



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW AND JUSTICE

MEDIA RELEASE

REVIEW OF THE DUST DISEASES SCHEME AND MANAGEMENT OF SILICOSIS IN THE MANUFACTURED STONE INDUSTRY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1 September 2021

The Standing Committee on Law and Justice in the NSW Legislative Council has commenced its regular oversight review of the Dust Diseases scheme, a scheme that provides support and assistance to certain workers exposed to harmful dust in their workplace. As part of the review, the committee will again consider the prevention, treatment and management of 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 monitoring developments on this issue at the state and federal level, and wants to explore whether recommendations from its previous review have been implemented and whether further reforms might be necessary to protect workers.

The Committee Chair, the Hon Wes Fang MLC, stated "Our last review of the scheme was very significant as it focused entirely on the re-emergence of silicosis as an occupational dust disease affecting workers in the manufactured stone industry. The committee looked at the identification of this disease, and the controls put in place in the industry to minimise exposure and protect workers. We made a number of important recommendations and this review will provide another important opportunity to evaluate progress on this issue".

The committee invites interested organisations and community members to make a submission to the inquiry. Submissions are due by **12 December 2021**, and can be lodged via the committee's website: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lawandjustice.

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