



# JUSTICE. FOR. ALL.

## Business Statement of Support:

### Establishment of an Australian Compensation Scheme for Survivors of Modern Slavery

We commend the important work the Australian Government has undertaken to address modern slavery, including in collaboration with the business community. We also recognise that further work is needed by all stakeholders to help ensure that people who experience modern slavery have access to an effective remedy in Australia.

As businesses and their representative organisations, we recognise all businesses have a responsibility to respect human rights in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.<sup>1</sup> We also note that States, including the Australian Government, have an internationally recognised duty to protect human rights.

As part of its duty to protect, **we support the Australian Government establishing a national compensation scheme for people who have experienced modern slavery.** We understand there are challenges with current compensation mechanisms not being designed for modern slavery survivors and being limited by factors such as inconsistencies between State and Territory Schemes and differences in eligibility criteria and compensation entitlements.

As businesses and their representatives, we consider that establishing an effective compensation scheme could help to end the cycle of exploitation and provide an important remediation pathway for modern slavery survivors, which could complement business-specific remediation efforts.

A range of expert persons and bodies have supported the establishment of a national scheme, including the then UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Joy Ezeilo; the Australian Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade; Anti-Slavery Australia; The Australian Human Rights Commission; the Law Council of Australia; and Investors Against Slavery and Trafficking. We note that Anti-Slavery Australia has developed a model compensation scheme through extensive consultation, and received support from legal, investor, business, survivor and civil community groups.

We would be pleased to support the Australian Government to establish a compensation scheme in consultation with survivors, civil society and the broader business community.

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<sup>1</sup> The UNGPs are supported by the Australian Government and are the authoritative global standard for addressing and preventing business-related adverse human rights impacts.

