

Considering waste management in procurement practices

Example clauses

Introduction

In 2010-11 it is estimated that the Victorian healthcare system generated 41,674 tonnes of waste. About 70 per cent was general waste, 20 per cent was recycled and 10 per cent was clinical waste. Clinical waste is the most expensive waste stream comprising on average two-thirds of total waste costs.

The consideration of waste within procurement practices is one mechanism for reducing the level of waste-to-landfill, as well as waste costs. The Department of Health has prepared this example tender clause to assist Victorian public healthcare services consider waste management when engaging suppliers.

The example tender clause is provided solely on the basis that healthcare services will be responsible for making their own assessment of the applicability of the information provided to their circumstances. Those relying on it are advised to verify all relevant statements and information and obtain independent advice where appropriate. The department does not accept any liability to any person for the information or advice (or the use of such information or advice) that is provided in this example tender clause or incorporated into it by reference.

Example Clause

<Healthcare service> is seeking supply offers that will also assist in minimising waste to landfill. This may include:

- Identifying and engaging suppliers committed to working within the <Healthcare service's> sustainable procurement and waste reduction policies.
- Engaging suppliers that are able to provide innovative, value for money waste avoidance/reduction practices, for example take-back schemes.
- Giving preference to suppliers that demonstrate a commitment to sustainable resource use and waste management within their own business.

The Supplier is to submit the following information:

1. Outline how they propose to work within the <Healthcare service's> sustainable procurement and waste reduction policies. Provide examples and referees where they have worked with other organisations in a similar manner.
2. Provide details of any proposed waste avoidance/reduction initiatives that the supplier proposes for this contract. Such initiatives must clearly detail the environmental benefits, operational impacts, purchasing impacts as well as the financial cost/savings in order to demonstrate value for money. Examples of such initiatives include:
 - Clear labelling of packaging materials that can be recycled
 - Take-back schemes
 - Design of packaging to minimise waste
3. Demonstrate commitment to sustainable resource use and waste management within their own business by submitting information about their sustainability, procurement and/or waste reduction policies.