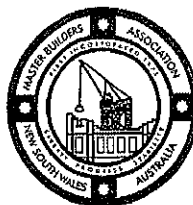


16 October 2019



**Master
Builders
Association**

New South Wales

The Hon. Niall Blair (Chair)
Standing Committee on Law and Justice
2019 Review of Dust Diseases Scheme

Attention : Ms Tina Mrozowska
Council Officer Assistant
Upper House Committees / Legislative Council
Parliament of New South Wales
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Email : Law@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Chair

RESPONSES TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW AND JUSTICE 2019 REVIEW OF DUST DISEASES SCHEME

We write regarding Questions on Notice arising from the Committee's Hearing on 20 September 2019.

During the course of the Hearing, Master Builders provides suggestions in response to the Questions on Notice as follows:

Context: The CHAIR: We are looking at innovative, maybe outside-the-box ways to recommend—so that we do not end up losing people in their twenties for sucking in this stuff or exposing a young child in a residential setting because of a tradesperson doing the wrong thing.

Question 1:

The Chair: I guess this is an open question – do you have an outside-the-box ideas that could assist with that?

Answer 1:

Mr Solomon: The regulator could easily develop an SMS/email notification service, delivering a series of alerts focused on the dangers of silica based products. This could be set up on a central platform (cloud based) and send notifications to all NSW white-card holders at specific times and dates. We know through data provided by industry that 89% of 18 - 25 year olds have a mobile device. We also know that people are most bored at work on a Thursday between 2-3pm. With this type of information available to us the NSW Regulator could use the same information as a trigger to send the notifications. They could be in a series of useful tips or hints, pertaining to factual information is the safe use and handling of silica based products.

Context: Mr SOLOMON: You would capture some. Some is better than nothing. You would get an idea of the footprint. That would not encroach on a builder the cost to do the job; it is another element to notify. They have to go through council anyway for those requirements. That could be a standalone requirement, a separate line item on a development application.

Question 2:

The Chair: Have you seen any evidence of this having an impact on workers compensation premiums throughout your industry? You can take it on notice if you like.

Answer 2:

We have not been able to identify any significant spike or increase in workers compensation premiums in relation to exposure to silica dust. We suggest pursuing this information via government departments from iCare and SIRA.

Master Builders takes this opportunity to again thank the Committee to address concerns related to cutting of manufactured stone in NSW.

Should the Committee have any further enquiries regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely

David Solomon FISQEM
Certified Management System Specialist
EXECUTIVE OFFICER SAFETY & RISK