



Australian Government
**Asbestos and Silica Safety
and Eradication Agency**



Inaugural Silica National Strategic Plan 2024–30

**Transitional Implementation Report:
25 November 2024 to 30 June 2025**



This document has been prepared by:



Australian Government
Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency

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List of acronyms

Term	Definition
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ASSEA	Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency
ASSEC	Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Council
BCCSA	British Columbia Construction Safety Alliance
CALD	culturally and linguistically diverse
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CSS	Crystalline Silica Substances
CT	computed tomography
CWP	coal workers' pneumoconiosis
DEWR	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
DoHDA	Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
EAG	Expert Advisory Group
ES	engineered stone
FY	financial year
GHS	Globally Harmonized System
HMR	health monitoring report
icare	Insurance and Care (NSW)
LES	Legacy Engineered Stone
LFA	Lung Foundation Australia
MAQOHSC	Mining and Quarrying Occupational Health and Safety Committee (SA)
NORDR	National Occupational Respiratory Disease Registry
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
OIR	Office of Industrial Relations (QLD)
OSH	Occupational Safety and Health

Term	Definition
PCBU	person conducting a business or undertaking
QLD	Queensland
RCS	respirable crystalline silica
RMP	registered medical practitioners
SA	South Australia
SNSP	Silica National Strategic Plan
SWA	Safe Work Australia
SWR	Silica Worker Register (NSW)
Tas	Tasmania
Vic	Victoria
WA	Western Australia
WASAP	WA Silica Action Plan 2025–30
WEL	Workplace Exposure Limit
WES	Workplace Exposure Standard
WHS	work health and safety

Executive Summary

The Inaugural Silica National Strategic Plan (SNSP) 2024–30 aims to eliminate silica-related diseases, support affected individuals and position Australia as a global leader in silica safety. This report, prepared by the Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency (ASSEA) with input from the jurisdictions (i.e. Safe Work Australia, the Australian Government, as well as state and territory governments), documents Australia’s response to the re-emergence of silicosis and other silica-related diseases aligned with the SNSP 2024–30 national priorities. The contribution of non-government stakeholders is also acknowledged, given their representation on several government-led bodies and committees and their role in delivering some of the strategic actions.

The report covers activities from 25 November 2024 (when the SNSP achieved the required majority agreement) to 30 June 2025. Some activities pre-dating the reporting period have been included due to their ongoing relevance with the SNSP’s national priorities.

Work to develop national targets for the SNSP 2024–30 was undertaken during this reporting period. National targets will be incorporated into the SNSP 2024–30 once they have been agreed by governments and will be used to evaluate future progress (see Section 1.3 of this report).

Effective implementation of the SNSP is dependent on each jurisdiction establishing an interagency coordination group or similar mechanism and using the SNSP to guide development of its own silica action plan.

All jurisdictions reported that they have either completed or are in the process of considering or developing local action plans aligned with national priorities (see Section 2.1 of this report).

ASSEA also established the Senior Implementation Forum which has facilitated collaboration and information sharing among government agencies.

Although this report does not cover a full year of SNSP implementation, with the reporting period being a transitional phase, it shows that positive foundational steps have been taken under each of the SNSP priority areas.

Key activities and achievements under the national priorities

- **Workplace Risk Reduction:** Implementation is well underway with progress already achieved in strengthening the work health and safety (WHS) regulatory framework to prevent exposure to respirable crystalline silica (RCS), including adopting model WHS laws developed by Safe Work Australia and implementing bans on engineered stone (see Appendix A). Regulators also reported conducting compliance campaigns, taking enforcement action when necessary and providing guidance for duty holders on the new requirements. Compliance and enforcement activities focused on RCS risk controls, health monitoring and training requirements (see Appendix B).

- **Education and Awareness:** All jurisdictions reported conducting various awareness and education activities on managing the risks associated with crystalline silica. Activities included publishing guidance material, conducting awareness campaigns, speaking at industry events, improving training courses, and providing grants for organisations to raise awareness of the new silica regulations and the engineered stone ban. ASSEA commenced developing a national silica awareness survey to inform future targeted education, awareness, and behaviour change initiatives.
- **Health Monitoring and Support:** The development of new systems for health monitoring and surveillance commenced, such as the National Occupational Respiratory Disease Registry and the NSW Silica Worker Register. Free health assessments and support services are now available for affected workers.
- **Research and Development:** The Australian Government commissioned multidisciplinary research forums to inform the National Silica-Related Diseases Research Strategy, identifying gaps and priority areas for research. The governments in NSW, Queensland and Victoria also reported investing in occupational dust disease research programs. Further investment in research and evaluation is essential to address emerging risks, improve diagnosis and treatment, and inform policy.
- **International Collaboration:** Australia is sharing expertise globally as there is considerable interest internationally in the approach Australia has taken to prohibit the import and use of engineered stone. There has also been liaison between government officials in Australia and Canada regarding the British Columbia Construction Safety Alliance Silica Control Tool and its adaptability to the Australian regulatory context.

ASSEA is working with jurisdictions to address current gaps in data availability and consistency, which affect the ability to improve policy and to measure progress in achieving the aims of the SNSP 2024–30.

ASSEA will continue to support its stakeholders in the implementation of the SNSP 2024–30, working together to eliminate silica-related diseases.

1 Introduction

The inaugural Silica National Strategic Plan 2024–30 (SNSP 2024–30) was developed in response to the re-emergence of silicosis in Australia. Silicosis and other debilitating and often fatal diseases caused by silica exposure are entirely preventable.

With up to 1.45 million Australians working in industries where they may be exposed to respirable crystalline silica, urgent and focused action was needed to improve safety standards and increase our understanding of the risks and how to address them.

1.1

Development of the inaugural Silica National Strategic Plan

The inaugural Silica National Strategic Plan 2024–30 (SNSP 2024–30)¹ aims to drive nationally coordinated action to address the increasing incidence of silicosis and other silica-related diseases in Australia. It builds on work previously undertaken by the Lung Foundation Australia (LFA) and the former Department of Health and Aged Care (now the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing) to develop a national silicosis prevention strategy in line with the recommendations of the National Dust Disease Taskforce – Final report².

The SNSP 2024–30 Companion³ report provides background information and context for the SNSP 2024–30 which was developed in consultation with a broad range of stakeholders including affected workers and their families, state and territory governments, industry, unions, employers, health professionals, researchers and peak bodies.

The SNSP 2024–30 contains 3 aims:

- to eliminate silica-related diseases in Australia, through improved worker health and wellbeing
- to support workers and others who are affected by silica-related diseases, through continued improvements in diagnostic and therapeutic systems and methods
- to be an international leader by leveraging the global effort to improve silica safety and silica-related disease outcomes.

National actions within 5 priority areas support these aims (see Figure 1).

