



ABC MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT FY2025



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

Each year the Australian Broadcasting Corporation procures goods and services from a broad and diverse range of suppliers to meet our obligations under the ABC Charter. As we enter our sixth reporting year under the Australian Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth), we reaffirm our commitment to identifying, managing and reducing modern slavery risks. Through our procurement practices, we continue to promote socially responsible and sustainable outcomes that positively impact our audience, communities, stakeholders, and supply chains.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hugh Marks', followed by a horizontal line.

Hugh Marks
ABC Managing Director

1. INTRODUCING THE ABC

With a legacy spanning over 90 years, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) continues to play a vital role in Australian life. In accordance with the ABC Charter established by the Australian Parliament, our purpose is to deliver content and services that reflect, represent, and contribute to Australia's diverse culture, identity, and society.

As part of fulfilling this purpose, we recognise the importance of ensuring that our operations and procurement choices support social and sustainable outcomes. This includes actively promoting supplier diversity and addressing the complex challenges associated with managing risks in our supply chains, including modern slavery.

Our commitment to supplier diversity is clearly outlined in the [Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Plan 2023-2026](#), while our ongoing efforts to identify, prevent, and address modern slavery risks are reflected in this, our sixth Modern Slavery Statement.

Through strong collaboration with our suppliers, staff, and broader stakeholders, the ABC continues to build awareness and deepen understanding of modern slavery risks within our supply chain. This collective effort reinforces our commitment to ethical sourcing and responsible procurement.

2. ABC'S STRUCTURE, OPERATIONS AND SUPPLY CHAINS

2.1 Structure

The ABC (ABN 52 429 278 345) operates as a Corporate Commonwealth Entity (CCE) in line with the ABC Charter, as outlined 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 organisation's principal governing authority, responsible for overseeing performance, ensuring operational efficiency, and safeguarding the ABC's independence and integrity. It is charged with delivering maximum value to the Australian public while upholding the highest standards of accountability and transparency.

The ABC operates in eleven metropolitan locations and fifty seven regional sites across Australia, ensuring a truly national presence. Beyond Australia's borders, the ABC maintains foreign newsgathering bureaux and runs international training programs, reinforcing its role as Australia's trusted media organisation and a leading voice in the Indo-Pacific region.

2.2 Operations

The ABC is responsible for producing, acquiring, distributing, and transmitting content across Television, Radio, Online, and Digital platforms.

In the financial year ending 30 June 2025, the ABC connected with a broad national audience across these platforms, underlining the breadth and impact of its operations. This reach is illustrated in Figure 1.

FIGURE 1: ABC OPERATIONS

ON THE RADIO

ABC NEWS on radio

a national, 24-hour radio news network

National radio networks¹

Radio National, ABC Classic, triple j

Capital city Local Radio²

available from all eight capital cities

Regional Local Radio³

available in regional locations around Australia

Digital Radio⁴

Double J, ABC Classic 2, ABC Jazz, ABC Country, ABC Sport, triple j Unearthed, triple j Hottest and ABC KIDS listen

ABC Radio Australia

an information and entertainment service for the Pacific region

On your screens

ABC TV

the ABC's primary television channel

ABC Kids / ABC TV PLUS

television for preschoolers until 7.30pm, then a broad range of documentaries, entertainment and arts programs for adults

ABC ME

a dedicated children's channel

ABC NEWS on television

broadcasting national and breaking news 24 hours a day

ABC Australia

television service for audiences across the Indo-Pacific region

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, ABC TV and via ABC websites

Apps

for smartphones and tablets

Commercial

Content Sales and Distribution

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

ABC Music

record label commercially releasing music and live events

Publishing, Licensing and Events

books and audiobooks, magazines, events 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 and radio 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

Source: [Australian Broadcasting Corporation Annual Report 2025](#)

1 Also available in mainland capital cities as a digital radio service, and nationally via digital satellite services.

2 Also available in mainland capital cities as a digital radio service. Some Local radio services are available via digital satellite subscription services.

3 44 regional local radio services are available on AM or FM radio and via streaming. Some Local Radio services are available via digital satellite subscription services.

4 All available as DAB+ stations and streams, except ABC Classic 2 and triple j Hottest which are only available as a stream.

