

**ABC MODERN SLAVERY
STATEMENT FY2022**



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**THIS STATEMENT HAS BEEN APPROVED
BY THE BOARD OF THE AUSTRALIAN
BROADCASTING CORPORATION**

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation remains firmly committed to reducing the risk of exploitation in global supply chains.

In the third year of reporting under the Modern Slavery Act 2018, the ABC continues to mature and evolve its approach to managing modern slavery risk.

Looking forward we will continue to work with our suppliers to embed ethical sourcing practices in our supply chains.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Anderson', with a long, horizontal flourish underneath.

David Anderson
ABC Managing Director



1. INTRODUCING THE ABC

For 90 years, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) has been part of the fabric of Australian life and its most trusted voice as it delivers stories in accordance with the ABC Charter. The ABC Charter, set down by the Australian Parliament, requires the ABC to provide informative, entertaining, and educational services that reflect the breadth of our nation.

Our obligation to the community extends beyond broadcasting, to the way in which we operate and use our buying power to deliver our social and sustainable procurement objectives, such as increasing supplier diversity and managing supply chain risk.

Our commitment to supplier diversity is addressed in our Elevate level [Reconciliation Action Plan](#), and our commitment to managing modern slavery risk is addressed in our third Modern Slavery Statement (Statement).

The ABC continues to work with its suppliers and staff to build awareness of modern slavery risk in its supply chains.

2. ABC'S STRUCTURE, OPERATIONS AND SUPPLY CHAINS

STRUCTURE

The ABC (ABN 52 429 278 345) is a Corporate Commonwealth Entity (CCE) operating in accordance with the ABC Charter, as prescribed in the Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act 1983. As a CCE, the ABC is a separate legal entity and can act in its own right to create contracts.

The ABC Board is the principal governing body of the ABC. The duties of the Board include ensuring that the functions of the ABC are performed efficiently and with maximum benefit to the people of Australia, while maintaining the independence and integrity of the organisation.

The ABC has a national footprint, with operations in ten major metropolitan areas and forty-seven regional offices nationally.

In addition to its broad national footprint, the ABC also operates multiple foreign newsgathering bureaux and conducts international training projects in several other countries. The ABC is recognised as the pre-eminent Australian media organisation in the Indo-Pacific region.

OPERATIONS

ABC operations include the production, acquisition, distribution, and transmission of content to audiences across Television, Radio, Online and Digital platforms.

In the financial year to 30 June 2022 the ABC's combined national audience reach across television, radio and online was estimated to be 69.4%, an increase of 1.3% compared to the previous year and driven by a growth in reach across the platforms through the COVID-19 pandemic. The ABC's multi-faceted operations are detailed further in Figure 1.



FIGURE 1: ABC OPERATIONS

ON THE RADIO

ABC NEWS on radio

A national, 24-hour radio news network

National Radio Networks

RN, ABC Classic, triple j

Capital City Local Radio

Available from all eight capital cities

Regional Local Radio

Available in regional locations around Australia

Digital Radio

Double J, ABC Classic 2, ABC Jazz, ABC Country, ABC Sport, triple j unearthed, and ABC KIDS Listen

ABC Radio Australia

A new, information and entertainment service for the Pacific region

ON YOUR SCREENS

ABC

The ABC's primary television channel

ABC Kids / ABC COMEDY

Television for pre-schoolers until 7.30pm; then comedy for grown ups

ABC ME

A dedicated children's channel

ABC NEWS on television

Broadcasting national and breaking news 24 hours a day

ABC News Digital

In-depth journalism content, analysis and opinion

abc.net.au

Your gateway to ABC news, information, and entertainment

ABC iview

The ABC's online television catch-up and streaming service – available in Kids and international versions

Streaming radio

On ABC listen, ABC KIDS listen and via ABC websites

Apps

For smartphones and tablets

Third-party platforms

Apple News, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter & more

COMMERCIAL

Content sales and distribution

ABC TV content and format licensing, and library sales, ABC NEWS syndication

ABC Music and Events

Record label commercially releasing music and live events

Publishing and licensing

Books and audiobooks, magazines and a range of merchandise

ABC Studios and Media Productions

Provision of production services to the market

INTERNATIONAL

ABC Australia and ABC Radio Australia

Television, radio and online services for audiences across the Indo-Pacific and around the world

ABC International Development (ABCID)

Partnering with media, civil society and government organisations in the Asia-Pacific region, to assist in designing and delivering communication initiatives

THE ABC'S SUPPLY CHAIN

As a national broadcaster, the ABC has a very diverse supply chain, which is influenced by the regional and global production and distribution of our content through to the types of goods and services necessary to support this operational footprint.

