

## Modern Slavery Factsheet

### Background

The Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth) (the Act) came into force on 1 January 2019. The Act requires larger companies and other entities in Australia to report on how they are preventing and addressing modern slavery risks in their operations and supply chains.

The Eye and Ear Hospital has complied with the Modern Slavery Reporting requirements.

### What is Modern Slavery?

The Act defines modern slavery as including eight types of serious exploitation: trafficking in persons; slavery; servitude; forced marriage; forced labour; debt bondage; deceptive recruiting for labour or services; and the worst forms of child labour. The worst forms of child labour means situations where children are subjected to slavery or similar practices, or engaged in hazardous work. Modern slavery describes situations where coercion, threats or deception are used to exploit victims and undermine or deprive them of their freedom.

### Why is this important?

There are approximately 40 million victims of modern slavery around the world, and Australia is not immune to the problem. In its Guidance for Reporting Entities, the Australian Government estimates there were 1,567 modern slavery victims in Australia between 2015 and 2017.

Modern slavery has devastating consequences for victims as it involves abuse of their human rights and serious crimes. Modern slavery can also significantly impact businesses if not addressed. Substantial reputational and legal risks can arise as well as damaging commercial relationships.

### Identifying Modern Slavery risks in the workplace

There are many indicators to help identify modern slavery risks within operations and supply chains including sector and industry risks, product and services risks, geographic risks, entity risks and personal indicators. It is important to be attentive to any suspicious activities and assess whether modern slavery risks are present. Suspected instances of modern slavery require further investigation and assessment.

Signs that can indicate a person is in a situation of modern slavery include, but are not limited to, living at the workplace; working excessive hours; isolation or confinement; appear to be subject to abuse; subject to less favourable working conditions than other workers; or are unpaid.

If you suspect a situation of modern slavery at The Eye and Ear Hospital, please contact your Manager.

### More information

Modern Slavery is incorporated into the Hospitals Supply & Procurement procedures.

For further general information about modern slavery, the Act and our reporting requirements, please visit the Department of Home Affairs website.

Link: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/criminal-justice/Pages/modern-slavery.aspx>