

Modern Slavery Statement – December 2023

Introduction

The Yooralla Society of Victoria (“Yooralla” ACN 005 304 432) has developed this Modern Slavery Statement (‘the Statement’) in line with the Modern Slavery Act (2018) (‘the Act’) requirements.

The Statement outlines the actions undertaken to identify and address any modern slavery risks taking place in Yooralla’s operations and supply chains during the reporting period (1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023).

Yooralla was established in 1918 to support people with disability and has become one of Victoria’s largest and oldest disability service providers. This is the second Statement prepared by Yooralla and reflects our progress from the initial steps taken last year and re-affirms our commitment to comply with the Act.

Our reporting entity

This Modern Slavery Statement covers Yooralla, a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission located in Victoria, Australia. Yooralla is a company limited by Guarantee (ACN 005 304 432 and ABN 14 005 304 432).

This Statement has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Australian Modern Slavery Act. As part of this Statement, Yooralla reports on its actions to assess and address modern slavery risks associated with its operations, supply chains and investment portfolio.

Our Corporate Structure

Yooralla is a public company limited by guarantee. There are no subsidiaries nor joint ventures. In the reporting period, Yooralla had 1,989 employees. An estimated 150 volunteers were engaged.

Our Operations

Yooralla provides a wide range of tailored, flexible and quality services for people with disability of all ages and needs, as well as carers. Examples include:

- **Accommodation** - Yooralla provides many supported independent living options for people with disability across Victoria (metro and regional).
- **Assistance with daily living** - Providing high-quality, individualised supports in your home and community.

- **Communication and assistive technology** - Yooralla's Assistive Technology services support children and adults with disability, their families and carers to access a range of assistive technology services.
- **Community hubs and support** - Yooralla provides community-based supports for people with disability, where every individual is encouraged to pursue their goals by accessing skills-based learning, recreation and social activities.
- **Job skills and employment pathways** - Yooralla supports people with disability to pursue their employment goals by providing job skills training and building pathways into employment.
- **Specialist children's support** - Yooralla provides specialised early intervention programs and children's therapy, to support children and families.
- **Therapy** - Yooralla's Therapy services support adults and children with disability at all ages and life stages.
- **Support coordination** - Yooralla provides Support Coordination to help people with disability and their family or support network to navigate through the different stages of their National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) journey and achieve their NDIS goals.
- **Support for children with autism** - Yooralla provides tailored services for children with autism, recognising the importance of early intervention in building a child's capacity through their early years.

Yooralla manages an investment portfolio to support operations. Our Investment Policy Statement outlines that Yooralla seeks to be a socially responsible investor and hence applies an ethical filter to not invest in companies known to systematically engage in unethical employment practices or who are known to have a supply chain which engages in exploitative practices.

Supply Chain

Our supply chain consists of services and goods that support our main activities, provided by approximately 630 suppliers in 2022/23 with whom Yooralla currently has agreements. Examples of key suppliers include:

- Professional services
- Building maintenance
- Materials manufacturing
- Attendant care agencies
- IT Consultancy services
- Utilities
- Healthcare products
- Rental properties

These key supplier agreements for the provision of goods and services are with Australian based organisations however Yooralla has engaged suppliers from Germany, Malaysia, USA and Belgium during the year. The services purchased from non-Australian based organisations relate to IT licencing (USA and Germany), professional services (Belgium) and raw material supplies (Malaysia).

Our broader supply chain is both large and complex, likely spanning a wide range of industries and geographies. To date, we have not conducted any risk assessments beyond our Tier 1 suppliers other than for our cleaning contracts which is a higher risk industry. Supply chains are divided into different 'tiers'. 'Tier 1' suppliers are contracted directly to provide goods and services, who in turn may subcontract to 'Tier 2' suppliers.

Yooralla recognises that over time we will need to better understand more of our Tier 2 suppliers and beyond in order to effectively manage our modern slavery risk. We understand that the Act requires Yooralla to assess the effectiveness of our actions. It is noted that Yooralla uses a number of state government endorsed suppliers, via Health Share Victoria (HSV), where HSV undertakes the modern slavery screening activities.

Yooralla recognises and intends to classify our fuller supply chain in terms of risk of modern slavery for future reporting periods.