Like other organisations, the ABC relies on a combination of internal and external data sources to map and understand its supply chain. The ABC continues to work collaboratively with its suppliers to better understand how and where they source goods for the organisation.

CATEGORIES OF SPEND

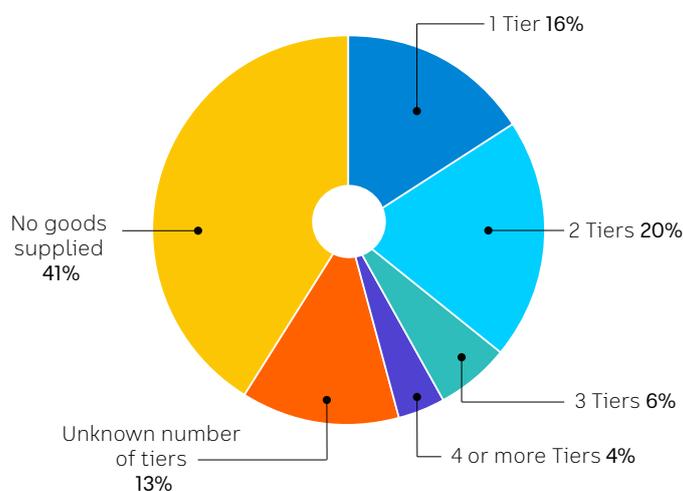
For the purposes of managing modern slavery risk at the ABC, all categories of spend (direct and indirect) are captured in this statement. The following are the primary categories of spend, each with a varying degree of potential modern slavery due to the nature of the goods or services they cover and the location with which they are manufactured:

- Information Technology Equipment & Services
- Property Services
- Office Supplies
- Consultants & Contractors
- Marketing & Communications
- Program Rights & Royalties
- Production & Broadcasting
- Travel & Fleet

The ABC takes a risk-based approach when engaging with suppliers in these categories to ensure a supplier's supply chain is traceable.

To better understand supply chain complexity of these high-risk suppliers, the ABC's annual supplier survey asks respondents to advise of the number of tiers in their supply chain (Figure 2).

FIGURE 2: TIER PROFILE



When compared with last year's result, there were notable shifts across most tier levels, with a greater concentration of surveyed suppliers now having only one or two tiers.

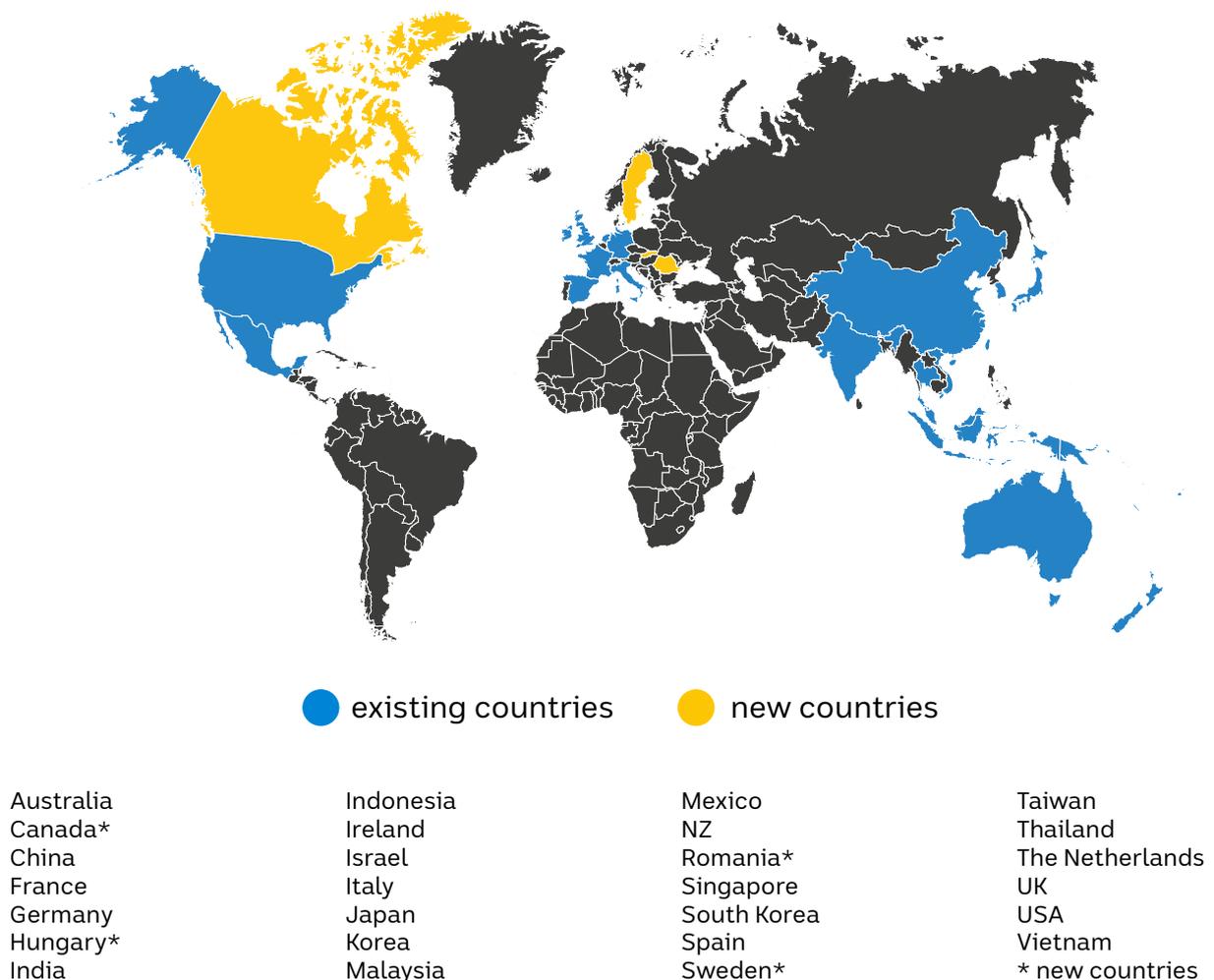
COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