1 [Silica National Strategic Plan 2024–30](#)

2 [National Dust Disease Taskforce – Final report | Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing](#)

3 [Silica National Strategic Plan 2024–30 – Companion](#)

Figure 1: Overview of SNSP 2024–30

Outcome	Sustained elimination of silicosis and other silica-related diseases in Australia		
<p>Aim 1</p> <p>Eliminate silica-related diseases in Australia</p> <p>Improved worker health and wellbeing</p>		Priority 1	Workplace risk reduction
		Priority 2	Education and awareness
<p>Aim 2</p> <p>Support workers and others affected by silica-related diseases</p> <p>Continued improvements in diagnostic and therapeutic systems and methods</p>		Priority 3	Health monitoring, screening, surveillance and support
		Priority 4	Research and development
<p>Aim 3</p> <p>Be an international leader</p> <p>Leverage global effort to improve silica safety and silica-related disease outcomes</p>		Priority 5	International collaboration

For each aim, the SNSP also identifies various barriers to achieving change and the key drivers that are needed to overcome these barriers (see Table 1).

Table 1: Barriers and enablers to achieving change

Barriers to change

SNSP Aim 1	SNSP Aim 2	SNSP Aim 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low compliance with silica safety measures at all stages of the supply chain • Poor air monitoring practices • Poor knowledge and understanding of RCS as a risk • Perception silica-related diseases are only associated with engineered stone • Incomplete information and data on RCS exposure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incomplete data and information on silica-related diseases • Variable approaches to health monitoring and screening delaying diagnosis • Low compliance with health monitoring requirements in WHS laws • Low employee participation in health monitoring arising from, among other things, fear of job loss • Insufficient knowledge of silica-related diseases among medical and other health professionals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varying awareness and acceptance of RCS exposure as a health issue • Under-diagnosis and under-reporting of silica-related diseases, especially in developing countries • Exposure standards vary between countries

Priority enablers

				
Improve awareness, skills and resources	Strengthen and align relevant legal frameworks	Support and enforce compliance with silica-related laws	Innovate and inspire action and collaboration	Grow the evidence base to inform decisions

To maintain momentum in managing the re-emergence of silicosis, the draft SNSP 2024–30 was finalised without the inclusion of agreed national targets as required by the ASSEA Act⁴, on the provision they be recommended to the Minister who administers the ASSEA Act by 30 June 2025. This process is outlined in Section 1.3.

The majority of the Australian, state and territory governments endorsed the SNSP 2024–30, representing a commitment towards the agreed strategic actions, while acknowledging that ongoing consultation would be necessary to finalise the national targets.

1.2

The coordination role of the Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency

The Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency was established in 2013 to oversee national actions to improve asbestos awareness and the effective and safe management, removal and disposal of asbestos through the Asbestos National Strategic Plan.

On 7 December 2023, the agency's functions were expanded to include silica through the Amendment of the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency Act 2013. The agency's name was also changed to the Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency (ASSEA), and the expanded role now includes overseeing national actions to eliminate silica-related diseases through coordinating the implementation of the SNSP.

The coordination function of ASSEA ensures national actions to eliminate silicosis and silica-related diseases in Australia remain a focus across all levels of government, through:

- supporting and monitoring the implementation of the SNSP 2024–30 by the jurisdictions and other partners with lead actions
- fostering collaboration between relevant stakeholders in the silica safety system
- promoting consistent messages, policies and practices
- improving the state of knowledge and awareness of silica safety and silica-related diseases
- conducting, monitoring and promoting research
- collecting and analysing data required for measuring progress on preventing exposure to RCS, and for informing evidence-based policies and strategies.

To optimise cross-government collaboration in SNSP implementation, ASSEA established the Senior Implementation Forum, composed of senior government officials representing agencies and departments responsible for leading strategic actions. Biannual meetings aim to support progress of these actions, by facilitating the sharing of information, coordination of activities and leveraging of opportunities.

ASSEA also established a Silica Advisory Committee, comprised of persons who have technical knowledge and/or experience in representing industries with exposure to RCS; silica policy and regulation; industry experts; behavioural experts; silica-related diseases; and

4 [Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency Act 2013 – Federal Register of Legislation](#)

advocacy, support and care. Members provide advice on ASSEA’s projects and initiatives under the SNSP 2024–30. The committee meets biannually, following an agreed advisory plan.

1.3

Measuring performance

Developing national targets

National targets define the expected levels of performance or outcomes for the SNSP 2024–30. They represent the specific objectives or goals that the SNSP aims to achieve within a certain timeframe, i.e. a reduction in new cases of acute, accelerated, and chronic silicosis and other-silica-related diseases in Australia.

Proposed national targets were developed against each of the 5 priorities and needed to be:

- meaningful – demonstrating clear progress towards achieving the SNSP outcome and aims
- feasible – can be reliably measured and reported using data currently available or likely to be accessible as the SNSP progresses
- relevant – directly supporting and reflecting the SNSP’s overarching priorities, aims and outcome.

Notably, some of the national targets were to be aspirational, designed to capture the impacts of implementing the current SNSP 2024–30 and beyond.

Process

The process to develop national targets was informed by analysis of previous foundational work including the draft National Silicosis Prevention Strategy (2023–28) and associated action plan⁵, the early work to consider an Occupational Respiratory Disease Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, and other national plans including the Asbestos National Strategic Plan 2024–30⁶ and the Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy 2023–33⁷.

ASSEA established an Expert Advisory Group (EAG) to provide advice on developing the SNSP evaluation framework, including the national targets and associated indicators. The EAG comprised 11 members, including members of the ASSEC, representatives of WHS regulators and relevant industry, union and Australian government organisations. ASSEA commissioned the Nous Group to assist in developing the national targets.

The Nous Group conducted individual interviews with all EAG members and 3 additional invited experts between 4 and 19 March 2025. Three workshops with EAG members were then held between 27 March and 16 April 2025, to draft, test and refine elements of the evaluation approach, including the national targets and indicators. In addition, EAG members provided written out of session feedback on the draft national targets and indicators.

5 [National Silicosis Prevention Strategy 2023-2028 and National Action Plan \(June 2023\)](#)

6 [Asbestos National Strategic Plan 2024–30](#)

7 [Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy 2023–2033 | Safe Work Australia](#)

Nous analysed and consolidated all input, testing and refining the results in collaboration with ASSEA's Executive team, before submission to jurisdictional regulators (from the Senior Implementation Forum) for review. Written feedback received from jurisdictional regulators was considered along with comments provided during a virtual briefing session, resulting in final revisions to the national targets.

On 16 June 2025 ASSEA submitted a brief to the Hon Amanda Rishworth MP, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, providing the national targets, seeking her endorsement and requesting she also write to state and territory WHS ministers for their endorsement.

