

Modern Dental Pacific – Sustainability Strategy

June 2019

Author: James Squirrel

1. Introduction

This paper sets out the high-level sustainability strategy to be adopted by Modern Dental Pacific Pty Ltd and all subsidiary companies. It is a live document that may be updated periodically as required.

In formulating a strategy, we acknowledge that the business has various legal obligations around environmental matters that it must comply with. The business also exists as part of a social contract with its suppliers, customers, and employees, and we understand and accept that we must respond to community expectations in this area.

Our policy in this area needs to address all aspects of packaging used by the business, the level of waste generated, the opportunities for recycling and/or re-purposing that waste and how we can work with our all our stakeholders to enact positive change. This strategy document sets out:

- The rationale for taking actions within the sustainability space; and
- The approach and high-level actions that the business will take to make improvements.

2. Rationale for action

- Compliance with legislation/regulations

As a business, we commit to full compliance with all legislation and regulations. This compliance imparts obligations on us to address pollution, waste disposal, safe storage of certain chemicals, and workplace health and safety. We continue to refine our business processes to ensure compliance and to achieve best practice.

- Social contract

Our staff, customers and suppliers have increased expectations that all business should be proactive around sustainability. We will work towards positive change because it is the right thing to do, and because our stakeholders expect us to take these issues seriously. Failure to act will have a negative impact on our reputation within the industry.

- Commercial considerations

It is expected that many actions that we take to modify packaging and reduce waste may involve additional costs and investment for the business. However, we will also look to achieve cost savings from reducing packaging and energy usage, reducing disposal and removal of waste, lowering freight costs etc

3. Specific commitments

a. Communication of strategy

MDP's overall strategy is an open document, made available to customers, suppliers, our employees, and the community at large. We acknowledge the importance to our community of being transparent in our beliefs and goals.

b. Management decision making

Discussions and consideration around sustainability are to be embedded in all management decision making, including monthly Board reporting, annual business planning, and ongoing decisions around purchasing and operations.

c. Staff engagement

We will create a Sustainable Business Committee, with employee representatives across all sites. The Committee will act as a focal point for staff to generate and execute ideas for action.

d. Packaging

Packaging, particularly on case boxes represents the largest area of waste generated by the business. We will commit to identify actions that will *reduce* the amount of packaging material that we generate, and that will *increase* the proportion of packaging that is recyclable or reusable.

The Australian businesses will formally sign up to the Australian Packaging Covenant and commit to the goals of the Covenant. MDP businesses in New Zealand, the UK and Ireland will also commit to the principles of the Covenant.

e. Industry engagement

We will leverage our market position to influence positive action and change across the dental industry. This will be done through liaison with industry bodies, and through proactive discussions with suppliers, customers and other stakeholders across the industry and the dental profession.

f. Reduce non-packaging waste at all sites

This will be a focus for the Committees at each site. We will review all aspects of waste generated and work with waste generators to segregate operational and office waste, and then use appropriate waste management companies to remove and distribute this waste for recycling, reuse and/or conversion to energy-creation.

g. Review all aspects of the business for sustainable opportunities

We will introduce a circular economy approach to our business through all aspects of design, production/manufacturing, transport, usage, and then sustainable disposal at the end of useful life of our products and materials.