RECOMMENDATIONS

Chapter 3

Recommendation 1

3.59 That the Australian Safety and Compensation Council review the National Data Action Plan to ensure that reliable data on disease related to exposure to toxic dust is readily available.

Recommendation 2

3.60 That the Australian Safety and Compensation Council extend the Surveillance of Australian Work-Based Respiratory Events (SABRE) program Australia-wide and that the program provide for mandatory reporting of occupational lung disease to improve the collection of data on dust-related disease.

Chapter 4

Recommendation 3

4.34 That the Australian Safety and Compensation Council, in conjunction with the Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities, consider mechanisms to improve health surveillance of employees, particularly those exposed to toxic dust.

Recommendation 4

4.35 That the Australian Safety and Compensation Council promote the dissemination of information concerning the health effects of exposure to toxic dust to the medical profession.

Recommendation 5

4.36 That the Australian Safety and Compensation Council examine the need for improvements in testing regimes for lung disease associated with exposure to toxic dust including the training of those conducting tests and equipment requirements.

Chapter 5

Recommendation 6

5.86 That the Australian Safety and Compensation Council undertake a national campaign to raise awareness of the hazards associated with toxic dust.

Recommendation 7

5.87 That the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations raise with the Workplace Relations Ministers' Council the need to ensure enforcement of

hazardous substance regulations and the need to enact nationally consistent standards in a more timely manner.

Recommendation 8

5.88 That the Australian Safety and Compensation Council, in conjunction with the Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities, consider mechanisms to increase the number of occupational hygienists being trained and employed by regulators.

Chapter 6

Recommendation 9

6.31 That State and Territory Governments move as soon as possible to set up nationally consistent identification, assessment and compensation mechanisms for persons affected by workplace related exposure to toxic dust and their families to at least the current New South Wales standard.

Recommendation 10

6.32 That the State and Territory Governments use the New South Wales *Workers' Compensation (Dust Diseases Act) 1942* as the model for this mechanism.

Recommendation 11

6.33 That the State and Territory Governments, other than New South Wales, move as soon as possible to adopt the approach of New South Wales to remove statutes of limitation that restrict legal proceedings for claims for personal injuries resulting from exposure to toxic dust.

Chapter 7

Recommendation 12

7.84 That the National Nanotechnology Strategy be finalised as a matter of priority.

Recommendation 13

7.85 That a working party on nanotechnology regulation consisting of representatives of the Therapeutic Goods Administration, NICNAS and the Australian Safety and Compensation Council be established to consider the impact of the emerging field of nanotechnology on the regulatory framework including:

- whether existing regulations are appropriate;
- how gaps and uncertainties in the regulatory framework can be addressed;
- how comprehensive management of risks of exposure to nanoparticles can be incorporated into the regulatory framework;

- whether Australia will require materials, already classified as safe at the macroscale, to be reassessed if they are to be used at the nanoscale; and

- whether there is a need for the establishment of a permanent body to regulate nanotechnology.

The working party should consult with stakeholders including consumer groups, State and Territory governments, unions, industry, health organisations and the public and provide a public report on these issues by March 2007.

Recommendation 14

7.86 That Commonwealth agencies including the Office of the Australian Safety and Compensation Council and NICNAS actively pursue links to overseas regulatory and research bodies to ensure that they are kept fully informed of developments in the rapidly emerging field of nanotechnology.