Next steps

National targets will be incorporated into the SNSP 2024–30 once they have been agreed by the jurisdictions.

Each target will require the establishment of the baseline, ideally to be measured in the second year of the SNSP 2024–30. A process will be undertaken by ASSEA to achieve this, including establishing timeframes, stakeholder responsibilities, and consideration of benchmarks to encourage measurable progress.

Reporting against agreed national targets is expected to occur in the next reporting period, covering FY 2025–26.

2 Implementation and reporting by jurisdictions

This report summarises the collective activities of Safe Work Australia, the Australian Government, as well as state and territory governments (together, ‘the jurisdictions’) related to the inaugural SNSP 2024–30.

It covers the reporting period of 25 November 2024 to 30 June 2025.

Since SNSP 2024–30 achieved the required majority agreement (6 of 9 governments) on 25 November 2024, transitional provisions⁸ for the ASSEA Act apply in the first reporting period. The first SNSP progress report need only describe:

- the content of the inaugural SNSP
- the activities undertaken by the Australian, state and territory governments in relation to its implementation from 25 November 2024 (the agreement day) until 30 June 2025
- any other matters ASSEA considers relevant.

Subsequent reporting for the SNSP will cover annual progress by financial year from 1 July 2025, and jurisdictions will help track progress towards agreed national targets.

In compiling this report, ASSEA relied on data and information provided by the jurisdictions against the 5 priorities in the SNSP 2024–30. ASSEA has worked closely with the jurisdictions to address any gaps and used all reasonable endeavours to ensure this report is an accurate reflection of Australian-wide activities

related to the SNSP. There may be gaps for reasons including unavailability of data and information, and/or differing interpretations of reporting requirements taken by the jurisdictions. Each year, ASSEA conducts a post-data collection review and implements enhanced data capture and governance processes to continually improve the quality of future reports.

2.1 Intra-jurisdictional coordination and action plans

Effective implementation of the SNSP is dependent on each jurisdiction establishing an interagency coordination group or similar mechanism and using the SNSP to guide development of its own silica action plan. During the reporting period, most jurisdictions began formulating their respective action plans. The activities undertaken are outlined below:

- The **Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations** (DEWR) is working with relevant Australian Government agencies

8 [Fair Work Legislation Amendment \(Closing Loopholes\) Act 2023 – Federal Register of Legislation](#)

and departments (e.g. ASSEA and the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing) to develop the Commonwealth Silica Action Plan 2024–30.

- **Safe Work Australia (SWA), a tripartite body** comprising representatives from all jurisdictions, unions and employer groups, finalised the SWA Silica Action Plan to support the implementation of SNSP action items which it is leading or co-leading. SWA is jointly funded by the Australian, state and territory governments through an Intergovernmental Agreement for Regulatory and Operational Reform in Occupational Health and Safety.
- The **Western Australian government** (led by WorkSafe WA of the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety) developed the WA Silica Action Plan 2025–30 (WASAP) to support SNSP implementation. It is expected to be endorsed in September 2025. The WASAP was developed to:
 - align with SWA’s national silica approach and the SNSP principles of coordination, evidence-based action and transparency
 - provide for monitoring and reviews in consultation with stakeholders, for a nationally consistent and locally effective response to silicosis in WA workplaces
 - reflect the WA government’s strong commitment to WHS, specifically in preventing silica-related diseases
- support key government policy objectives and WorkSafe WA’s strategic initiatives to reduce work-related fatalities, injuries and illnesses in *The Way Forward 2023–24 to 2025–26*⁹ and national codes of practice
- complement the Work Health and Safety (Mines) Regulations 2022.
- The **ACT government** is finalising its silica action plan for 2024–30, setting out local activities to support delivering the SNSP. The plan will provide a framework for implementing national priorities locally to reduce workplace silica risks, with ASSEA data metrics incorporated once available. The existing WorkSafe ACT Strategic Plan 2025–29¹⁰ includes ongoing initiatives that are already in progress.
- **SafeWork NSW** includes silica as part of its annual regulatory priorities which align with strategic actions in the SNSP. The NSW government launched a Tunnelling Dust Safety Taskforce in April 2025, with SafeWork NSW as chair, collaborating with other NSW government agencies, unions, academics and industry. The Taskforce developed a 10-point Action Plan that is being implemented.¹¹

9 [Introduction to WorkSafe: The way forward – WorkSafe WA – LGIRS](#)

10 [Work Health and Safety \(Office of the Work Health and Safety Commissioner\) Strategic Plan 2025–29 | PDF](#)

11 [Tunnelling Dust Safety Taskforce 8 April 2025 meeting communique | SafeWork NSW](#)

- **WorkSafe Tasmania**, in partnership with a Coordination Group, is actively developing its silica action plan on behalf of the Tasmanian government. The plan is anticipated to be finalised and receive approval for implementation in early 2026. The Coordination Group is currently made up of State Service Entities, including the EPA, and local government representation, with membership expected to change as the work evolves and potentially expands over time. The current priorities of the Tasmanian government are to:
 - raise awareness across high-risk industries
 - prevent the occurrence of the diseases through implementation of the engineered stone ban, and
 - when necessary, enforce the relevant WHS laws.
- The **South Australian government's** Asbestos and Silica Strategic Group is finalising a draft SA Silica Action Plan 2024–30 to implement the aims and priorities of the SNSP.
- The **Northern Territory** (via the Interagency Asbestos and Silica Working Group), the **Queensland government** (led via the Office of Industrial Relations) and the **Victorian government** (led via WorkSafe Victoria) are also in the process of considering or developing silica action plans for their respective jurisdictions.

The SNSP 2024–30 identifies key partners for each strategic action and acknowledges that implementation will be most effective if undertaken in collaboration with others who support, influence, and facilitate action on silica safety and silica-related diseases, including businesses, unions, health and medical professionals and researchers (Figure 2).

Figure 2: The Silica Safety System



3 Transitional report – activities related to the Silica National Strategic Plan priorities

3.1

Eliminating silica-related diseases in Australian workplaces



Priority 1: Workplace risk reduction

A strong national framework that prevents exposure to RCS, consistent with the WHS hierarchy of controls, will drive the elimination of workplace silica-related diseases. Changes have already been implemented, with reviews being undertaken to ensure effectiveness.

Early action taken by governments means that Action 1-A of the SNSP has been implemented. This includes the adoption of amended model WHS laws for crystalline silica substances, (e.g. the prohibition on uncontrolled processing and additional requirements for high-risk processing such as Silica Risk Control Plans), as well as the prohibition of engineered stone. Significant work has also been undertaken to progress other actions under Priority 1.

