developing a Modern Slavery Framework.

This includes development of:

- Modern slavery governance structure
- Modern slavery procurement procedure
- Modern slavery risk – Risk Register
- Modern slavery risk assessment strategy

- Modern slavery risk assessment tool
- Modern slavery risk assessment questionnaire
- Risk assessment tool for utilisation in tendering activities
- Modern slavery contract clauses
- Modern slavery remediation process
- Modern slavery training material

In addition, the Women's has developed a Modern Slavery Action Plan to ensure that it continues implement its modern slavery framework. This plan includes:

- Conducting risk-based assessment of all non-HSV contracts to identify suppliers to assess for modern slavery risk
- Screening of prospective suppliers for modern slavery risk as part of any invitation to supply activities;
- Assess incumbent suppliers for modern slavery risk through tailored supplier questionnaires;
- Facilitate training workshops for staff on modern slavery practices and the requirements of the Act; and
- Manage remediation actions arising from due diligence or supplier questionnaires.

Describe how the reporting entity assesses the effectiveness of these actions

The Women's recognises the importance of this activity and will introduce assessment mechanisms in the FY2020-21 reporting period.

This will include:

- Continued implementation of the Modern Slavery Framework;
- Completion of risk assessments;
- Additional staff training; and
- Modern slavery reporting to the Women's Executive and Board on progress.

Describe the process of consultation with any entities the reporting entity owns or controls (a joint statement must also describe consultation with the entity giving the statement)

The Women's does not own or have any controlling interest in any other entities.

Any other relevant information

In order to support the implementation of the Act within health services, HSV has developed a toolkit to assist with meeting the requirements under the Act. The toolkit will contain:

- A modern slavery plan to support the implementation of the governance structures, policies, processes and risk registers needed to underpin a successful modern slavery framework;
- Advice on implementing a modern slavery policy;
- A modern slavery risk register to capture and address the key modern slavery risks that a health service might cause, contribute or be directly linked to;
- A modern slavery risk assessment tool, including advice on modern slavery risk assessments, supplier questionnaires for ITS due diligence and incumbent suppliers and advice on how to interpret questionnaire results;

- A modern slavery fact sheet to facilitate staff training; and
- Supplier contract considerations, including the addition of modern slavery clauses in contracts.

The rollout and implementation of the toolkit will support health services to conduct their own risk assessment, due diligence and remediation activities. The Women's intends to implement the toolkit once it becomes available.

Closing statement

The Women's is confident that the steps taken in the 2019/20 year have built a good foundation for a robust modern slavery framework. The Women's recognises there is more to do and is committed to continually improving our approach, collaborating with our stakeholders to identify and eradicate modern slavery in our supply chains.

This statement was approved by the Board of the Royal Women's Hospital on 18 March 2021.



CEO

Royal Women's Hospital