



United Nations World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

2 August 2023

In recognition of United Nations World Day Against Trafficking in Persons the Australian Catholic Anti-slavery Network (ACAN) published the third Compendium of Modern Slavery Statements. The 882 page Compendium represents the efforts of 51 Catholic organisations to comply with Australia's Modern Slavery Act 2018 via the ACAN Program.

Key activities undertaken by Catholic organisations participating in the ACAN Program include:

- An estimated 23,955 working hours spent on modern slavery activities
- 6,809 individual staff completed 7,106 modern slavery elearning modules
- \$5.4 billion of spend on goods and services were assessed as high-risk
- 46,369 suppliers mapped in high-risk spend categories with the largest spend being on medical devices and supplies, building and construction and facilities management
- 1,235 suppliers completed the ACAN survey

The Most Rev Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB endorsed the Compendium on behalf of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference as follows:

"This Compendium outlines how Catholic entities in Australia continue to assess and address modern slavery risks to people that may be present through investments, supplier agreements, business partnerships and on Catholic-owned sites.

The Modern Slavery Act and the current Modern Slavery Act Review have provided Catholic entities an opportunity to engage with, commit to and demonstrate sustainable and ethical practices...our actions must contribute to decent and dignified work for people in our local and global communities."





Catholic Schools NSW commemorated this year's UN World Day by hosting an event to raise awareness around this year's theme, *Leave No One Behind*.

Guest speakers at the Catholic Schools NSW event included Louise Burton, CEO of the Sisters of Charity Foundation and ACAN Program Manager Alison Rahill.

Louise spoke about survivors supported by the [Modern Slavery Transitional Housing Program](#). This unique program supports modern slavery survivors over a 12-month period with accommodation in the private rental market.

Alison spoke about the importance of placing people and human dignity at the cornerstone of efforts to engage with high-risk suppliers in operations and supply chains.

"The Australian Government agenda is to strengthen the Modern Slavery Act and the complexity of compliance work will only increase the scale of resources required from all of us," said Ms Rahill.

"Since the introduction of the Modern Slavery Act 2018, Catholic Schools NSW CEO Dallas McNerney has shown leadership and commitment to ACAN and leading anti-slavery efforts."

Prof John McMillan AO conducted a statutory review of the Modern Slavery Act for the Australian Government over the past 18 months, including consultation with ACAN. "It is encouraging to see Australia's largest employer outside of the public sector collaborate on a Modern Slavery Risk Management Program. I congratulate the Bishops, Boards, Executives and Staff for their work to date," said Prof McMillan.

Compendium of Modern Slavery Statements:

<https://www.acan.org.au/acan-modern-slavery-statements>

To discuss participation in ACAN Program 2023 – 2026 please contact:

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