2.3 The ABC's Supply Chain

As Australia's national broadcaster, the ABC's supply chain is broad and diverse, reflecting the complex regional and global networks involved in content production, distribution, and the wide array of goods and/or services necessary to support our operations nationwide.

Our ongoing risk management activities include desktop research, incorporating targeted modern slavery related questions into all procurement and market engagement processes, and embedding Modern Slavery Act compliance requirements in our contract templates, and purchase order terms and conditions. These measures help us detect and address potential risks early and enable us to work collaboratively with suppliers to strengthen ethical practices.

In addition, the ABC monitors broader supply chain risks through research and market analysis, which allows us to adapt our strategies and improve supply chain transparency as required. While a large portion of the ABC's supplier base is located in Australia, this does not eliminate modern slavery risks. As part of our desktop research, we review available country of origin information to support our due diligence in identifying and assessing potential risks.

Every Request for Proposal (RFP) document issued to market includes a mandatory set of modern slavery questions, ensuring suppliers provide information on their governance, risk management, and mitigation practices. Insights gathered from these processes are used alongside our Annual Supplier Survey, providing complementary sources of information that strengthen the ABC's ability to identify risks and promote ethical practices across the supply chain.

2.4 Modern Slavery Risks in ABC Operations

Ethical conduct and social responsibility are central to the way the ABC operates, and we remain firmly committed to identifying and reducing modern slavery risks within our operations.

A key part of this commitment is our employment framework, which includes the ABC Enterprise Agreement 2022–2025, which applies to the majority of our workforce. This agreement reflects our strong focus on fair, safe and ethical working conditions, supporting our ongoing efforts to uphold human rights and prevent exploitation.

2.5 Modern Slavery Risks in ABC Supply Chains

We acknowledge that modern slavery risks can arise when the goods and/or services we procure are linked to unethical or exploitative practices deeper within our supply chain, even if these issues are not immediately visible. Understanding these complexities is critical to ensuring our procurement does not inadvertently contribute to such harms.

The ABC takes a proactive and collaborative approach to ethical sourcing, engaging regularly with our suppliers to promote and uphold responsible practices at every stage of their supply chains. This includes fostering open dialogue and shared accountability so as to prevent, identify and address potential risks before they escalate. This focus is a key factor in maintaining the ABC's risk-based approach regarding modern slavery within our internal operations.

Through detailed analysis and continuous monitoring, we have identified key modern slavery risks aligned with a number of the ABC's spend categories (see Figure 2 below). Each category poses distinct challenges, shaped by the nature of the goods and/or services

and the socio-economic conditions in the regions where they are produced and delivered. This understanding guides our targeted risk management strategies and supplier engagement efforts.

FIGURE 2: MODERN SLAVERY RISK CATEGORIES

Consultants & Contractors	Potential exploitation of workers in consulting and contracting services, especially in low-cost global supply chains.
Information Technology Equipment & Services	Hardware and software components and finished goods can be sourced and produced by vulnerable, low skilled and low wage labour in high-risk countries.
Infrastructure	Risk of exploitation of low skilled migrant workers or those without work rights for construction and refurbishment projects.
Marketing and Communications	Marketing and promotional items can be manufactured in high-risk countries or developing economies by low wage or child labour.
Office Supplies	Consumables components and finished goods can be manufactured in high-risk countries or developing economies by low wage or child labour.
Production & Broadcasting	Risk of exploitation in media production, particularly in underpaid labour in entertainment and content creation.
Program Rights & Royalties	Concerns may arise in the content creation industry regarding royalties, particularly in lower-wage regions.
Property Services	Exploitation of low skilled migrant workers or those without work rights for maintenance of ABC properties.
Renewable Energy	Solar panels or batteries components and finished goods can be sourced and produced by vulnerable workers in high-risk countries.
Travel & Fleet	Potential issues can include exploitation in transportation services and hospitality, or fleet maintenance and the sourcing of components for electric vehicle batteries.

3. OTHER ENTITIES

In the financial year ending 30 June 2025, the ABC had one dormant entity under its control. The ABC consulted with this entity in the development of this Statement, and it was confirmed that the entity was dormant from 1 July 2024 until it was subsequently deregistered on 17 February 2025, and did not engage in any trade.

4. RISK IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

The ABC takes a thorough and integrated approach to identifying modern slavery risks within our supply chains. Our primary focus is on the potential harm to individuals, prioritising human rights risks above business concerns such as legal, financial or reputational impacts.

