



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW AND JUSTICE

## MEDIA RELEASE

### SILICOSIS IN THE MANUFACTURED STONE INDUSTRY

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1 July 2019

The Standing Committee on Law and Justice in the NSW Legislative Council has commenced its 2019 review of the Dust Diseases scheme, focusing on the response to silicosis in the manufactured stone industry.

Silicosis is an irreversible lung disease caused by inhaling silica dust, which can be found in manufactured stone products such as kitchen and bathroom benchtops. The committee is deeply concerned about the risks posed to stonemasons, especially in light of reports from health experts that this could be a major epidemic.

The Committee Chair, the Hon Niall Blair MLC, stated 'The rising use of artificial stone in the housing industry seems to be resulting in an increase in the diagnosis of silicosis among stonemasons. Given young people are being diagnosed with this incurable lung disease, the committee wants to examine whether more can be done to identify and prevent the disease in the industry'.

The committee invites interested organisations and community members to make a submission to the inquiry. Submissions are due by **Monday 12 August 2019**, and can be lodged via the committee's website: [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 Niall Blair MLC, on 9230 2397*