

(In confidence)

To: National Dust Disease Taskforce  
Dust Consultation. Second Phase.

I would like to offer the following for your consideration relating to the second phase consultation process.

I consider incidences of Accelerated Silicosis to be an Industrial tragedy, a tragedy that should have been avoided. Silica is found in 'dust'/air pollution/contamination, generated from industrial practices from multiple industries. Banning engineered stone is one way of reducing incidence of accelerated silicosis and perhaps a more moral action to take, however I am of the view that the eliminating of one serious life threatening risk does not guarantee another equally life threatening risk will not take its place, indeed it might eventuate that many life threatening risks presently exist in workplaces that generate dust. Therefore it appears prudent to consider a way forward that addresses 'dust' in its entirety rather than its constituent parts to ensure all risks are adequately provided for.

Examples of my observations are as follows:

- Occupational dust is likely/potentially, a hazard to health, both short term and long term, and thus a Public Health concern
- Production appears of paramount priority over consideration of potential health risks of a commodity
- Dust has the potential to affect the broader community at varying levels
- TAFE and University courses are non-existent relating to 'dust' education
- Health awareness appears scant/unknown when considering the individuals 'it' may impact
- Onus appears industry led
- The term 'dust' is soft and requires a more scientific name to reflect 'its' potential to do harm

Possible solution, examples:

- Expertise in 'dust' should become a recognised and registered occupation, independent, mandatory & utilised by industry
- Educational pathways – health theory & practice, including maintenance of dust systems, (ventilation & extraction)
- Education should be delivered via TAFE/Tertiary institutions
- Dust mitigation to be overseen independent of industry control to ensure compliance at all levels
- Dust systems should be installed appropriated to industry, and at industry cost

I believe by developing an independent and accountable 'dust occupation', the potential exists to make a difference to the health and wellbeing of many individuals of all ages, as well as provide employment opportunity in a specialised area.

Thank you for your time

Yours sincerely

Carol (Green)