Reports of activities relating to Priority 1 are provided below. Further information on adoption of the model WHS laws by WHS regulators is provided in Appendix A and details of silica-related compliance and enforcement activities are in Appendix B.

Safe Work Australia

- From 1 September 2024, amendments to the model WHS Regulations provide for the stronger regulation of work Silica dust – WorkSafe ACT with all materials containing at least 1% crystalline silica, including permitted work with engineered stone, across all industries, addressing SNSP Action 1-A.
 - To support implementation of these changes during the reporting period, SWA published *Working with crystalline silica substances: Guidance for PCBUs* and continued work to develop a model Code of Practice for managing risks of respirable crystalline silica, and other guidance materials in

consultation with SWA Members and their representatives. The Code was published following approval by WHS ministers in July 2025.

- These activities also support implementation of SNSP Action 2-B.
- In March 2024, WHS Ministers agreed that, by 31 July 2025, SWA would undertake a review of the engineered stone prohibition (SNSP Action 1-B). The review focused on examining the operation of the prohibition to ensure it is operating effectively and assessing any unintended consequences. It also included an assessment of the health risks to workers associated with processing benchtops, panels and slabs made from alternative materials which may contain or be free from crystalline silica. While work to inform the review's findings continued beyond the reporting period, key achievements during this period included:
 - commissioning scientific research to inform the review (November 2024 to June 2025)
 - undertaking extensive public and targeted stakeholder consultations (February to April 2025)

The final report was provided to WHS ministers in July 2025.

- In mid-2024, SWA commenced a review of health and air monitoring requirements in the model WHS laws. This review applies to all hazardous chemicals and airborne contaminants, including RCS.

- During the reporting period, SWA undertook targeted consultations with SWA Members and other key stakeholders to identify key issues and gather preliminary views on possible approaches to address them. This consultation informed a set of policy options for SWA Members' consideration. This project will continue beyond the reporting period and addresses SNSP Actions 1-C, 3-A and 3-B.
- In October 2023, WHS ministers agreed SWA undertake impact analysis on the proposed workplace exposure limits (WELs) for 9 chemicals, including RCS, and prepare a Decision Regulation Impact Statement (Decision RIS) for their consideration.
 - The Decision RIS analyses the impacts of the proposed reduction of the current workplace exposure standard for RCS to the health-based limit – an 8-hour time weighted average of 0.025 mg/m³, as recommended by independent experts.
 - During the reporting period, SWA undertook public consultation from October to December 2024 to seek stakeholder input on the impacts of the proposed WELs to inform the Decision RIS. Work to finalise the Decision RIS is occurring beyond the reporting period (SNSP Action 1-D).
 - The Decision RIS will be provided to WHS ministers for consideration in early 2026.

SWA members, including all state and territory governments, contributed to the above activities including by reviewing and providing technical input and feedback throughout the various consultation processes.

Australian Government

Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR)

To support Australia's ban of engineered stone under WHS laws, the Australian Government prohibited the importation of engineered stone benchtops, panels and slabs under the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956*. The import ban commenced on 1 January 2025 and provides an extra layer of deterrence at the border. The Australian Border Force (ABF) enforces these regulations at the border (see Appendix B).

The ban applies to engineered stone products for which uncontrolled processing poses significant health risks. In late 2024, DEWR worked with ASSEA to develop an import permit framework that would consider the circumstances for which some engineered stone products would be deemed permissible for import.

To lawfully import engineered stone products requires a valid import permit or a confirmation of proposed use or an exemption. Confirmations and exemptions can be granted by a WHS regulator, subject to meeting the relevant regulatory criteria.

The ASSEA CEO may grant permission to import engineered stone benchtops, panels or slabs if the importation is for genuine research and analysis and/or sampling and identifying engineered stone, or if there are exceptional circumstances that justify the importation. No applications for engineered stone import permits were received by ASSEA during the reporting period.

ASSEA

ASSEA conducted a review of labelling information, including safety data sheets, for a number of major products containing silica that are commercially available in Australia (cement, concrete, grout, tiles) to address SNSP Action 1-E.

To convey the risks of chemicals to consumers, Australia implements the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals* (GHS). With respect to silica, although the GHS system is generally implemented by manufacturers and distributors of products in Australia, the supplied information is not consistent and often does not follow the GHS system as recommended by Safe Work Australia. Imported products, which can arrive without accurate product warnings provided appropriate labelling is applied as soon as practicable after importation, were more variable. Instances were found where neither pictograms nor product warnings captured the risk to users of exposure to respirable crystalline silica. A report on the findings is being drafted.

ASSEA continues to consult with jurisdictional WHS regulators and policy agencies to facilitate consistent data collection that will support measuring the national targets.

Comcare

RCS exposure is a regulatory priority for Comcare, undertaking proactive monitoring and compliance activities for duty holders where workers are known to face a high risk of exposure (see Appendix B). Inspectors undertaking these inspections have received specialist training in occupational hygiene through the Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists.

In addition, Comcare has procured dust monitoring equipment to assist inspectors in conducting their monitoring and compliance activities.

Comcare has developed an inspection tool for construction including tunnelling. The tool requires review of air monitoring records, dust management and extraction systems, personal protective equipment (PPE) fit testing records and health monitoring records. This builds on work by the New Zealand WHS Regulator and Safe Work NSW.

ACT government

Aligned with the SNSP, the ACT has an existing regulatory framework for managing the risks of exposure to respirable crystalline silica. Current safety standards apply across all materials containing crystalline silica, beyond just engineered stone, and include:

- Duties on risk control measures – a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) must eliminate processing risks where reasonably practicable or otherwise minimise them through legislated control measures¹²
- Safe work method statement requirements when processing materials containing crystalline silica
- Mandatory training – workers engaged in high-risk crystalline silica tasks are required to complete the nationally accredited 10830NAT silica awareness course
- A code of practice implemented since November 2023 that applied across all industries and provided practical guidance for workplaces in managing the risks of exposure to respirable crystalline silica.

Noting the measures already applying in the ACT, work is progressing to consider the local adoption of amendments to the model WHS law in relation to crystalline silica.

WorkSafe ACT has also established an internal specialised occupational hygiene capability that will support silica safety compliance and enable targeted data collection over the period of the SNSP. Compliance and enforcement activities over the reporting period are in Appendix B.

¹² [Silica dust – WorkSafe ACT](#)

NSW government

NSW adopted the Model WHS Regulations for crystalline silica, introduced on 1 September 2024. A temporary specialist Silica Program team and Silica Compliance team were established to design, develop and implement regulatory systems for the Crystalline Silica Regulations. This work is supported by targeted proactive intervention programs with silica being included in the Annual Regulatory Statement. SafeWork NSW is establishing an ongoing Silica and Dust Disease team to commence in 2026.