While most ABC suppliers are Australian based, this does not mitigate the risk of modern slavery and in accordance with the ABC’s standard contract conditions, locally based suppliers need to be able to provide information about their supply chains upon request. One such request is the requirement for nominated ABC suppliers to complete the annual supplier survey. The survey results complement the country-of-origin data which is a requirement in all ABC tender documentation.

Analysis of the 2022 survey results (Figure 3) identified 26 countries of manufacture, a considerable decrease from the 39 countries reported in 2021. This decrease may be attributed to market movement and consolidation that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic. This reduced number includes four new countries which were all checked against the [Global Slavery Index](#) for their prevalence of modern slavery risk. These additional countries were rated as having low to medium risk levels.

According to the Index, the countries of interest for the ABC in 2022 are Thailand, Malaysia and India. Both Thailand and Malaysia were identified as very high risk by [Electronics Watch](#) in a 2021 report commissioned by the Australian Government into key ICT hardware suppliers across government. The ABC is increasing its focus on its IT suppliers to better understand how they are managing the risks of manufacturing and disposal in these countries.

FIGURE 3: COUNTRIES MANUFACTURING GOODS FOR THE ABC

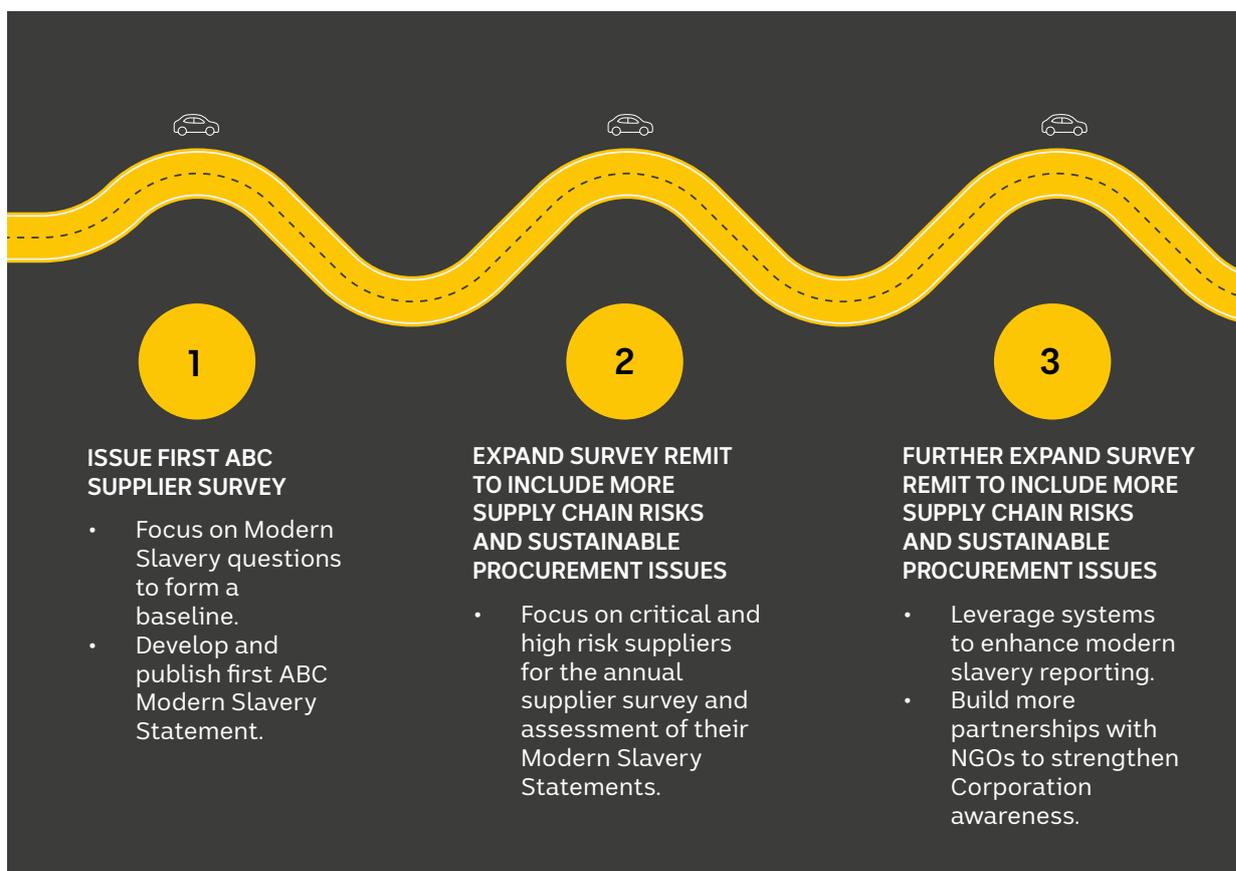


3. MODERN SLAVERY RISKS

MODERN SLAVERY ROAD MAP

During FY2022, the ABC continued to focus on the implementation of the initiatives set out in its Modern Slavery Road Map (Figure 4) to mitigate and manage its modern slavery risks and to plan for continuous improvement. This is currently at Stage 2, with planning in place to progress to Stage 3.

FIGURE 4: ABC MODERN SLAVERY ROAD MAP



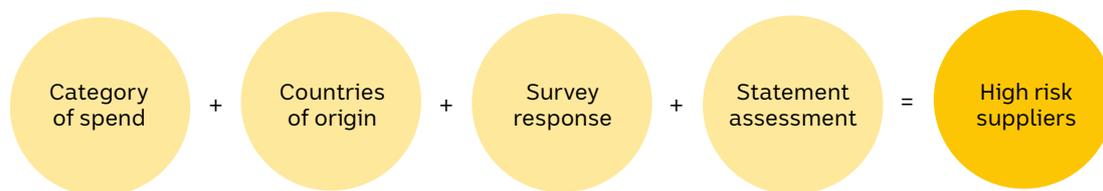
IDENTIFYING AND ASSESSING RISK

