



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **REPORT RELEASED INTO ETHICAL CLOTHING EXTENDED RESPONSIBILITIES SCHEME**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Thursday 8 August 2024**

The Modern Slavery Committee has released its report for its inquiry into the Ethical Clothing Extended Responsibilities Scheme 2005 (NSW) (the Scheme). The report includes three findings and eight recommendations.

Dr Joe McGirr MP, Chair of the committee said: 'This inquiry is a significant milestone for our committee as it is the first to scrutinise existing regulation specifically for its ongoing effectiveness in preventing and exposing exploitation and modern slavery.'

Dr McGirr stated: 'We have found that outworkers in the textile, clothing and footwear industry are at significant risk of workplace exploitation and modern slavery. Given this risk, our focus was to assess the Scheme's potential in the current regulatory landscape to prevent and expose modern slavery in the industry. Based on the evidence we received about the continued benefits of the Scheme in this regard, the committee has recommended that the Scheme be revived.'

Dr McGirr concluded: 'In reviving the Scheme, the committee has recommended that the NSW Government consider amendments to the Scheme and other issues that have been raised throughout the inquiry. For example, the government should consider amendments that seek to better align the Scheme with Australia's commitment to international standards and guidelines that work to identify and manage forced labour and modern slavery risks. We have also recommended that the views of retailers, which we have not heard throughout this inquiry, be taken into consideration before any changes are made to the Scheme'.

The committee has also made other recommendations to support the ongoing operation of the Scheme, together with Ethical Clothing Australia's voluntary Code of Practice.

The committee's report and other inquiry documents can be found on the committee's [website](#).

-ENDS-

*For further information please contact Committee Chair, Dr Joe McGirr MP, on (02) 6921 1622*