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The Legislative Council
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Email:

Dear Legislative Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to present at the 2019 Review of the Dust Diseases Scheme Inquiry Hearing on September 16, 2019 and for the extension given to me to respond as I have been overseas.

In response to The Hon Trevor Khan's request for peer reviewed papers that further evidence the range of conditions caused by exposure to silica I have forwarded a number of articles regarding other conditions caused by silica exposure including COPD, lung cancer, autoimmune and rheumatologic conditions like rheumatoid arthritis, Sjogren's Syndrome and scleroderma and kidney disease which are relatively recent. There are numerous such articles. Of particular note is the paper which looks at autoantibody rates in workers with manufactured stone.

I have found very little research data to answer the second supplementary question. Given the context I have interpreted "secondary exposure" as bystander exposure.

I would suggest that it would be a very important area to consider researching.

I have consulted with Michael Weller an Occupational Hygienist from SafeWork NSW and Dr Graeme Edwards in preparing my response to the supplementary questions . I have supplied a three papers to go with my response. One of these relates to asbestos instead which has been more thoroughly investigated than silica.

I have requested several amendments to add greater clarity and accuracy to my statement at the Inquiry.

Finally I have some additional roles to being a clinician in fields relating to occupational lung disease. I wondered if it would be appropriate to add this to my introduction or put it somewhere in the record. Having subsequently heard Dr. Graeme Edwards and Professor Yates outline their different roles I realised I had been fairly concise in my introduction. I have already written to Tina Mrozowska about this and she was going to put this proposal to you.

I am a member of the icare NSW Dust Diseases Board and I was a member of the NSW SafeWork Silicosis Taskforce. I'm also a member of TSANZ Occupational and Environmental Lung Diseases

Special Interest Group and a Conjoint Senior Lecturer with The Faculty of Medicine and Public Health at the University of Newcastle.

Regards,

Dr Susan Miles