

POL-248 ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND GOVERNANCE (ESG)

Standard Clinical Governance (1)

Last Review Date July 2025

Next Review Date July 2028

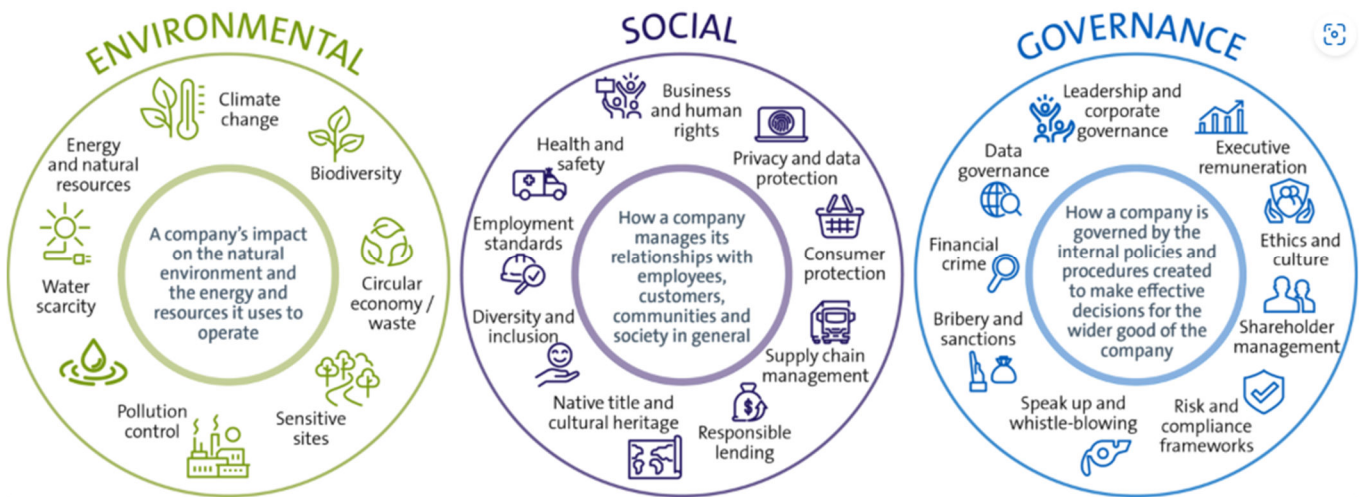
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ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND GOVERNANCE (ESG)

ESG stands for environmental, social, and governance. It is a framework for understanding and measuring economic, environmental, and social performance.

The three pillars of ESG:



Biggins, Keleher & Malinas, 2022

The Burnside Hospital Strategic Plan incorporates prioritising safety, wellbeing and our environmental impact.

Our values include being responsible for managing resources effectively and efficiently and sustainability is also a community concern and an expectation of a contemporary and transparent health care provider.

SCOPE AND PURPOSE

This ESG policy outlines the Burnside Hospital’s commitment to sustainable healthcare delivery, social responsibility and ethical governance. It guides our operations to ensure we provide a quality service for patients, staff, stakeholder and the broader community.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Australia’s healthcare system is responsible, either directly or indirectly for 5% of Australia’s greenhouse gas emissions. *Department of Health and Aged Care. The National Health and Climate Strategy. Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia, 2023.*

We are committed to reducing our environmental footprint and promoting sustainability through:

Energy Efficiency. Implementing low energy saving technologies including, where possible renewable energy sources, and practices in our operations.

Waste Management and Reduction. Minimising medical, pharmaceutical and general waste through recycling, segregating waste streams, and safe, compliant and responsible disposal practices.

Sustainable Procurement. Prioritising suppliers with sustainable practices and products and ensuring this oversight of suppliers through our Procurement Review Committee.

Water Protection. Promoting responsible water management including efficient water use, wastewater management, stormwater protection, and increased staff awareness, to support environmental sustainability.