We recognise that some spend categories and regions carry higher risks of modern slavery. Accordingly, we assess suppliers deemed high-risk based on factors including their industry, the nature of the goods and/or services they provide, and the locations where they operate. If any concerns or “red flags” emerge during these risk assessments, the ABC Contract Manager will engage directly with the supplier to seek further information and clarity.

Our process emphasises awareness-raising and supporting suppliers to build their capacity to manage and mitigate these risks. Where serious issues are identified, they will be escalated to the Attorney-General’s Department or police. To date, including during the current reporting period, the ABC has not identified any actual modern slavery incidents, nor made any such referrals.

5. THE ABC'S ACTIONS

5.1. Modern Slavery Roadmap

The ABC submitted its first Modern Slavery Statement in 2020, informed by insights from a category-based risk assessment and a supplier survey. This first statement set a roadmap for our subsequent statements and in 2025, the ABC continued to advance the initiatives outlined. This included continuing to raise awareness of modern slavery risks among staff, contractors and suppliers, as well as continuing to strengthen our due diligence processes.

In 2025, the ABC concentrated on key areas, including:

- Reviewing our supply-base and identifying additional business-critical and high-risk suppliers to be included in targeted supply chain risk activities;
- Refining our supplier engagement activities to reflect current supply chain risks, with a focus on social and sustainable procurement, the environment, and diversity and inclusion.
- Evaluating the Modern Slavery Statements of our major suppliers to ensure their actions align with ABC's values, policies, and guidelines; and
- Engaging with other organisations and industry groups to share information and strategies related to managing modern slavery risks.

As outlined in Figure 3, the ABC has implemented a range of control measures to mitigate the risk of modern slavery across our operations and supply chains.

FIGURE 3: MODERN SLAVERY CONTROLS



5.2 Staff Training

As part of our steps to promote greater awareness of modern slavery within the ABC, we undertook the following training initiatives:

- “Before You Buy” eLearning is available for staff who purchase goods and/or services for the ABC. As well as being an introduction to the ABC's procurement process, it also covers awareness of what modern slavery is and how it applies to the ABC.
- Mandatory “Evaluation Panel Awareness” eLearning for staff or contractors who are participating in a market engagement Evaluation Panel. This is accompanied by a Social and Sustainable Procurement Evaluation Guide to assist in evaluation of responses including the modern slavery requirements of the market engagement.
- Instructor-led “Procurement Essentials” training which is an interactive session that complements the eLearning modules and further covers covering policy, process, and governance requirements.

5.3 Cross-Functional Collaboration

The ABC's modern slavery risk management approach is supported by collaboration across key internal functions, including Procurement, Legal, Risk and operational teams. This cross-functional engagement is reflected in the development and delivery of targeted training programs, the integration of modern slavery obligations into procurement systems and templates, and the coordinated assessment of supplier risks. These collaborative efforts ensure that modern slavery considerations are embedded throughout the procurement lifecycle and governance processes, enabling a consistent and informed response across the organisation.

5.4 Policy Framework

The ABC has a number of policies, standards and procedures that outline our commitment to demonstrate ethical behaviour including respecting human rights, which guide ABC staff, contractors, and suppliers in their day-to-day work and ensure compliance within their capacity.

- ABC Code of Conduct
- ABC Procurement Policy
- Procurement Governance Guideline
- ABC Supplier Code of Conduct
- Social and Sustainable Procurement Strategy
- Social and Sustainable Procurement Evaluation Guide

The ABC provides guidance on demonstrating ethical behaviour and complying with relevant legal requirements in the ABC Code of Conduct. This is supported by internal reporting channels, including access to confidential whistleblower processes. These avenues ensure staff can safely report issues and contribute to maintaining a fair and ethical workplace.

The [ABC Supplier Code of Conduct](#) outlines expectations for ethical behaviour, including respecting human rights and addressing modern slavery risks. It also provides suppliers with guidance on how to raise concerns or grievances, ensuring they have access to appropriate channels for reporting issues related to non-compliance or unethical practices.

5.5 Leveraging Systems

The ABC has integrated modern slavery requirements and obligations directly into our market engagement templates within our source to contract system. This integration ensures potential suppliers are fully aware of the ABC's commitment to tackling modern slavery and helps streamline compliance and due diligence throughout the market engagement process.

