



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW AND JUSTICE

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **SILICOSIS INQUIRY CONTINUES**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**3 February 2020**

The Standing Committee on Law and Justice continues its inquiry into silicosis in the manufactured stone industry with a public hearing on **Tuesday, 11 February 2020** at Parliament House. The Upper House committee has used its regular oversight review of the Dust Diseases Scheme to focus on the response to silicosis amidst an increasing prevalence of the acute lung disease amongst stonemasons.

The committee has already received extensive evidence from a range of stakeholders, including medical professionals, unions, lawyers, industry experts and regulatory agencies. A number of policy and regulatory developments have also progressed since the committee's last hearing in November.

At this next hearing, the committee will again take evidence from icare and SafeWork NSW, as well as hearing from Safe Work Australia. This will help to round off discussions on key issues raised during the inquiry, including medical screening for the disease, the use of control measures such as wet cutting, and regulatory enforcement of safety standards among fabricators and installers.

The Committee Chair, the Hon Wes Fang MLC, stated: 'This next hearing will ensure the committee is well informed ahead of drawing its final conclusions and recommendations to the NSW Government. Further evidence from icare, SafeWork NSW and Safe Work Australia will better place us in our work to improve the health and safety of those within the manufactured stone industry and address the concerning issue of silicosis among stonemasons'.

The hearing will take place in the Macquarie Room at Parliament House on Tuesday, 11 February 2020 and will be broadcast via the NSW Parliament's website. The committee's report is expected to be tabled by 25 March 2020.

Further information about the review, including the terms of reference, submissions and hearing schedule, can be found on the committee's website at: <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/law>

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*For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon Wes Fang MLC, on 9230 2888*