



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW AND JUSTICE

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **REVIEW OF THE DUST DISEASES SCHEME**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**26 February 2019**

The Standing Committee on Law and Justice in the NSW Legislative Council has released its latest report reviewing the Dust Diseases Scheme.

Committee Chair, the Hon Natalie Ward MLC, said 'Evidence received by the committee suggests the scheme is performing well and is providing personalised care and support to past and present workers with dust diseases, as well as their families'.

The Chair stated 'While the scheme is operating effectively, concerns were raised with the committee that silicosis is a serious emerging health issue, particularly in the manufactured stone industry. To ensure this issue is accorded priority in New South Wales, the report recommends that icare and SafeWork NSW conduct a case finding study for silicosis, with focus on the manufactured stone industry. In addition, the report recommends that the NSW Government urgently undertake targeted awareness and education initiatives into the dangers associated with working with these materials.'

The Chair continued: 'Given the importance of this issue, the committee recommends that its next review of the Dust Diseases Scheme focuses on silica dust and silicosis, particularly in the manufactured stone industry.'

'The committee also noted stakeholder views that implementing a Dust Diseases Register is an urgent priority. While a national register is the optimal solution, the report recommends that if a national register is not established by the end of 2019, New South Wales should establish its own register.' the Chair concluded.

The committee's report makes eight recommendations in total to the NSW Government. The report and other inquiry documents can be found on the committee's webpage: [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lawandjustice](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lawandjustice).

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*For further information please contact Committee Chair, The Hon. Natalie Ward MLC, on 9230 2186.*