# Modern Slavery Statement 2025







Proud Wiradjuri woman and longtime SGCH customer Maureen created this beautiful artwork, named *Our People, Our Culture*, for SGCH's Reconciliation Action Plan. It features spiritual figures (Baiame and Birrangulu) as well as symbols that represent the interconnectedness of First Nations peoples. The artwork tells the story of how different tribes would come together to share knowledge and celebrate their connection to Country. The black dotted lines denote tribal boundaries, white dotted lines are songlines and the circles with U shapes show gathering places.

### Welcome

### We acknowledge the traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owners of the lands on which we operate and provide homes for people.

We acknowledge and pay our respects to past and present Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, peoples and nations. We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as having the world's oldest living, continuous culture with unique languages and spiritual relationships to the land and seas.

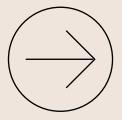
St George Community Housing (SGCH) is strongly committed to practical action aimed at building the physical, cultural, spiritual and family wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through our role as a community housing provider.

We renew our determination to listen and to learn from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, to recognise the important contribution they make, and to offer a first-rate service that responds to the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their communities.



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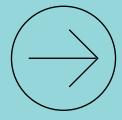
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Great places, thriving people, connected communities.



### Introduction



The Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth) (MSA) requires organisations with an annual consolidated revenue of more than AUD100 million to identify and report on the risks of modern slavery in their operations and supply chains, and the steps taken to address, assess and manage these risks.

This Statement is submitted by St George Community Housing Limited (SGCH) under section 13 of the MSA to cover our reporting period of 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

#### Our commitment

In all our actions we are intentional about making a positive impact. We are committed to understanding and fulfilling our responsibilities to our customers, staff, partners and the communities we operate in.

The MSA includes within the definition of modern slavery activities such as trafficking in persons, slavery, servitude, forced marriage, forced labour, debt bondage, deceptive recruiting for labour or services and the worst forms of child labour (situations where children are subjected to slavery or similar practices, or engaged in hazardous work).

SGCH is opposed to all forms of modern slavery. We are committed to the principles outlined in the MSA, to being transparent about our operations and supply chains, and the steps taken to address risks. We recognise our responsibility as an organisation of scale and our ongoing role in educating our staff and working with our suppliers and partners to address modern slavery. SGCH acknowledges the expectations of our customers and stakeholders that we will actively address risks. We acknowledge the diversity of our 11,491 customers and that past practices in Australia of slavery and forced labour have impacted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and Pacific Islander peoples in particular.

As part of our commitment to continuous improvement as an organisation, SGCH welcomes the opportunity to understand and develop our approach to addressing modern slavery risks with a focus on our governance, our impact and our culture.

We are proud to present our FY25 Modern Slavery Statement, which outlines the steps we have taken this past financial year to develop our approach. SGCH continues to build a framework that will assist us to adapt and progress our capabilities to more efficiently identify, assess and address these risks. We welcome feedback about this Statement and expect to continually adapt our approach to demonstrate a growing awareness and improvement in our ability to address modern slavery risks.

Together we provide sustainable, safe and affordable housing as the foundation for our customers to connect to opportunities and build their communities.

## O1 Identification, structure, operations and supply chains

Our vision is great places, thriving people, connected communities.

Together we provide sustainable, safe and affordable housing as the foundation for our customers to connect to opportunities and build their communities.

St George Community Housing Limited (SGCH) (ABN 32 565 549 842) is a Public Company limited by guarantee and a charity registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission. The registered main office of SGCH is in Liverpool, NSW.

SGCH was founded as a public charity to relieve poverty and vulnerability by providing secure, affordable housing and supportive tenancy management.

