

Voluntary Modern Slavery Statement

About Bridge

Bridge Housing Limited (**Bridge Housing**) is not required by The Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth) (Act) to report on the risks of modern slavery in its operations and supply chains. As a socially responsible and people-focused organisation which takes pride in its ethical, values-based operations, Bridge Housing has chosen to report voluntarily.

Bridge Housing is a community housing provider delivering long-term accommodation and housing services for people on low to moderate incomes through our property portfolio across metropolitan Sydney.

Our services include end to end property and tenancy management, development and construction, a for-purpose real estate agency as well as community development and tenant participation services.

Structure, operations and supply chains

Bridge Housing's operational entity is a registered tier one New South Wales community housing provider.

We have considered the business' supply chain and the types of goods and services it purchases and identified the following material risks of modern slavery within its operations and supply chain:

Supply chain risk: Construction materials required for development, repairs and maintenance work are generally sourced indirectly by a supplier for Bridge Housing. Construction materials supplied from geographical areas outside Australia have a higher risk of including modern slavery in the supply chain. Complex global supply chains are more difficult to monitor.

Other items sourced by us from time to time may have a greater risk due to modern slavery practices within a particular industry, for example IT hardware.

Worker exploitation: Casual workers, construction workers and cleaners are often from migrant, low socio-economic or culturally or linguistically diverse backgrounds and are more vulnerable to modern slavery risks. This includes a higher risk of undocumented workers and poor conditions, including the risk of industrial accidents. Complex employment relationships present heightened risks of exploitative practices and are harder to monitor.

Our commitment

We are committed to:

- Taking a learning and development based approach to better identify the modern slavery risks in our business and supply chains;
- Taking an integrity based, ethical approach to risks we identify and creating clear, measurable actions, which we will report on and update annually;
- Building our own capacity and raising awareness within our own business and with our external suppliers.

Our property maintenance: We are committed to implementing industry leading rates of tenant satisfaction underpinned by well maintained homes. We undertake a comprehensive assessment of each property standard every three years.

Our primary supplier for maintenance services, Assett Group Services (AGS), was appointed following a transparent procurement process. AGS has clear KPI management including ethical employment standards embedded in the contract and innovative requirements to deliver social outcomes. AGS has a contractual requirement to comply with Bridge Housing's Code of Conduct to guide the delivery of repairs and maintenance services in an ethical and transparent manner.

Our construction and development:

Bridge Housing undertakes construction and development to provide more homes for people in need. We partner with reputable builders and sub-contractors to deliver projects within a strong contractual framework. Our selected partners must abide by our requirements in key areas including:

- Ethical sourcing and procurement;
- Code of conduct for suppliers;
- Compliance with our anti-fraud and corruption policy; and
- Compliance with all laws relating to wages, benefits and transparent record keeping, working hours and conditions of employment.

We target direct suppliers to reduce complexity in our supply chain.

When procuring new developments, we ensure that the supply chain is mapped so that we understand the risks involved.

Our people:

We believe in our strong and inclusive organisation, backed by engaged and skilled people.

We strive to be an engaged, safe and culturally appropriate employer for people of diverse backgrounds.

We treat people with dignity and respect by:

- Employing our staff directly and avoiding complex labour relationships in our direct team.
- Locating all direct supply of labour in Australia so we can rely on the legal and political framework of regulation to prohibit forced labour and protect workers' rights, including worker health and safety;
- Exceeding our legislative obligations to be an employer of choice;
- Preventing our contractors from subcontracting without our consent;
- Ensuring we have contractual rights to audit our contractors' compliance with their legal requirements;
- Ensuring our workers are given access to our policies, including our Code of Conduct and our Whistleblowing policy.
- A diversity, equity and inclusion strategy and internal staff committee to guide implementation.

Our ESG focus and culture: The development and implementation of the ESG Framework is a key strategic priority for Bridge Housing as a way of focusing our effort on delivering positive social, environmental and governance outcomes. We take a learning and development approach to building our capacity to manage ESG risks through all aspects of our operations and prioritise actions to address those risks with the greatest material impact on the business. This is evidenced by:

- Strategic leadership by our independent skills-based board which conducts regular external board reviews to ensure governance best practice, including cyclical review of internal policies;
- A robust internal audit program to maintain external independent oversight of key risk areas;
- Employment of two defined roles monitoring compliance within the organisation;
- Establishment of an environmental baseline for our business with clear reporting lines to the Board;
- Clear corporate policies as well as a Board and organisational training program to support our governance;
- Consistently meeting and exceed regulatory benchmarks as evidenced through our annual compliance returns under the National Regulatory Scheme for Community Housing; and
- The Difference We Make, our outcomes evaluation methodology, which guides the measurement of resident and community outcomes of our service delivery.

