**Sustainability Learnings from the NHS

Joe Neill**

I am delighted to speak to you all about sustainability and HPV’s role and the way that we’re moving forward. I’m seven months into the role at HPV and there’s a few things going on. I really want to talk to you about how HPV and the sector are working together to achieve sustainability and promote it. What we’re doing about it – how sustainability is an important component of HPV’s procurement strategy, going forward, and sustainability becoming a bigger priority for HPV.

It’s, you know, HPV knows it’s got to work with the sector to promote sustainability, to be able to, you know, work closely to get strategic supplier relationships, in order to deliver what we need to do. So, we’re focused on advancing safe, affordable, sustainable health care. It’s a challenge, as, you know, some of the panel members have already talked about. We know about health services are cash-strapped. We know that, you know, we’ve got to look at different ways of achieving value and extracting more value from the dollars that we’re spending. You know, the challenge won’t be addressed overnight, you know, it’s about liaising and collaborating with the sector to determine what will have the biggest impact to create the strategic supplier relationships that we need to create, in order to improve and deliver on our sustainability initiatives. A lot of hospitals put in place social procurement frameworks which, you know, we’re obviously looking at now, with the framework having just been released a couple of weeks ago. Heaps of people are looking at that as to what that actually means for health services and how we, as an organisation, can collaborate and help our services achieve what that framework is designed to do. Again, it’s not going to happen overnight. I think it’s complex. It’s a complex area. It involves all aspects of the supply chain. It involves looking at things a little bit differently and one of the biggest challenges, I think, is going to be how we engage with the sector suppliers to get them to change the way that they’re actually thinking about they’re delivering their health services and how their supply chains operate. I’m quite looking forward to that. I think it’s been quite interesting so far. Some of the things that are coming out of that framework, some of the challenges, yep, are going to be hard but I don’t think it’s going to be too hard to get by at a health service level to make the changes that need to happen.

We’re also moving away from short time frames and solutions under our source and planning to take a longer term view. I think, in the past, we may have been focused on the short term and not really been strategic in the way that we approached sustainability. You know, we’ve got our sustainability officer employed at HPV to advise us on what we should be doing or what we should be looking at or how we implement our sustainability practice into the way that we contract and what we actually put out to market. It’s then how we measure that, you know, is really important. So, we’re working very, very hard to ensure the procurement strategy in such a way that we’re able to do that effectively.

We’re continuing to build on our existing sustainability initiatives. We’re involved in the waste and hospital research project. Our sustainability officer is working very closely with DHHS Sustainability Victoria and the ANMF to develop the interventions to lift their waste recovery and waste reduction initiatives.

We’ve been involved in the collective procurement for the HPV solar systems in regional Victoria and helping therefore the regionals to reduce their carbon footprint, reduce their energy costs. We’re also involved with the renewable certificate purchasing initiative and collaborating with the Department of Trade and Finance, resulting in the financing of two large regional wind farms and

we’ve also, in 2015/16, as part of the stationery and office consumables contract that we’ve put in place, agreed and got hospitals to agree that all our people that we use are sourced with the ethical sourcing standard related to forestry management.

From a strategy perspective, there are a few things that we’ve currently got in place that we monitor our suppliers on, in line with the social sustainability framework. There’s an existing Victoria supplier Code of Conduct, which our suppliers are required to acknowledge and confirm all areas they might be operating in and any issues that they might have and we’re promoting, measuring and reporting on purchasing from accredited social enterprises and Aboriginal-owned businesses.

One other thing – our sustainability is becoming a bigger priority for HPV. We’ve got the environmental sustainability officer, advising on the procurement function and sustainability matters but we’ve recognised that that role is increasing and Jefferson is in need of help, so we’re planning on hopefully making an addition to Jefferson’s group to make it a little bit easier to prioritise some of the stuff that is coming up. So, we’re actively involved in promoting sustainability through the procurement life cycle. Thank you.

[Applause]