

## 2022 – 2023 Modern Slavery Statement – Easy Read



### About this statement

This easy read guide is a summary of our 2022-2023 Modern Slavery Statement. This is our fourth modern slavery statement.

You can find the full statement at:

<https://www.benevolent.org.au/about-us/human-rights-and-modern-slavery>



### What is a Modern Slavery Statement?

A modern slavery statement is a statement about stopping modern slavery. The law that tells us we have to write a modern slavery statement is called the “Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth)”.

Our 2022 – 2023 Modern Slavery Statement says what we’ve done to try and stop modern slavery from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

Modern slavery is when a person is illegally controlled by another person. A person in modern slavery might be forced to do something by another person.

When a person is forced, it means they do not have a choice.

The person might be forced to do things by violence, lies, or threats. It is a crime to force a person to do things by violence, lies or threats.

You can find out more about the different types of modern slavery in our [Modern Slavery – Easy Read Guide](#).



## About Us

When you see the words “we”, “us” or “our”, it means The Benevolent Society and Benevolent Australia – Disability Services Limited.

We care about people. We help people live their best life. Our values are integrity, respect, collaboration, effectiveness and optimism.

You can learn more about us at [www.benevolent.org.au](http://www.benevolent.org.au)



## How are we helping to stop modern slavery?

We promote, protect and respect human rights.

Human rights are basic rights and freedoms that belong to every person. No one is allowed take away your human rights.

Freedom from slavery is a human right.

Freedom from slavery means no one should be a slave. No one can be owned. Freedom from slavery applies to everyone.

There are risks of modern slavery in our organisation. We are working hard to find these risks and reduce them.

We are helping to stop modern slavery by reducing our modern slavery risks.



## Where are our modern slavery risks?

We have risks:

- In our operations. Our operations are our services that help people. Some people we help might be in modern slavery.
- In buying goods. For example, buying pens and pencils.
- In buying services. For example, cleaners and people who help us take care of our buildings.
- In our money and buildings.



## What have we done to find and reduce our risks?

Some of the things we did in 2022 – 2023 were:

- Formally joined a group of charities to understand the companies we buy goods and services from. We asked 33 companies questions about where they buy goods and services from
- Talked to our clients, staff and volunteers about human rights and modern slavery
- Trained some of our child, youth and family staff on forced marriage
- Worked with other charities and people to understand modern slavery and try to reduce it
- Asked survivors of modern slavery to look at our human rights and modern slavery policy. The survivors told us how we could make our policy better.



## **What we will do in 2023 – 2024:**

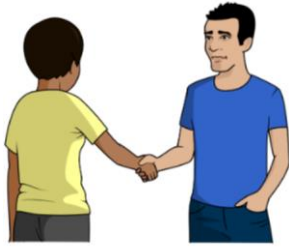
Some of the things we are going to do in 2023 and 2024 are:

- Take more steps to better understand the companies we buy goods and services from. We will work closely with three companies.
- Keep putting human rights at the centre of our decisions and everything we do.
- Keep working with other charities and people to help end modern slavery. We know we can do more together.



## **What lessons did we learn in 2022 – 2023?**

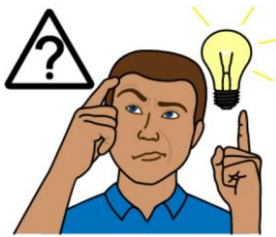
- Using human rights to help us talk about modern slavery to our staff is still working well.
- Working with different charities, groups, and people is important. Working together helps us make positive change.
- We are still working out how we can check whether what we are doing is actually making a difference.
- It is important to work with people with lived experience including survivors of modern slavery to make sure their voices are heard when we make decisions.



## Who did we work with on the statement?

We worked with:

- Our Board and Directors, Executives and Senior Leaders
- Our Human Rights and Modern Slavery Committee
- Our Procurement (buying) and Legal teams
- Other human rights and modern slavery specialists



## What you can do

If you are worried that you or someone you know is a victim of modern slavery, tell someone.

- Tell someone you trust
- Call 000 in an emergency
- Contact Anti-Slavery Australia  
Phone 02 9514 8815  
<http://antislavery.org.au/modern-slavery/>
- Contact the Australian Federal Police  
Phone 131 237  
<https://www.afp.gov.au/>