Targeted intervention and compliance activities and campaigns have been conducted including for the engineered stone ban, regulation changes from 1 September 2024, Workplace Exposure Standard (WES) and Legacy Engineered Stone (LES) notification reporting and adverse health monitoring notifications (see Appendix B). The Silica Worker Register was also set up, for commencement from 1 October 2025.

The NSW silica dashboard¹³ is updated quarterly to reflect ongoing silica-related work that supports the SNSP.

NT government

NT WorkSafe adopted the model silica legislation and have enforced the engineered stone ban, working with NT stone masons before and after the transitional period in regard to stock, control measures, notifications and labelling. NT WorkSafe also updated the web page with relevant guidance material and relevant notification forms.

NT WorkSafe have received notifications from mining companies regarding WES exceedances from personal monitoring for workers, with regulatory follow-up on these notifications.

Crystalline silica and products containing crystalline silica (namely engineered stone) are not a listed waste under the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998*. As such, a licence to handle engineered stone is not required in the NT.

In August 2025, the NT EPA considered that disposal requirements should be determined by landfill operators and it determined to issue a position statement to reaffirm that the safe handling of crystalline silica should conform to industry best practice methods and existing NT WorkSafe guidance¹⁴, such as the methods prescribed for asbestos-containing materials to prevent the release of fine silica particulates. It is anticipated that the NT EPA will endorse the position statement for public release at its meeting in October 2025.

¹³ [Silica dashboard | NSW government](#)

¹⁴ [Guide to working with crystalline silica and crystalline silica containing products | NT WorkSafe](#)

Queensland government

During the reporting period, the Office of Industrial Relations (OIR) maintained a proactive focus on reducing silica-related disease risks by monitoring and enforcing compliance with the engineered stone ban and crystalline silica substance regulations as part of its ongoing regulatory activities (see Appendix B for further details).

South Australian government

South Australia implemented legislative change on 1 July 2024 and 1 September 2024, to reflect the updated model WHS laws. These changes included the prohibition of engineered stone along with associated transitional arrangements and changes to the crystalline silica substances.

The amendments significantly strengthen regulation on the processing of any material containing at least 1% crystalline silica. They require businesses to assess and control high-risk silica processing activities, implement a silica risk control plan, provide training on health risks, and conduct air and health monitoring as needed. The regulation has provided for the extension of workplace protections to workers in construction, mining and quarrying.

SafeWork SA will undertake annual compliance and enforcement campaigns to ensure adherence to WHS crystalline silica substances (CSS) regulations, including regulations associated with engineered stone.

SafeWork SA will make enquiries into exceedances of workplace exposure standards for RCS to determine if adequate controls are in place to minimise exposure. Where adequate controls are not in place, SafeWork SA will take appropriate action in accordance with the WHS Regulations. Appropriate action may include investigation with a view to enforcement and education regarding appropriate controls.

Victorian government

WorkSafe Victoria continues to conduct compliance and enforcement targeting the stonemason, stone supplier and bathroom wholesaler industries to ensure exposure to respirable crystalline silica is effectively managed. WorkSafe Victoria has a dedicated Silica Field Team whose primary role is enforcing the engineered stone prohibition (see Appendix B).

WorkSafe Victoria's Field Operations Division also includes Major Construction Projects and Earth Resources streams, which deliver strategic projects and response activities in the tunnelling and extractive industries.

Western Australian government

WA adopted and implemented the amended model laws relating to the engineered stone (ES) prohibition regulations (commenced 1 July 2024) and CSS regulations (commenced 1 September 2024). The silica-related amendments to the Work Health and Safety (General) Regulations 2022 do not apply to the WA mining sector. The Work Health and Safety (Mines) Regulations 2022 already addresses silica risks by requiring higher reporting standards than general industry. Registered medical practitioners must report conditions such as silicosis identified in workers. Occupational disease cases are also captured through the workers' compensation system.

Engineered stone and silica guidance is available on WorkSafe website – e.g.:

- [Silica – WorkSafe](#)
- [Engineered stone ban – WorkSafe](#)
- [Frequently asked questions – Silica – WorkSafe](#)
- Notification [forms](#) for work with legacy engineered stone are available.

WA monitors RCS compliance and determines regulatory action in accordance with the WorkSafe Compliance and Enforcement Policy¹⁵ and WorkSafe Prosecution Policy¹⁶. Compliance and enforcement activities over the reporting period are noted in Appendix B.

WorkSafe WA's *The Way Forward Strategy 2023–24 to 2025–26*¹⁷ prioritises respiratory hazards with a focus on silica work including the review and development of further guidance material; and planning and delivering targeted campaigns. Projects include the evaluation of health risks including respiratory illness in long term mining workers. This is a 3-year project, to be completed in 2028.

WA is also building industry capacity through:

- holding a forum for registered medical practitioners annually to build health monitoring knowledge
- publishing approved or accredited silica training details online
- liaising with Build Skills Australia, the Construction Training Fund and the Department of Training and Workforce Development to identify and leverage silica training opportunities
- contributing to occupational hygiene courses at Edith Cowan University through a consultative committee
- requiring mine air quality officers to undertake specified training
- working with the WA Building and Construction Consultative Committee to explore adding silica content to construction industry induction training (white card training)
- delivering inspector training on silica hazards and controls.

¹⁵ [WorkSafe WA compliance and enforcement policy](#)

¹⁶ [WorkSafe WA prosecution policy](#)

¹⁷ [Strategy at a glance – WorkSafe WA – LGIRS](#)



Priority 2: Education and awareness

Given the existing knowledge gaps in the understanding of silica exposure risk, consistent and targeted education and awareness campaigns are crucial for improving workplace safety.

Using insights about awareness levels amongst at-risk groups will further inform awareness messaging to drive behaviour change.

All jurisdictions reported conducting various awareness and education activities on managing the risks associated with crystalline silica. Activities included publishing guidance material, conducting awareness campaigns, speaking at industry events, improving training courses, and providing grants for organisations to raise awareness of the new silica regulations and the engineered stone ban.

Safe Work Australia

SWA has an ongoing legislated role to educate and communicate about the WHS risk associated with silica. This includes supporting employers and workers to identify and manage these risks and continuing to promote SWA's silica-related resources and information through SWA's social media channels.

For example, the *Clean Air, Clear Lungs. Be Silica Smart* communication campaign, launched in late 2023 and continues to deliver practical information to workers, employers and consumers on managing the risks of working with silica. Campaign materials are available in English, Chinese, Arabic, Vietnamese, Hazaragi and Korean, reflecting the large number of migrant workers in the target audience.

The campaign was originally informed by national silica workforce data and specifically targeted employers and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) workers.

SWA is also planning a joint silica communication campaign with ASSEA, aligned with the existing *Clean Air, Clear Lungs. Be Silica Smart* campaign. This campaign will draw on insights from SWA's recent social research project to better understand and engage target audiences.

