



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Health**

Standing Committee on Community Affairs  
Legislative Committee  
The Senate

Via email: [seniorclerk.committees.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:seniorclerk.committees.sen@aph.gov.au)

**RE: SUBMISSION TO OCCUPATIONAL RESPIRATORY DISEASE REGISTRY BILL 2023 [PROVISIONS] AND NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL RESPIRATORY DISEASE REGISTRY (CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) BILL 2023 [PROVISIONS]**

WA Health consists of the Department of Health, Child and Adolescent Health Service, North Metropolitan Health Service, South Metropolitan Health Service, East Metropolitan Health Service, WA Country Health Service, Health Support Services, PathWest and the Quadriplegic Centre.

The Department of Health, led by the Director General, provides leadership and management of the health system as a whole, ensuring the delivery of high quality, safe and timely health services.

Our strategic priorities are focused on ensuring that Western Australians receive safe, high quality and accessible health care, no matter where they live. With a focus on prevention, we work to provide a high-quality continuum of care spanning health promotion, early intervention and primary care, through to diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and palliation.

Our strategic priorities include:

- prevention and community care services
- health services
- chronic disease services
- Aboriginal health services

**WA HEALTH COMMENTS FOR THE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE (SENATE)**

- WA health supports national registration of silicosis and emerging occupational respiratory diseases in a centralised national registry.
- The purpose of the registry is supported, i.e. 'to record the incidence of the disease and to assist in the prevention of further worker exposure to respiratory disease causing agents'. This is important beyond the primary remit of the registry in relation to silicosis.
- The opportunity for the data to aid the detection of new and emerging threats to workers' respiratory health, inform incidence and prevalence trends, and assist in targeting and monitoring the effectiveness of interventions and prevention strategies, is welcomed

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- 2 -

- Registration or notification by the diagnosing and/or treating medical practitioner is supported, acknowledging privacy caveats and the two-tiered approach to data collection. However, it is recommended there is consideration for future mandatory automated reporting to the database via pathology (as occurs for notifiable infectious disease in WA) or radiology providers (acknowledging the complexity of silicosis diagnosis).
- The requirement for annual reporting by the CMO is supported; the facilitation of provision of statistics to states and territories, and to prescribed medical practitioners, is critical to the success of the registry

Support is provided for:

- an interactional database that provides regular reporting of state and national incidence and prevalence of silicosis, and emerging occupational respiratory conditions,
- provision of a real-time dashboard of the results, with regular notification of reports distributed to state Chief Health Officers (and/or their delegates).
- Summaries to include detail on demographics, work history and smoking status and history (never, ex- or current smoker, smoking years)
- Regular reporting to Worker Health Safety and Workers' Compensation regulators, Safe Work Australia and Comcare to support their functional roles.

This submission has been prepared following consultation with the Office of the Chief Health Officer, Epidemiology Directorate and Environmental Health Directorate of the [Public and Aboriginal Health Division of the Department of Health](#).

If you have any questions regarding this submission, please contact:

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