



Modern Slavery Act Statement

1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022

Maryborough District Health Services Modern Slavery Statement

This Modern Slavery Statement is made pursuant to the Commonwealth Modern Slavery Act 2018 (the Act) by Maryborough District Health Service and relates to the financial year 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

Mandatory Criteria 1 & 2: Identify the reporting entity and describe its structure, operations and supply chains.

Maryborough District Health Service is a health service established under section 181 of the Health Services Act 1988 (Vic).

Maryborough District Health Service is a growing regional health service providing a comprehensive array of health care services to the Local Government Areas of Central Goldfields and Pyrenees Shires in Central Victoria. MDHS provides a comprehensive range of services including acute, sub-acute, maternity, urgent care, women's health, medical imaging, palliative care, oncology services, renal dialysis, residential aged care, allied health, community health and oral health.

MDHS is driven by the vision to be an innovative leader in the health care field and provide outstanding person centred care to our community.

The main campus is located in Maryborough with other services delivered from the Avoca and Dunolly campuses. The strong clinical and social links that have been developed and nurtured between the three campuses ensure that the community is cared for by trained staff who are committed to high standards of person centered care.

HealthShare Victoria (HSV) is a state-wide procurement organisation that partners 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. Maryborough District Health Services purchases the goods and services it needs from the suppliers who are party to HSV collective agreements. As such, it is recognised that HSV has a significant role in health service supply chains.

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.

HSV contracts cover a broad range of services, equipment and supplies across a number of categories including ventilators, beds, mattresses, patient trolleys, treatment chairs, hypodermic needles and syringes, gloves, pharmaceutical products, IV fluids, agency labour, catering supplies, laundry and linen services and non-emergency patient transport. A full list of HSV's sourcing categories can be found at <https://www.HSV.org.au/contracts-and-documents/contracts>.

HSV acknowledges the impact that COVID-19 has had on global supply chains, particularly in light of the significant increase in demand for personal protective equipment. HSV will undertake activities to investigate whether supply chains were restructured as a result of the significant procurement challenges faced during the pandemic.

Mandatory Criterion Three: Describe the risks of modern slavery practices in the operations and supply chains of the reporting entity and any entities the reporting entity owns or controls:

Due to the significant impact of Covid-19, Maryborough District Health Service has been unable to undertake a formal risk assessment of its operations and supply chains. Maryborough District Health Service will endeavour to conduct a risk assessment for the 2021-2022 reporting period.

Maryborough District Health Service is at a low risk of modern slavery practices within the organisations direct operations due to all employees being employed under the relevant Enterprise Business Agreement. No known risks have been identified at the time of writing this Statement.

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

Maryborough District Health Service understands that its supply chains may be impacted by modern slavery practices, 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 Maryborough District Health Services' supply chain include:

- Labour and manufacturing in overseas facilities for medical consumables and equipment and ICT equipment;
- Labour and manufacturing in overseas facilities for textiles including uniforms;
- Labour for the cleaning industry.

It is understood that a number of medical consumables manufacturers contracted with HSV have high modern slavery risks and that HSV is addressing this on behalf of all health services.

Mandatory Criterion Four: Describe the actions taken by the reporting entity and any entities that the reporting entity owns or controls to assess and address these risks, including due diligence and remediation processes:

Maryborough District Health Service has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has resulted in reduced capacity to undertake actions to assess and address modern slavery risks in our operations and supply chains. Maryborough District Health Service recognises the importance of this activity and in conjunction with HSV, will endeavour to undertake these actions in the FY2021-22 reporting period. In the interim, Maryborough District Health Service will engage with HSV to understand the actions that HSV has undertaken to assess and address the modern slavery risks in Maryborough District Health Services' supply chains.

Maryborough District Health Service engages with Bendigo Health for contract and tender support. Bendigo Health is beginning to implement modern slavery clauses and schedules into relevant policies and every contract and tender to assist in the assessment and reporting of each contractors modern slavery risks.

Mandatory Criterion Five: Describe how the reporting entity assesses the effectiveness of actions being taken to assess and address modern slavery risks:

Maryborough District Health Services has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has resulted in reduced capacity to implement mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of actions taken to address our modern slavery risks. Maryborough District Health Services recognises the importance of this activity and will endeavour to introduce assessment mechanisms in the FY2021-22 reporting period. In the interim, Maryborough District Health Service will engage with HSV to understand the effectiveness of the assessments they have conducted.

Mandatory Criterion Six: Describe the process of consultation with any entities the reporting entity owns or controls

Not applicable – Maryborough District Health Service does not own or control any other entities.

Mandatory Criterion Seven: 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.

Maryborough District Health Services intends to implement the toolkit once it becomes available.

Closing Statement

Maryborough District Health Service recognises the importance of identifying and bringing modern slavery practices to an end and is therefore committed to working with its supply chain to eliminate these practices.

This statement was endorsed by the Board of Maryborough District Health Service on 24th November 2021.



Kelly Mason
Chair, Maryborough District Health Service