To support the transition to the new workplace exposure limits, SWA launched a new Airborne contaminants hub¹⁸ in May 2025. The hub includes resources for PCBUs and workers to help them understand and comply with their requirements in relation to airborne contaminants. This includes plain-English information on the WHS duties for air and health monitoring for hazardous chemicals, including RCS.

¹⁸ [Airborne contaminants hub | Safe Work Australia](#)

Australian Government

ASSEA

To address SNSP Action 2-A and 2-B, ASSEA completed a stocktake of silica awareness and guidance materials across Australia to identify gaps and opportunities. ASSEA also:

- launched a new website providing silica safety information, including links to relevant resources on other government websites¹⁹
- placed an advertorial in the January 2025 Bunnings magazine providing information about the engineered stone prohibition, and
- delivered key messages through speaking and promotional attendance at conferences and events.

With advice from its Silica Advisory Committee, ASSEA commenced developing a national silica awareness survey to inform future targeted education, awareness, and behaviour change initiatives. The survey is expected to run in late 2025 and analysis to be completed by February 2026.

In consultation with the LFA, ASSEA also commenced designing a national survey of general practitioners to understand their knowledge and insights of silica-related diseases and their use of work history when diagnosing patients with pulmonary illnesses.

Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR)

In the 2023-24 Budget, DEWR provided funding of \$1.2 million over 2 years for SWA's social partners (the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Australian Industry Group, and the Australian Council of Trade Unions) to develop and deliver information, education and training activities to support businesses and workers understand and manage the risks of exposure to respirable crystalline silica. These grants commenced in June 2024 and will be finalised in 2026.

Activities are aimed at businesses and workers who work in silica dust generating industries, such as engineered stone, construction, manufacturing, tunnelling, quarrying and demolition. For example, the Australian Industry Group are developing a 12-part 'Silica Awareness Video Series' as part of the grant funding, expected to be released in late 2025.

To address SNSP Action 2-C, DEWR, through BuildSkills Australia (the Jobs and Skills Council for the building, construction, property, and water sector), included an action in its 2024 Workforce Plan to work with stakeholders to ensure all units related to working safely with materials containing crystalline silica are consistent with relevant model WHS Regulations. This is due to be completed in mid-2026 and includes:

- CPCSIL1001 Prepare to work safely with products and materials containing crystalline silica
- CPCSIL2001 Use and maintain respiratory protective equipment

¹⁹ [Silica safety](#)

- CPCSIL3001 Work with products and materials containing crystalline silica
- CPCSIL4001 Supervise and manage work with products and materials generating RCS.

Industry views will then be sought on the effectiveness of national recognised training at driving behaviour change for new and existing workers, and how to improve accessibility.

Comcare

Comcare published information in relation to crystalline silica substances to assist duty holders to understand their duties. This included resources on the WES for RCS and the use of the hierarchy of controls to manage the risk of exposure²⁰.

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DoHDA)

The DoHDA funded the LFA to undertake activities aimed at raising silica awareness among workers, including translation of resources into multiple languages to help awareness in CALD groups.

ACT government

Silica awareness and risks associated with workplace exposure continues to be a core focus for WorkSafe ACT and is captured in their current Strategic Plan 2025–29²¹. Through its Industry Breakfast Series, WorkSafe ACT facilitated discussions on high-risk sectors such as construction, government sector, health and education.

WorkSafe ACT has a Senior Education Officer who is responsible for implementing WHS education activities for workers in the ACT, with a focus on young and vulnerable workers. The role includes assisting duty holders comply with their obligations and providing information to workers and their employers on silica training requirements.

The ACT's Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority continues to fund skills development through the Training Fund²², including providing rebates for the mandated accredited training for silica awareness (10830NAT²³) for at risk workers in occupations declared under the ACT Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011²⁴.

NSW government

SafeWork NSW conducted educational campaigns across industry via direct marketing, social media, video development and government communications channels. SafeWork NSW has also directly engaged with industry stakeholders by participating in industry open days and delivering educational presentations, including via the 2025 Safety Show. Educational resources have been published on the SafeWork NSW website, along with the online portal for WES Exceedance notifications and LES notifications. Resources focus on the engineered stone ban, regulation changes from 1 September 2024 including silica worker training, WES and LES notifications and the upcoming commencement of the Silica Worker Register from 1 October 2025.

20 [Crystalline silica | Comcare](#)

21 [Work Health and Safety \(Office of the Work Health and Safety Commissioner\) Strategic Plan 2025–29 | PDF](#)

22 [ACT Training Fund Authority – Home](#)

23 [National Training Register – 10830NAT Course in Crystalline Silica Exposure Prevention](#)

24 [Work Health and Safety \(Crystalline Silica Awareness Training Course and Occupations\) Declaration 2023 | Notifiable instruments](#)

NT government

NT WorkSafe has deemed the NT training requirements for silica. This involved ensuring non-accredited training met the minimum standard as required for accredited training. NT WorkSafe held meetings with registered training organisations who provide silica training to undertake this process.

Queensland government

In October 2024, the OIR delivered a series of silica risk education and awareness activities across Queensland, including 4 free industry events in Brisbane, Sunshine Coast, Cairns and Toowoomba, attracting around 290 attendees and 405 subsequent recording views. Post-event surveys showed an 84% increase in participants rating their knowledge as excellent, supported by the distribution of 600 flyers.

Digital engagement was strong, with more than 2,300 views of the *Managing Construction Silica Dust Code of Practice 2022* presentation up to the end of the reporting period.

A full suite of communication assets was developed, including a technical presentation, animation, communications kit, and promotional materials, alongside 19 silica task sheets covering common equipment and work processes²⁵. Social media activity comprised of 19 posts across Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram, generating 23,736 impressions, 4,858 video views, and 740 engagements overall, with LinkedIn performing best at an 8.9% engagement rate. Overall, the October

campaign effectively increased awareness and understanding of silica risks through coordinated education, digital resources and industry outreach.

South Australian government

The SA Mining and Quarrying Occupational Health and Safety Committee (MAQOHSC) jointly presented with Business SA on the new CSS regulations requirements in March 2025. MAQOHSC via ReturnToWork SA will consider further education including on the new generation low silica products. MAQOHSC are an approved trainer under the work health and safety regulations and will provide the silica training course to sole traders and small business in high risk classified occupations. This includes quarries, small construction and manufacturing (including engineered stone).

SA Health has also developed material for the public on ambient or community RCS exposure and potential health effects²⁶.