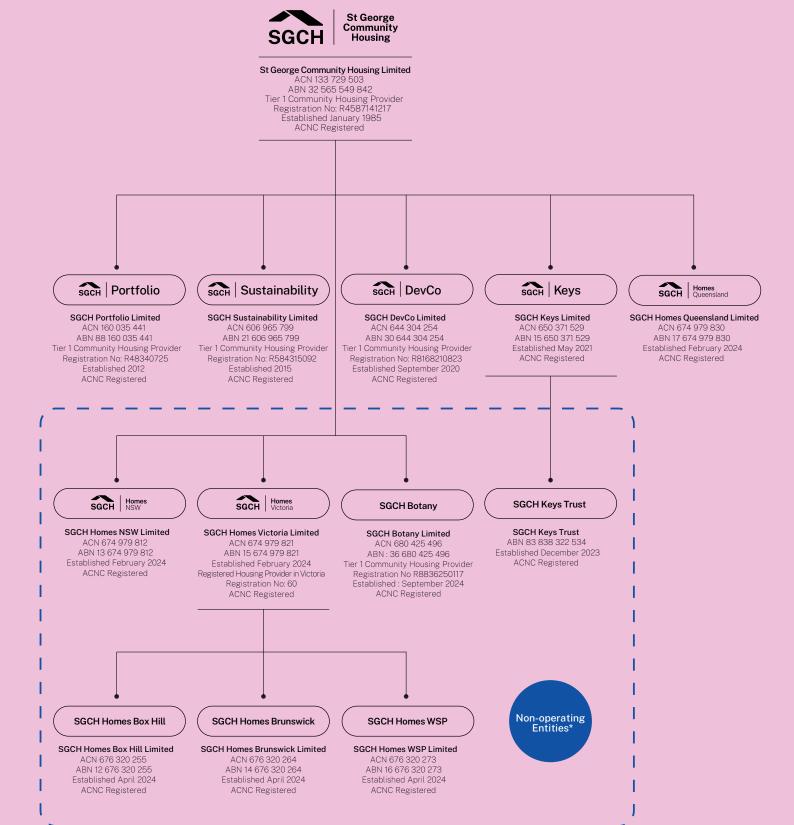


# Group structure

SGCH Limited, the parent company, its subsidiaries and an affiliated entity are registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). Its subsidiaries and affiliated entities are presented in the Group Structure opposite.

All subsidiaries and SGCH Keys Trust do not independently meet the reporting threshold under the MSA. However, each operating entity adopts the same policies and processes and shares the same supply chain. Some subsidiaries do not have active operations. This Statement was created through collaboration between representatives of all business divisions.

The parent company and certain subsidiaries are required to meet the governance standards, and the performance outcomes mandated under the National Regulatory System Community Housing, against which they report annually to demonstrate compliance and maintain registration as a Tier 1 community housing provider. SGCH Victoria Limited and its subsidiary, SGCH Homes Box Hill Limited, are registered as Housing Providers in Victoria and are required to meet performance standards under the Housing Act 1983 (Vic) and to comply with annual reporting requirements of the Victorian Housing Registrar. SGCH Keys Limited and SGCH Keys Trust are not registered in these systems. SGCH Keys Trust is an unconsolidated structured entity.



<sup>\*</sup> SGCH Victoria Limited and SGCH Homes Box Hill Limited entities operational post-FY24/25. SGCH Botany Limited expected to be operational late 2025.

### **Operations**

Founded in 1985, SGCH now employs 277 staff and provides housing for 11,491 people in 7,082 properties predominantly across the Sydney metropolitan region. We are recognised as a Tier 1 Community Housing Provider under the National Regulatory System for Community Housing. We bring capability and capital to work in partnerships with governments, developers and builders, financiers and investors, community groups and individuals.

Our team provides a range of corporate service functions including finance, human resources, information technology, communications, legal, governance, audit and risk.

The majority of our assets are owned residential housing investment properties and right-of-use assets in respect of residential leases. We also manage residential housing assets on behalf of the NSW state government, various local governments and other not-for-profit organisations. Our property-based investments for FY25 were located in metropolitan Sydney and in FY26 we are set to expand into metropolitan Queensland and Victoria. We consider our properties to pose a low risk in relation to modern slavery geographically. However, we are aware those same properties require management, repairs, maintenance, cleaning and associated activities and have discussed the risks these activities pose in relation to modern slavery (refer to Section 2. Risks).