The initial Road Map milestones focused on establishing a suite of foundational activities which have formed a baseline from which the ABC can measure its progress in identifying and managing modern slavery risk. This baseline was informed by a Risk Identification Process (Figure 5) which draws on a diverse range of available datasets to identify and assess the risk of modern slavery in its supply chains.

After establishing a baseline, the ABC has been able to further tailor its approach to focus on high-risk suppliers. Suppliers are categorised as high risk based on the:

- Nature of their industry
- Types of goods and services
- Countries of manufacturing
- Quality of their governance structures

FIGURE 5: RISK IDENTIFICATION PROCESS



By taking a more tailored approach, the analysis of the high-risk suppliers is more thorough and can be undertaken in partnership with the ABC staff who manage these engagements.

If any red flags are identified during a risk assessment, the ABC contract manager is advised and seeks clarification from the supplier. Our approach is to raise awareness and build capability. Any concerns about modern slavery practices would be referred to the Australian Border Force.

4. THE ABC'S ACTIONS

STAFF TRAINING

Over 730 staff and contractors with purchasing responsibilities have completed the ABC 'Before You Buy' training course which addresses modern slavery risks when purchasing. To further build organisational awareness of these risks, staff will now be encouraged to complete the e-Learning modules on modern slavery in the [Resources section](#) of the Australian Modern Slavery Register.

GUIDANCE

In 2021 the ABC developed a Social and Sustainable Procurement Evaluation Guide to support the successful application of social and sustainable criteria, including modern slavery requirements, in the ABC's procurement activities. It's critical that staff understand how social and sustainable criteria should inform their decision making.