Victorian government

As part of WorkSafe Victoria's strategic intervention programs, inspectors provide education and awareness to various industries regarding crystalline silica to increase industry capability. The amended WorkSafe Victoria *Compliance code: Engineered stone*²⁷ was published in April 2025, replacing the Compliance Code – Managing Exposure to Crystalline Silica: Engineered Stone (Edition 2, 2022). The updated code provides practical guidance to duty holders on how to comply with their duties under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* and the

25 [Managing respirable crystalline silica dust exposure in construction and manufacturing of construction elements Code of Practice 2022 | WorkSafe.qld.gov.au](#)

26 [Respirable+Crystalline+Silicosis+Exposure+in+Non-workplace+Settings.pdf](#)

27 [Compliance code: Engineered stone | WorkSafe Victoria](#)

Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017. The code also provides information on how to identify hazards and control the risks associated with exposure to crystalline silica dust when doing work with existing engineered stone products that are not prohibited.

Between April 2024 and June 2025, WorkSafe Victoria led the *Evaluation of a Silica Exposure Risk Assessment Tool in Construction* project, in conjunction with Adelaide University and with support from SafeWork NSW. This project was undertaken across 3 phases:

- a rapid literature review
- a desktop evaluation and interrogation of the underpinning data, including a user trial with key stakeholders from the Victorian construction industry
- developing a methodology for implementing the British Columbia Construction Safety Alliance (BCCSA) Silica Control Tool in a Victorian construction cohort, including an evaluation plan for assessing the effectiveness of the intervention.

Future work will focus on assessing the feasibility of implementation of the BCCSA Silica Control Tool in the Victorian construction industry, with additional interest expressed by other governments.

As part of WorkSafe Victoria's FY 2024–25 grants funding round focused on Occupational Disease and Illness, WorkSafe Victoria awarded a grant to the Brickies Network to run programs aimed at educating residential bricklayers in

Victoria about the dangers of crystalline silica exposure. This project is due to be complete by mid-2028.

Western Australian government

The WA government:

- approved/accredited silica training providers and units of competency, as published on the WorkSafe WA website²⁸
- published the Working with Silica Procedure²⁹, targeting the WA Country Health Service
- adopted the Cancer Council's 'KNOW Workplace Cancer'³⁰, a national awareness program for how workers and employers can reduce the risk
- promoted silica safety messages via media release³¹, a Th!nkSafe Magazine article³² and online publication of an incident summary³³
- planned for a silica dust inspection campaign in WA mines, to commence in late 2025.

Tasmanian government

WorkSafe Tasmania's Advisory Service has undertaken several education and awareness activities at the following events:

- Agfest, May 2025
- King Island Show, March 2025
- King Island Trade Show, October 2024
- Flinders Island Show, October 2024
- Tasmanian Major Projects Conference, September 2024

28 [WHS duties for businesses who work with crystalline silica substances – WorkSafe – LGIRS](#)

29 [Working with Silica Procedure](#)

30 [Silica dust | Cancer Council](#)

31 [Reminder on engineered stone ban after business found to still be cutting stone](#)

32 [Engineered stone ban and new regulations for all crystalline silica processes – SafetyLine Hub](#)

33 [In the dust – SafetyLine Hub](#)

These activities involve direct engagement with external stakeholders / duty holders in relation to the legal framework that exists to ensure workplaces manage risks associated with silica-related diseases in the workplace.

The Advisory Service also conducts education and awareness presentations to students at the Tasmanian TAFE Brick/tile laying school, covering the topic of silica dust and asbestos. During WorkSafe Month in October 2024, 3 face-to-face presentations were conducted by the Inspectorate in Devonport, Launceston and Hobart on the legislative changes relating to silica and engineered stone, with all events well attended.

WorkSafe Tasmania, in conjunction with the WorkCover Board Tasmania, hosts the [Silica and Dust Diseases](#) webpage which features silica safety topics including industry case studies, guidance, information on living with silicosis and on accredited training related to crystalline silica. There are 11 approved training providers currently operating in Tasmania.

Following on from the 2019 silica dust awareness campaign, titled “A little bit of dust can be deadly”, WorkCover Board Tasmania developed a new Silica Safety campaign, featuring ads for television, social media, radio and print. The media campaign ran for 3 months in 2024 and was supported by online guidance on silica safety, with specific guidance for the construction industry³⁴ and mining and quarrying industries³⁵, including interactive case study-based learning modules³⁶.

The aim of this campaign was to raise awareness of silica dust exposure and the diseases that breathing in silica dust can cause, to prevent workplace dust exposure by encouraging employers and workers to take measures and act now. It was targeted towards tradespeople and others who may be exposed to silica dust through their work. This included those who work with natural, engineered or composite stone in the construction industry, as well as home renovators who may be working with these materials. The Silica and Dust Diseases website features the information developed for the Silica Safety media campaign³⁷. Access to the 15 and 30 second “Silica has no obvious signs” campaign ads are also available on YouTube.



34 [Managing silica dust at construction sites | Tasmanian government](#)

35 [Managing silica dust at mine sites and quarries | Tasmanian government](#)

36 [Industry case studies | Tasmanian government](#)

37 [2024 Silica safety campaign | Tasmanian government](#)

3.2

Support for those affected by silica-related diseases



Priority 3: Health monitoring, screening, surveillance and support

Workers exposed to RCS need regular, long-term health monitoring because of the latency (months to years) in developing adverse effects. Earlier detection of pre-clinical signs can guide efforts to lower exposure and reduce workplace risks.

Improved support is also needed for those with silica-related diseases and their families. Efforts towards better practice are actively being pursued by governments.

Safe Work Australia

In mid-2024 SWA commenced a review of the health monitoring requirements in the model WHS laws, noting that these requirements apply to a broad range of hazardous chemicals, including RCS. Targeted consultation was undertaken to identify key issues and gather preliminary views on possible approaches to address these issues. This work informed a set of policy options for SWA Members' consideration.

This project will continue beyond the reporting period and may result in a review and/or revision of the current health monitoring guides, including the guide for crystalline silica, to ensure they reflect best practice methodology.

Australian Government

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DoHDA)

The DoHDA established the National Occupational Respiratory Disease Registry (NORDR) in May 2024.

All cases of silicosis diagnosed since May 2024 must be reported to the NORDR. DoHDA commenced a 12-month review of the NORDR, with public consultation due to close on 31 October 2025. The NORDR will also support activities outlined in SNSP Action 4-D.

To address SNSP Action 3-G, DoHDA provided funding to the LFA to develop advice on a 'Rapid Response Protocol' to identify emerging workplace risks. DoHDA also awarded \$1.97 million to the LFA to develop a Silicosis Support Program to improve social, physical and mental health outcomes for workers affected by silicosis.

The activity requires the operation of a free telephone-based and online support centre to assist and connect those impacted by silicosis, and the development and distribution of a Silicosis Care Management Plan to be used by a general practitioner or medical specialist in conjunction with the patient. The program commenced on 1 October 2023.