SGCH owns, manages and operates properties across 24 local government areas (LGAs) in the Sydney metropolitan area, with upcoming expansion plans to metropolitan areas in Queensland and in Victoria. Our operations consist of:

- Tenancy management
- Asset management
- Development

#### **Tenancy management**

Our portfolio comprises a mix of social housing, Aboriginal social housing, transitional housing, affordable housing, key worker housing and specialist disability accommodation. We are recognised as industry leaders in tenancy management, with a practice that places tenant outcomes at the centre of our work.

We deliver tenancy management services through four functions:

- Allocations-new tenancies allocated in accordance with Housing Pathways
- Tenancy management in accordance with the Residential Tenancies Act 2010 (NSW) and NSW Community Housing Policies
- Income management-all rent and income subsidy reviews in accordance with NSW Community Housing Rent Policy, and;
- Customer feedback-independent to ensure complaints and appeals are treated sensitively and fairly.

#### **Asset management**

For the purpose of facility operations and maintenance, our asset management portfolio is divided into two geographical regions and delivered in conjunction with third-party multi-trade contractors.

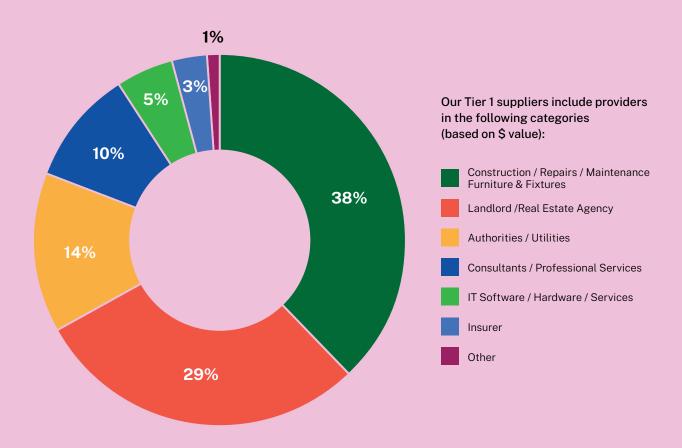
#### **Development**

We have a dedicated in-house team experienced in development and project management, across residential and major urban regeneration projects. Our team works with a range of consultants, architects, builders and contractors to deliver our development pipeline.

### **Suppliers**



Our Tier 1 supply chain is made up of approximately 950 suppliers. Tier 1 suppliers are those SGCH directly contracts with for the provision of goods and/or services. We acknowledge our supply chain extends beyond the first tier to include companies with which we do not have direct contractual relationships. Due to operational constraints, such additional tiers of suppliers have not been considered in the preparation of this Statement. Our Tier 1 suppliers are almost entirely based in Australia, with only a few of those suppliers being based overseas in locations including the United States, Singapore and Ireland.





## 02 Risks



SGCH understands modern slavery is complex and exists in many forms. We know modern slavery exists in every country, including our own. We understand that the prevalence of modern slavery means that every entity has risks of modern slavery occurring within its operations and supply chains.

SGCH continually reviews the modern slavery risks in its supply chain. This review focuses on our higher risk Tier 1 operations and supply chains.

#### **Operations**

We understand modern slavery can impact many different individuals but there are some cohorts in our society who are more vulnerable to exploitation than others. Migrants and individuals with cultural and language barriers, children and women, less skilled workers and those with financial difficulties are particularly vulnerable to modern slavery. A large cohort of our customer base are these same individuals and therefore may be particularly vulnerable to modern slavery. We note under the MSA we are not required to report on modern slavery risks associated with how our customers use our products and services. However, we recognise our interactions with this customer base as part of our operations may increase the risk we are linked to modern slavery.

Our Homes team works to build, renovate and repair homes and we understand globally that a large proportion of modern slavery victims are found in the construction industry. We are also aware building materials are often sourced from high-risk geographic locations. The construction industry can involve high demand for less-skilled labour as well as long and complex supply chains with a high degree of subcontracting. Our participation in this industry is an area of higher risk for us.