SUPPLIER MANAGEMENT

The ABC's existing modern slavery tender obligations are being built into the ABC's new sourcing and contract management system which will significantly enhance the future data capture and reporting on supply chain risk. The new system will also support staff whose responsibilities are to manage contracts, to ensure their suppliers' deliver on their commitments.

The ABC recognises the critical role individual suppliers play in its supply chain and how important supplier engagement is for both parties.

SUPPLIER SURVEY

In 2022, the annual supplier survey was issued to 205 companies, each identified through a risk-based approach targeting:

- 20 business-critical suppliers
- Top 10 suppliers by spend per category
- Suppliers of goods and services with a higher risk of modern slavery in their supply chain



Most of the survey questions pertain to modern slavery and the management of supply chain risk. The annual survey also reminds these suppliers of their obligations under the [ABC Supplier Code of Conduct](#) and the ABC's goal to collaborate with its suppliers to foster capable, ethical and resilient supply chains.

This year's survey saw a significant drop in the number of ABC suppliers required to submit annual Modern Slavery Statements. This reduction is most likely attributable to the impact of COVID on the ABC's supply chain. While there was a drop in the number of suppliers preparing Statements, over 90% did report having a policy or formal position on human and labour rights.

STATEMENT ASSESSMENT

In addition to the supplier survey analysis, the ABC continues to rely heavily on its suppliers' published Statements to verify and test individual supplier's own risk mitigations.

EXTERNAL COLLABORATION

Since the commencement of the Modern Slavery Act 2018 (the Act), the ABC has actively participated in modern slavery forums to help inform its own approach to managing this supply chain risk. Learnings from collaboration has resulted in the ABC taking a more targeted risk-based approach with focus on the categories and countries with the highest prevalence of modern slavery.

SUPPLIER CODE OF CONDUCT

Underpinning the ABC's approach to mitigating modern slavery is the [ABC Supplier Code of Conduct](#) (the Code). The Code defines the expectations of its suppliers and their supply chains, positioning procurement as an enabler of the ABC's values of Integrity, Respect, Collegiality, and Innovation.

The Code permits the ABC to seek information regarding modern slavery risks from its suppliers. A supplier may be deemed non-compliant with the Code if they fail to demonstrate sufficient openness and transparency. The ABC did not need to evoke the Code or enforce any modern slavery reporting obligations on any suppliers in 2022.

Similarly, there were no internal or external complaints received regarding supplier's being unable to satisfy the ABC's modern slavery risk obligations.

Complaints can be made via email to:

- abc.suppliers@abc.net.au
- collins.sarah@abc.net.au (National Procurement Manager)
- whistleblower.hotline@abc.net.au

5. ASSESSING EFFECTIVENESS

While the ABC continues to develop mechanisms to mitigate the risk of modern slavery in its supply chain, it also recognises the importance of measuring the work currently being undertaken. We are committed to improving our treatment of modern slavery risks and recognise that the intent of the Act is to drive compliance but also foster education, by all buyers and suppliers in the chain.

The following table (Figure 6) captures the key measures the ABC currently relies upon to measure the effectiveness of its modern slavery initiatives.

FIGURE 6: MODERN SLAVERY ACTIONS MEASUREMENT

ACTIVITY	ACTIONS	MEASURE	SOURCE
ABC AWARENESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of tools • Completion of training. • Management of supplier performance. • External collaboration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of staff undertaking recommended training. • Number of external engagements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement reporting. • Training data.
SUPPLIER AWARENESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of tender response. • Adherence to contract requirements. • Adherence to the Code. • Participation in the Annual Supplier Survey. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All respondents meeting the modern slavery requirements. • Survey response rate percentage. • No contract or Code non-compliances identified. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement reporting. • Survey results. • Complaints database.

6. OTHER ENTITIES

The ABC had three controlled entities in the financial year ended 30 June 2022. There is no perceivable risk of modern slavery in relation to ABC's controlled entities as they either did not trade or only operated in a limited administrative capacity during the year ending 30 June 2022.

7. NEXT STEPS

From buying to broadcasting, the ABC takes very seriously its social and legislative obligation to reduce the local and global risk of modern slavery. In 2022-23, the ABC will pursue the following actions to further develop its organisational awareness of supply chain risk and collaborate with high-risk suppliers to improve supply chain traceability and accountability.

Specifically, this will include:

- Developing an internal guideline to support the ABC's management of modern slavery risk.
- Delivering the initiatives outlined in the ABC's Modern Slavery Road Map.
- Supporting suppliers to move beyond simply complying with the Modern Slavery Act.