Identification of risks of modern slavery in our operations and supply chain

a) **Risks within our operations:**

- Services provided by Yooralla are delivered by a team of skilled, professional staff.
- Within our operations, Yooralla acknowledges that our workforce includes employees and external contractors with temporary or voluntary work settings, immigration visas and who have English as a second language, which increases risk.

b) **Risks within our supply chain:**

- In this reporting period, almost all our direct suppliers were organisations based in Australia, which is considered to be a region at lower risk of modern slavery. We do, however, recognise that modern slavery is still present in Australia and as such, should be a consideration when engaging with our suppliers.
- The small proportion of Yooralla's suppliers not based in Australia were based in countries such as Germany, Malaysia, USA and Belgium.
- Yooralla's acknowledges that some of our suppliers are operating in countries where modern slavery risks may be more prevalent, such as Malaysia. We recognise the potential risks associated with the use of external suppliers.

As part of its long-term organisational stability and growth, Yooralla has established two Investment Portfolios to generate income and growth to support activities into the future. We recognise the potential risks associated with the investment in companies that do not engage in ethical practices or have exploitative practices within their supply/value chain.

Yooralla has carried out a high-level supplier risk assessment for our direct (tier 1) suppliers as a first step to better understanding the level of risk in our supply chain. This will help guide our approach to manage modern slavery risk with our suppliers moving forward.

For the reporting period, the majority of Yooralla's direct suppliers have been identified as belonging to industries that are classified as high or medium risk. These include:

- Industrials (e.g. cleaners, security services, food and catering, equipment repair services)
- Health Care (e.g. manufacturers of health care equipment and devices, technology services to healthcare providers)
- Information technology
- Consumer discretionary.

Yooralla is committed to responsibly assessing and addressing modern slavery risks within our operations and throughout our supply chain. It is our aim to take steps to prevent and, if required, address any modern slavery in connection with our own operations, as well as the suppliers who work with us or act on our behalf.

Examples of work undertaken to date include:

- A board approved Modern Slavery Policy being implemented.
- Enhancement of existing policies (e.g. Modern Slavery, Purchasing) including clearly outlining the grievance procedures for staff.
- Revised purchasing procedure manual which includes a modern slavery questionnaire, and checks that this questionnaire has been completed.
- Promotion of changes to the modern slavery and purchasing policies via Yooralla's Policy of the Week initiative.
- Roll out of an e-learning training module to management.
- Investment policy incorporating relevant ethical requirements for directly held investments.
- Whistleblower policy available to employees, customers, carers, family, visitors, volunteers, agency workers and members of the public.
- An updated website, including grievance procedures for the public.

We will continue to build the maturity of our modern slavery approach and there are a number of existing governance processes which we are leveraging as we further develop. These include:

- Yooralla has a Roadmap for Modern Slavery Risk Management which encompasses all aspects of good risk management, including a focus on guiding our organisation through the set up and delivery of key actions and milestones for our first three years.
- Yooralla has an implemented approach to manage a wide range of existing business risks. A key aspect of this approach is the oversight of the Audit and Risk Committee, which has been assigned the governance and management responsibility for assessing, addressing and reporting Modern Slavery risks.
- As per Yooralla's Purchasing Procedure Manual, the selection of suppliers is based on the assessment of both quantitative and qualitative factors. Once the supplier is at contract stage, it is then subjected to Senior Management endorsement, prior to the commencement of an agreement. While there have been no significant changes in Yooralla's procurement approach during the reporting period, we now have modern slavery requirements incorporated into our purchasing process and checks are in place to ensure these requirements are met.
- Yooralla has not received any reports of incidents of modern slavery in our operations or supply chain during the reporting period of this statement.

Yooralla's suppliers may themselves engage with suppliers who operate within geographical regions or industries that have elevated modern slavery risk. Unfortunately, Yooralla does not currently have full visibility over the services and goods sourced by our suppliers. As mentioned earlier in the Statement, in future periods, we will work to improve our understanding of the modern slavery risk beyond the first tier of our supply chain in order to better understand and manage this in the future.

Evaluation of the effectiveness of our actions:

Yooralla recognises the importance of reducing its modern slavery risks and is developing a process to assess the effectiveness of its current actions to inform whether these actions continue to be appropriate. Processes currently being developed include regular reviews of new/renewed procurement agreements to monitor compliance and providing training and information for all staff.

This Statement has been discussed and prepared by our Management team and approved by the Board in accordance with the requirements of the Australian Modern Slavery Act. The Executive Director of Quality, Strategy and Risk takes ownership of Modern Slavery risk assessment and compliance.

This Modern Slavery Statement was approved by the Board of Directors on 19 December 2023.



Jennifer Williams, AM
Board Chair



Terry Symonds
Chief Executive Officer