#### Supply chains

We acknowledge 950 suppliers is a significant number of suppliers for an entity of our size and therefore requires increased diligence to maintain visibility over those suppliers to reduce the risk of modern slavery posed by each. It should be noted that approximately half of these suppliers are private lessors and real estate agents engaged by SGCH as part of the Community Housing Leasing Program.

On the Tier 1 supply-chain mapping we have completed, we have identified overseas-based suppliers in locations including the United States, Singapore and Ireland. We note none of these locations are high risk according to the latest Global Slavery Index. The remaining suppliers are based in Australia, which is a low-risk location.

We also have some suppliers that operate in higherrisk industries, or with higher-risk goods and services, including suppliers of information technology software and hardware; building and construction; repairs and maintenance; security and cleaning services; stationery and furniture; embroidery and uniforms; and groceries and catering. We recognise the use of recruitment agencies may lead to reduced visibility over our own workforce and the different conditions and circumstances attached to our workers' employment.

In future reporting periods, we will continue to learn more about our supply chain, in particular secondary tiers of suppliers, in order to assist us in improving risk identification.

### 03 Actions and effectiveness

We continue to make a concerted effort to address and assess the modern slavery risks we identify in our operations and supply chains, and to assess the effectiveness of the actions we take in this space. SGCH has adopted a continuous improvement approach and aims to build on its capabilities each year.

#### **Operations**

We are committed to complying with all Australian workplace laws, including the Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth). Our employees are provided with employment contracts detailing the conditions of their employment and their various rights and obligations.

All staff are required to complete a mandatory e-learning module designed to raise awareness of modern slavery and to familiarise them with our internal policies, procedures and support resources addressing this issue. We will continue to explore opportunities to educate our staff on modern slavery.

Our current strategy involves continually reviewing our actions for effectiveness. The Board is kept regularly updated on progress of our modern slavery initiatives.

Our approach to managing the risk of modern slavery in our procurement processes is based on the principles of our Risk Management Framework. This framework applies a consistent approach to assessing and treating risks once they are identified and is aligned with ISO 31000:2018 Risk Management-Guidelines.



# Plans and achievements



#### What we're planning

- Form a modern slavery working group
- Refine reporting and remediation aspects of our Modern Slavery Policy
- Explore the feasibility of utilising a third-party modern slavery compliance platform
- Continue modern slavery dialogues within our industry
- Continually risk assess our supply chain against the three risk indicators (Goods or Services, Sectors and Industries, Geographic Location)
- Continually assess our Risk Assessment Framework and Modern Slavery Framework and the effectiveness of our actions for continuous improvement



#### What we have achieved to date

- Deployed a mandatory e-learning module for all staff
- Enhanced our Modern Slavery Framework and processes
- Refined our supplier surveys and questionnaires
- Further embedded modern slavery considerations and requirements in procurement processes
- Pursued dialogues on modern slavery within our industry
- Continued to risk assess our supply chain against the three risk indicators (Goods or Services, Sectors and Industries, Geographic Location)
- Continued to assess our Risk Assessment Framework and Modern Slavery Framework and the effectivity of our actions for continuous improvement
- Prepared and submitted our fifth Modern Slavery Statement

2024

- Continued assessment of our Tier 1 supply chain and engagement with suppliers
- Rolled out our Supplier Code of Conduct, which outlines our expectations of our suppliers with regards to modern slavery
- Encouraged awareness of modern slavery amongst staff through informative newsletters
- Examined our internal modern slavery processes and toolkits with a view to making improvements
- Planted the seeds of collaboration within our sector
- Kept abreast with modern slavery developments
- Prepared and submitted our fourth Modern Slavery Statement

2023

- Well established processes and internal capabilities
- Engaged with staff and stakeholders for continuous improvement
- Developed risk assessments and understanding of operations and supply chains,
- including medium risk Tier 1 suppliers
- Continued to gain a better understanding of our supply chain
- Prepared and submitted our third Modern Slavery Statement

#### Policies and procedures

SGCH has a Modern Slavery Policy and is further developing its Modern Slavery Framework and associated documentation and tools. We have included modern slavery clauses in our multi-trade contractor contracts.