Climate Action. Monitoring our greenhouse gas emissions with the aim of reducing emissions.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

In healthcare, social responsibility refers to the ethical obligation of healthcare systems, professionals, and policymakers to prioritise the well-being of individuals and communities, especially the most vulnerable, incorporating strategies and reforms aimed at making healthcare more equitable, sustainable, and person-centered. *National Health Reform Agreement 2020-25*

We strive to foster a safe, inclusive and equitable environment for patients, staff, volunteers and our community through:

Patient-Centred Care. Delivering safe, respectful and culturally appropriate healthcare.

Workplace Diversity and Inclusion. Committing to equal opportunity and inclusive hiring, and actively supporting workforce diversity through initiatives like our Reconciliation Action Plan Working Party and Ally Network

Community engagement. Fostering community engagement through our advisory committees, volunteer involvement, and partnerships with local councils and corporate collaborators.

Staff Wellbeing. Prioritising staff wellbeing through a safe workplace, maintaining high standards of work health and safety, and encouraging a proactive incident and hazard reporting culture.

Health Equity. Addressing barriers to healthcare access, especially for vulnerable populations.

Privacy and Data Protection. Safeguarding and protecting personal and corporate data through robust systems and practical safe guards to ensure privacy across all our operations.

GOVERNANCE RESPONSIBILITY

Governance in healthcare refers to the systems, processes, and leadership structures that ensure accountability, transparency, and quality in the delivery of health care services. In Australia, healthcare governance is guided by national frameworks that emphasize safety, quality, and consumer partnership based on the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards, specifically – Standard 1 - Clinical Governance and Standard 2 - Partnering with Consumers.

We uphold transparency, accountability, and ethical leadership through:

Board Strategic Oversight. The Board of Directors provides strategic oversight, ensuring decisions reflect the interests of patients, staff, volunteers, and the community, while supporting the hospital's long-term sustainability.

Maintaining Regulatory Compliance. Adhering to all applicable laws, standards licences, and accreditation requirements to ensure responsible and accountable operations.

Risk Management. Proactively identifying and mitigating operational and reputational risks and maintaining a risk register which is regularly reviewed and updated.

Ethical Conduct. Ensuring integrity in clinical, financial, and administrative practices including fulfilling our obligations with our private hospital licence, the Associations Incorporations Act 1985 (SA), and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

Stakeholder engagement. Ensuring open and transparent communication with patients, staff, volunteers, and stakeholders including through systems like open disclosure for adverse events and a whistleblower policy to support transparency and accountability.

IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

ESG initiatives are supported by the Executive Team and an Environmental and Sustainability Working Party, with oversight and reporting led by the Chief Executive Officer and the Executive Leadership Team.

A quarterly ESG dashboard is presented to the Board of Directors and Quality Committee.

ESG is incorporated in the staff and volunteer education program including the clinical and non-clinical refresher program and reflected in the hospital policies and procedures.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Burnside Hospital Strategic Plan
- Burnside War Memorial Hospital Inc. Constitution
- Clinical Governance ([POL-159](#))
- Complaints Resolution ([POL-028](#))
- Consumer Engagement ([POL-029](#))
- Diversity and Inclusion ([POL-192](#))
- Objectives Reserved for the Board ([INT-020](#))
- Open Disclosure ([POL-053](#))
- Privacy ([POL-103](#))
- Procurement Review Committee ([TOR-030](#))
- Regulatory Compliance ([POL-138](#))
- Risk Management Framework ([INT-017](#))
- Speak Up Policy ([POL-190](#))
- Waste Management ([POL-061](#))
- Work Health Safety & Injury Management ([POL-154](#))

REFERENCES

- O'Shea, C, Sustainability Analyst, Ambulance Victoria
- Sustainability and Social Impact, RMIT, 2023
- The Three Pillars of ESG. Biggins, Keleher & Malinas, 2022
- Department of Health and Aged Care. The National Health and Climate Strategy. Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia, 2023.
- The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare, The interim Australian Centre for Disease Control, Australia medical colleges, Joint Statement – Working together to achieve sustainable high-quality health care in a changing climate, October 2024
- Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards.