

Public Hearing - Inquiry into Work Health and Safety Amendment (Information Exchange) Bill 2020 - Thursday 20 August 2020

RACP witnesses: A/Professor Deborah Yates and Dr Graeme Edwards

Question taken on notice by A/Professor Yates: Can you provide a list of diseases associated with silica exposure?

Response from A/Professor Yates:

There are a range of diseases that are known to be associated with silica exposure. These include chronic silicosis (simple silicosis and complicated silicosis); acute silicosis; accelerated/rapidly progressive silicosis, rheumatoid silicosis (Caplan's syndrome); mixed dust pneumoconiosis; interstitial pulmonary fibrosis (diffuse dust-related fibrosis); airways diseases such as chronic bronchitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), emphysema and mineral dust airway disease (MDAD); infectious diseases including pulmonary and extra-pulmonary tuberculosis, non-tuberculous mycobacterial disease, pulmonary fungal disease; lung cancer; autoimmune diseases (such as scleroderma, systemic lupus erythematosus or rheumatoid arthritis); chronic renal disease and cardiovascular disease.

The differentiation between different diseases is based on the respirable dust concentration, exposure duration, clinical features and results of special investigations ordered by a respiratory physician, occupational and environmental physician, rheumatologist or other specialist physician.