We also have multiple other current policies that inform our approach to our culture and the protection of our workforce, suppliers and customer base including:

- Construction Contractor Management-Health,
  Safety & Wellbeing Responsibilities Policy
- Contractor Management-Health, Safety & Wellbeing Responsibilities Policy
- Directors' Code of Conduct
- Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying & Respect at Work Policy
- Drug and Alcohol Policy
- Health, Safety and Wellbeing Policy
- Hours of Work, Flexibility and Hybrid Working Policy
- Managing Misconduct Policy
- Notifiable Incidents Policy
- Procurement Policy
- Resolving Workplace Grievances Policy
- Responsive Maintenance Policy
- Risk Policy
- Sharing Information with Police Policy
- Supplier Code of Conduct
- Violence and Abuse Prevention Policy
- Volunteers Policy
- Vulnerable Tenants and Occupants Policy, and;
- Whistleblower Policy.

We also have a Code of Conduct and Ethics, which explains the minimum standards of behaviour that we expect from our staff, including the use of our corporate values to make decisions that align to our purpose.

We understand that the nature of modern slavery is such that many victims are unable to draw attention to their circumstances for fear of retribution and hence it is often hidden. SGCH has a Whistleblower Policy that sets out the circumstances around protected disclosures in our business and encourages the reporting of particular matters, including corrupt conduct, criminal or illegal conduct and unethical or other serious improper conduct. We have a number of Whistleblower Protection Officers, an independent external whistleblower reporting service to receive reports, and we encourage people to report actual or suspected misconduct.

#### **Supplier Code of Conduct**

We will, wherever possible, choose to partner with suppliers who support and strengthen our response to modern slavery. Our Supplier Code of Conduct (Supplier Code) is available to all suppliers through our website All new suppliers contracting with us are provided with our Supplier Code which requires suppliers to comply with several relevant laws including:

- Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth)
- Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth)
- Modern Slavery Act 2018 (NSW) for NSW Government Authorities
- Australian Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth)
- Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations 'Protect, Respect and Remedy' Framework
- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and;
- ILO Convention (No. 182) concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour.



The Supplier Code seeks to also educate suppliers on the definition of modern slavery and sets out SGCH's expectations on their compliance with various laws and instruments, and on their own risk assessments and due-diligence processes.

The Supplier Code requires cooperation from our suppliers to our reasonable requests in relation to assessing their compliance with the Supplier Code. Suppliers are informed that referral action to proper authorities will be taken in cases involving breaches of criminal law.

#### Supplier contracts

In the 2025 period, we continued to ensure that new supplier contracts contained our required modern slavery clauses to ensure our suppliers meet our expectations, including providing us with the information we require to ensure our own compliance with the MSA. Suppliers who engaged in our request-for-proposal or tender processes are required to include their modern slavery policies and programs in their submissions, which factor into our determination of successful suppliers.