Our future commitments

Our focus in 2023 is to:

- Continue to embed opposition to modern slavery through the implementation of the ESG Framework and associated actions;
- Further investigate our supply chain, with a staged approach first reviewing risks in Bridge’s development supply chain, as that aspect of the organisation grows in complexity;
- Review the effectiveness of our modern slavery risk management processes and identify areas of improvement;
- Build engagement and collaborate with direct suppliers to deliver improvement; and
- Educate workers about the risk of modern slavery and the steps taken to address it at Bridge.

Statement

Bridge makes this Statement in accordance with section 13 of the Act. Bridge’s Board of Directors is its principal governing body for the purpose of the Act. This voluntary Modern Slavery Statement was considered and approved by the Board of Bridge Housing Limited on 28 February 2022 and will next be reviewed in June 2024, and then reviewed annually.



Mark Turner
Chairman



Rebecca Pinkstone
CEO, Director

Related documents

Legislation

- *Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth)*

Documents supporting this policy

- *Procurement Policy*
- *Contractor Code of Conduct*
- *WHS Framework (including policies and procedures)*
- *ESG Framework*
- *Bridge Housing Values*
- *Statement of Business Ethics*
- *Equal Opportunity, Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Prevention*
- *Conflict of interest policy*
- *Director & Officer conflict of interest policy*
- *Fraud Control Policy*
- *Whistleblower Policy*

English

If you need help to understand this letter please contact the Telephone Interpreters Service on 131450 and ask them to contact on 8324 0800 for you at no cost. You can also come to the Bridge Housing office and ask for assistance in your language.

Simplified Chinese

如果您理解这封信有困难, 请拨打电 话传译服务 131450 要求电话传译 服务替您拨打 Bridge Housing, 电话 8324 0800。这项服务是免费的。您也可以到 Bridge Housing 的办公室来。 要求用您的语言来协助您。

Spanish

Si necesita ayuda para entender esta carta, por favor comuníquese con el Servicio Telefónico de Intérpretes al 131450 y solicite que lo contacten sin cargo con Bridge Housing al 8324 0800. También puede dirigirse a las oficinas de Bridge Housing y solicitar asistencia en su idioma.

Russian

Если для понимания содержания этого письма Вам необходима помощь, свяжитесь, пожалуйста, с Телефонной переводческой службой по номеру 131450 и попросите соединить Вас с Bridge Housing по номеру 8324 0800. За соединение платить не нужно. Кроме того, Вы можете лично посетить офис Bridge Housing и попросить об услугах переводчика.

Greek

Εάν χρειάζεστε βοήθεια για να κατανοήσετε την παρούσα επιστολή, παρακαλώ επικοινωνήστε με την Υπηρεσία Τηλεφωνικών Διερμηνέων στο 131450 και ζητήστε τους να επικοινωνήσουν με το 8324 0800 για εσάς χωρίς καμία χρέωση. Μπορείτε επίσης να επισκεφθείτε το γραφείο Bridge Housing και να ζητήσετε βοήθεια στη γλώσσα σας.

Vietnamese

Nếu cần người giúp để hiểu thư này xin quý vị liên hệ với Dịch Vụ Thông Ngôn Điện Thoại số 131450 và nhờ họ liên lạc với Bridge Housing qua số 8324 0800 cho quý vị một cách miễn phí. Quý vị cũng có thể đến Văn Phòng của Bridge Housing và xin giúp đỡ bằng ngôn-ngữ của quý-vị.

Arabic

إذا احتجت إلى مُساعدة في فهم هذه الرسالة رجاء الاتصال مع خدمة الترجمة الهاتفية على رقم 131450 واطلُب منهم أن يتصلوا لك بِمَكْتَب على رقم 8324 0800 بدون تكلفة عليك. ويُمْكِنك أيضا الحضور إلى مُكْتَب Bridge Housing وطلَب المُساعدة بلُغَتك.