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Our Reference: 00752/18

Mr David Blunt
Clerk of the Parliaments
Legislative Council
Parliament House
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Blunt

Please find enclosed an update to the Law and Justice Committee in relation to its
First Review of the Dust Diseases Scheme.

This update provides a progress report on the Manufactured Stone Industry Taskforce, which was
established in July 2017 in response to recommendation 1 of the Committee's report.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Gavrielatos
Executive Director Specialist Services
SafeWork NSW

Date: 18 October 2018

Update to the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Law and Justice – first review of the Dust Diseases scheme by SafeWork NSW on progress of the Manufactured Stone Industry Taskforce

Recommendation	Update
Recommendation 1 That the relevant Minister urgently convene a taskforce of industry, regulatory and workforce representatives to review safety standards in the manufactured stone industry and consider regulatory changes necessary to protect workers in the industry.	In July 2017, the NSW Government announced the establishment of the Manufactured Stone Industry Taskforce. The Taskforce is convened by SafeWork NSW and comprises industry peak bodies, medical professionals, government agencies, the Australian Industry Group and Unions NSW. The Taskforce will run until 30 June 2019, with outputs of the Taskforce to be maintained within SafeWork's Chemicals Strategy under the WHS Roadmap for NSW 2022 - to 30 June 2022. As at 16 October 2018, the Taskforce has met three times to discuss and refine operational responses to this issue across government regulators, industry and employee organisations, with the fourth meeting scheduled for 26 October 2018. The Taskforce is also reviewing any potential gaps in relevant legislation. Some key initiatives of the Taskforce and SafeWork NSW's Chemical Strategy to date include: • preparing a manufactured stone industry "worker journey map" which maps a worker's movement through the lifecycle of systemic touchpoints, as well as the horizontal touchpoints between portfolios, to identify opportunities for education, monitoring, detection and treatment as well as general awareness raising. • development of a multi-channel awareness campaign, scheduled to commence in November 2018. • state-wide training for 156 SafeWork NSW Inspectors so they can spot and address the dangers of silicosis. • 281 SafeWork NSW inspector visits, 123 of which specifically in the manufactured stone industry. ○ These visits have resulted in 74 inspector notices: 71 improvement and two (2) prohibition, for a range of related and non-related silica issues. 59 of these were for manufactured stone. Approximately ten (10) notices relate specifically to health monitoring. Other matters include electrical, personal protective equipment, safety data sheets and labelling, plant and other chemical and site management issues, and other chemical and site management issues. • targeted industry presentations and meetings at 26 locations, with an additional three safety forums for manufactured stone scheduled for February 2019 in Western Sydney, Newcastle/Hunter and South Coast locations. • distribution of 3,189 safety factsheets to identified businesses, as well as via the relevant industry associations and government departments. Factsheets were translated into Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Hindi & Vietnamese. • Promotion of a health monitoring webinar, which has received 337 views and 368 views of the crystalline silica webpage. • safety rebates of \$500 to 24 businesses to improve work safety systems.

	• general awareness through media releases issued in October 2017 and July 2018 and Facebook posts (23 October 2017, 24 October 2017, 9 March 2018, 26 March 2018, 2 July 2018 & 23 July 2018, with reach of 14,700). Dust Diseases Care are supporting SafeWork NSW's Inspection program by providing subsidised health monitoring in Sydney and regional NSW. A total of 2,070 workers exposed to silica have undergone health monitoring provided by Dust Diseases Care. Dust Diseases Care will continue supporting SafeWork NSW's Inspection program to June 2022 under SafeWork's broader five-year Chemicals Strategy. Employers can elect to have health monitoring provided via: • Dust Diseases Care Lung Bus • Dust Diseases Sydney CBD medical centre • Through local service providers contracted by Dust Diseases Care to undertake health monitoring on their behalf • Their own medical practitioner that meets the requirements outlined in the WHS Regulation. Silicosis has also been raised in submissions to the national review of the Work Health and Safety Model Laws being conducted by an independent reviewer, which is due to report in December 2018. Senior WHS Officials will be meeting in November to consider an update from the NSW Taskforce and other jurisdictions taking action on this issue.
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