Further, potential suppliers are required to acknowledge that they have read the [ABC Supplier Code of Conduct](#) when submitting their market engagement response.

5.6 ABC Procurement Process

The ABC's procurement policy is founded on the principle of supporting sustainable procurement which takes into account the total cost of the relationship – economic, environmental and social – within a wider framework of good governance. The policy is supported by comprehensive framework of procedures guidelines and templates. This framework ensures that procurement activities deliver value-for-money while actively promoting sustainable procurement practices.

Sustainability and ethical sourcing are embedded throughout the procurement lifecycle, from the procurement strategy to the market engagement and assessment, and through to contract management. We require suppliers to meet our standards on modern slavery, labour rights, diversity and inclusion, and environmental responsibility, helping to reduce risks and promote positive social impact.

By integrating these principles, the ABC not only supports compliance with legal and policy obligations, but also contributes to building stronger, more transparent and responsible supply chains.

5.7 Supplier Engagement and Risk Assessment

The ABC undertakes a range of activities to identify and manage modern slavery risks within its supply chain. Central to this is desktop research, where we review publicly available information such as supplier websites, industry reports, and published Modern Slavery Statements. This research helps the ABC assess supplier practices, identify potential risks, and monitor trends across sectors.

All RFPs issued by the ABC include a mandatory set of modern slavery questions, ensuring suppliers provide information on their governance, risk management, and mitigation practices. This approach allows the ABC to evaluate supplier commitments and risk controls as part of every market engagement.

The ABC continues to gather valuable insights into supplier practices through its engagement and due diligence processes, particularly within high-risk spend categories such as business-critical suppliers, top suppliers by spend, and suppliers in categories with a higher inherent risk of modern slavery.

5.8 External Collaboration

Since the introduction of the Modern Slavery Act 2018, the ABC has actively engaged with peer organisations, industry networks, and professional bodies such as the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply. These partnerships are central to our ongoing efforts to strengthen our approach to modern slavery risk management and raise corporate awareness across sectors.

Through these collaborations, the ABC participates in knowledge sharing, benchmarking, and joint initiatives, which help us stay informed on emerging risks, regulatory changes, and effective mitigation strategies. Engaging with like-minded procurement professionals, buyers and experts enables us to continually refine our policies, tools, and practices to align with industry-leading standards. These relationships also support capacity building within our team and among our suppliers, fostering a collective commitment to ethical procurement and responsible supply chains.

6. ASSESSING EFFECTIVENESS

Figure 4 presents the key indicators currently used by the ABC to evaluate the effectiveness of its initiatives to target modern slavery risks.

FIGURE 4: MODERN SLAVERY ACTIONS MEASUREMENT

ACTIVITY	ACTIONS	MEASURE	SOURCE
ABC AWARENESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of data and tools • Completion of training • Management of supplier performance • External collaboration • Remediate identified cases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of staff and contractors taking recommended training • Number of external engagements • Products sourced from high-risk categories and countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement reporting • Training data • Spend data • Risk assessments
SUPPLIER AWARENESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of market engagement responses • Adherence to contract requirements • Acknowledgement of the ABC Supplier Code of Conduct • Participation in the Annual Supplier Survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey response rate percentage • No contract or Code non-compliances identified • Number of identified cases • Respondents meeting requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement reporting • Survey results • Complaints database • Contract reviews • Whistleblower reports • Supplier third party audits

While the ABC continues to develop and implement strategies to reduce the risk of modern slavery in its supply chains, we also recognise the importance of evaluating the impact of these efforts.

7. NEXT STEPS

The ABC remains committed to deepening our understanding of supply chain risks and strengthening our systems for traceability and accountability. To continue making progress, we will focus on the following key areas:

- Keeping up to date with emerging issues, research, and thought leadership on combating modern slavery;
- Reviewing and updating our internal policies and guidelines to improve how we identify, manage, and mitigate modern slavery risks;
- Increasing awareness and training for ABC staff and contractors to ensure everyone understands their role in recognising and addressing these risks; and
- Maintaining strong, ongoing collaboration with our suppliers to promote transparency, ethical practices, and continuous improvement throughout our supply chains.

These efforts will help ensure the ABC continues to meet its responsibilities.