#### Supplier questionnaire

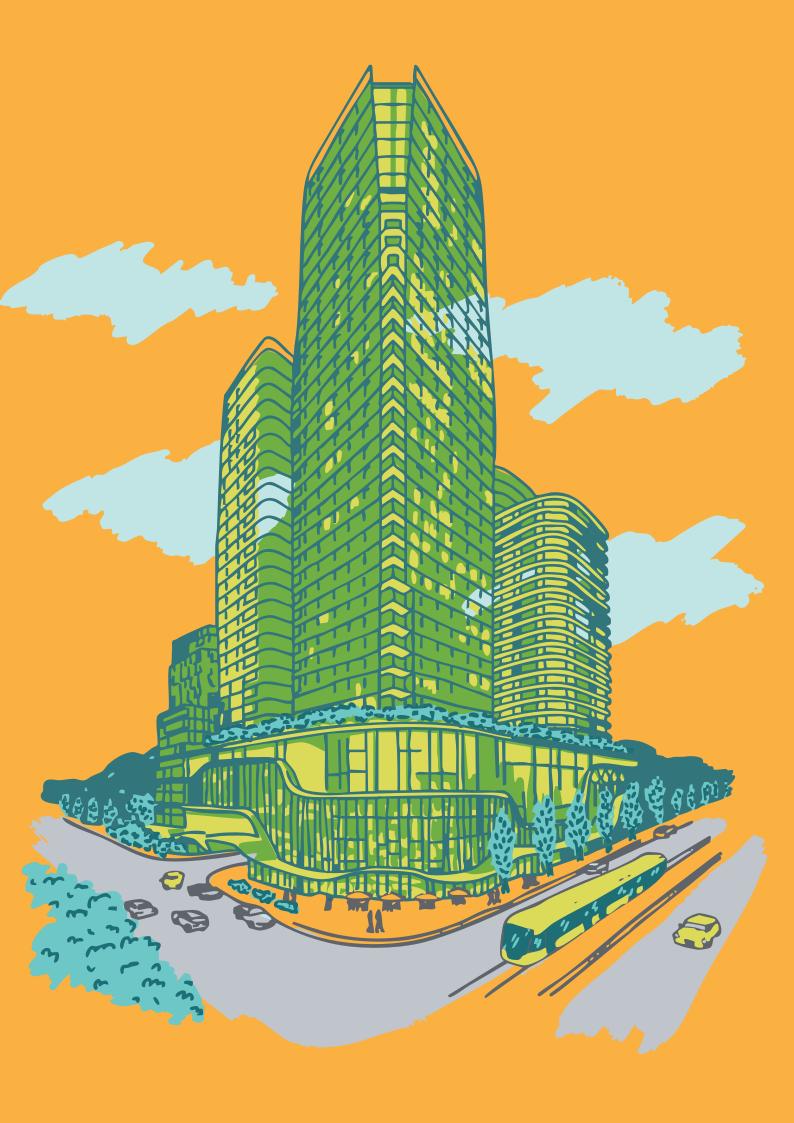
We continued our review of selected higher-risk Tier 1 suppliers and requested that they complete our supplier questionnaire and provide us with their Modern Slavery Statement where available. This allowed us to further identify and assess the risks of modern slavery within our supply chain. After our review, SGCH was satisfied with the responses or statements of all respondents. We are always open to assisting and supporting our suppliers with awareness of compliance with modern slavery legislation.

#### Effectiveness

In assessing the effectiveness of our actions during the year, we note:

- There have been no identified instances of modern slavery in our operations and supply chains during the year.
- We have been able to achieve our plans for FY25.
- The health, safety and wellbeing of our staff is protected through a comprehensive suite of policies that comply with all relevant workplace laws and regulations. These policies also promote a respectful and inclusive work environment one that is free from bullying, harassment and discrimination, and where employees feel safe and supported in raising concerns.
- Our Tier 1 suppliers are aware of our Supplier Code of Conduct and have modern slavery clauses in their contracts with us. Also, our survey of selected vendors has yielded satisfactory results.

In light of the above, we believe the risks of modern slavery in our operations and supply chains remained low.



### 04 Consultation



This fifth Modern Slavery Statement is provided on behalf of the SGCH Group comprised of SGCH, the parent, and all wholly owned subsidiaries. The subsidiaries share the same Non-executive Directors, executive leadership team and employees as SGCH.

Each subsidiary adopts the same policies and processes and shares the same supply chain. This Modern Slavery Statement was created through collaboration between representatives of all business divisions.





# 05 From our governing body

SGCH makes this Statement in accordance with section 13 of the Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth). SGCH's Board of Directors is its principal governing body for the purpose of the Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth). This Modern Slavery Statement was considered and approved by the Governing Body of SGCH on 29 August 2025.

**Karen Orvad** 

Chair of the Board of Directors of SGCH Responsible Member of SGCH's Principal Governing Body









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