In mid-2024 DoHDA provided funding for ASSEA to help raise awareness of the NORDR and to conduct other awareness, promotion, education and research on preventing exposure to crystalline silica substances.

NSW government

To support the national high risk crystalline silica reforms that commenced on 1 September 2024³⁸, the development of the Silica Worker Register (SWR) was a key NSW government priority, a joint election commitment between SafeWork NSW and Insurance and Care NSW (icare). The SWR was in its development phase during the reporting period, with public consultation on the proposed design and operation of the register conducted from 4 October to 3 November 2024. The register was designed to strengthen health monitoring, screening, and surveillance for workers involved in high-risk crystalline silica processing. From 1 October 2025, PCBUs must register every worker when they commence processing of crystalline silica substance that is high risk. PCBUs must provide specified information about both the business and the worker to the SWR. The data collected will help improve early detection and health screening of workers at risk of silica-related disease.

Queensland government

WorkCover Queensland funded free health screening for all current and former workers in the stone benchtop fabrication industry. As of 30 September 2025, 1,054 workers and former workers in the industry have undergone a free health assessment. Of these, 288 people were diagnosed with a work-related condition and of these workers 38 have a diagnosis of progressive massive fibrosis, 17 have a respiratory condition that is not silicosis and 233 have silicosis.

The Coal Mine Workers' Health Scheme (which seeks to protect the health of Queensland mine workers by ensuring they undergo compulsory health assessments) was subsequently amended to provide free health screening for former mining and quarrying workers. Former or retired other coal workers (e.g., rail, port and power station workers) can see their doctor for a medical certificate to their insurer for referral for diagnostic testing.

South Australian government

The SA government is planning upcoming advancements in health monitoring, screening and surveillance. Specifically, the draft SA Silica Action Plan 2024–30 provides for SafeWork SA to work with OccMed SA and ReturntoWork SA to enhance awareness of health monitoring in the workplace related to chemical exposures. This will include consideration of a targeted seminar. The draft plan also provides for the Public Health Division of SA Health to help develop material identifying the broader health risks associated with RCS and potential issues from taking home silica dust on work clothes.

38 [Stronger regulation of crystalline silica substances from 1 September 2024 | Safe Work Australia](#)

The SA government is looking at developing a protocol for lung screening and work continues on developing and distributing educational materials for health professionals.

Victorian government

The Alfred Occupational Respiratory Clinic, funded by WorkSafe Victoria, was established to assist workers exposed to RCS in high-risk industries in accessing health screenings for occupational lung disease – eligible workers have access to free comprehensive screenings. Information in relation to the Alfred Occupational Respiratory Clinic is provided within inspection reports where relevant to provide education and awareness to industry. WorkSafe Victoria also responds to health monitoring notifications received with recommendations in the stonemason industry. Inspectors attend the relevant workplaces to ensure recommendations provided have been actioned and control measures are implemented effectively.

Western Australian government

In December 2024, the WA government published health monitoring guides for PCBUs, registered medical practitioners (RMP) and notification forms, including for silica³⁹. Legislative requirements for RMPs were published in November 2024⁴⁰. WA WHS Regulations had previously implemented the requirement for high resolution, low dose computed tomography (CT) scans for health monitoring. WA engages occupational physicians to review health monitoring reports enabling concerns to be actioned as they arise.

The Goldfields, Midwest and Wheatbelt regional areas benefitted from a \$2 million investment in 2021, for 3 new Siemens Healthcare Pty Ltd CT scanners. The CT scanners, located at Carnarvon, Esperance and Narrogin Health Campuses provide fast, ultra-low dose radiation, and consistent high-quality imaging. WorkSafe WA's occupational physicians provide a periodic forum for RMPs (most recently held in June 2025) to provide information on good practice in health monitoring. WorkSafe WA and the WA Department of Health will work to implement a competency-based health monitoring accreditation program for medical professionals.

Finally, the Asbestos Diseases Society of Australia receives ongoing WA government grant funding to provide support services to people with asbestos- or silica-related diseases.

39 [Health monitoring guides and forms – WorkSafe – LGIRS](#)

40 [Legislative requirements for registered medical practitioners \(RMP\) – WorkSafe – LGIRS](#)



Priority 4: Research and development

Targeted and reliable research, undertaken in a coordinated manner, is necessary to fill the information and knowledge gaps in RCS safety, as well as silica-related disease diagnosis and treatment. Several government departments and agencies have prioritised investment in these areas.

Safe Work Australia

SWA undertook a range of work to develop its Research and Evaluation Strategy⁴¹ during the reporting period. The strategy identifies initial focus areas for research and evaluation and outlines priority workstreams to achieve its goals. The strategy highlights the importance of better understanding emerging and innovative developments in Australia and internationally, including those relevant to silica-related risks and treatments. The strategy was finalised and published in June 2025.

To improve data on RCS exposure, SWA continued developing the Australian Worker Exposure Survey. The survey will provide updated data on workers' exposure to dangerous substances and psychosocial hazards. It covers a selection of priority exposures that include dust and airborne contaminants (such as silica dust, asbestos), welding fumes, diesel particulate matter, chemicals, dermal irritants, shift work and heat stress. The survey is currently in its pilot phase and is expected to be completed in early 2026.

Australian Government

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DoHDA)

In 2022, the DoHDA engaged the LFA to establish research forums to provide

opportunities for researchers to collaborate, share information, identify priority areas for research and to further develop the evidence base in relation to dust diseases. Three research forums have been held, in November 2023, November 2024 and October 2025 and included experts in the fields of science, engineering, occupational hygiene, occupational medicine, respiratory medicine, allied health, personal injury claims, WHS regulators, unions and industry. Research priorities developed as a result of this work have been shared with partner agencies and will be used to inform the National Silica-Related Diseases Research Strategy (SNSP Action 4-A).

Victorian government

In a targeted study on RCS exposure in CALD communities, Monash University was awarded \$300,000 as part of WorkSafe Victoria's FY 2024–25 grants funding round focused on Occupational Disease and Illness⁴². Monash University sought to investigate Vietnam-born workers' occupational experiences, their level of WHS knowledge, and access to information in the stone benchtop industry. This research was to extend the previous Silica-associated Lung Disease Project⁴³, operated by Monash Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health since 2019, which demonstrated the elevated risk of silicosis

41 [Research and Evaluation Strategy | Safe Work Australia](#)

42 [Keeping Workers Safe From Occupational Disease And Illness | Premier](#)

43 [The Silica-Associated Lung Disease Projects – Monash Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health \(MonCOEH\)](#)

among migrant workers. Specifically, one-third of silicosis cases identified occurred in workers born in Vietnam, despite only 15% of the workforce being Vietnam-born. The current study aims to identify innovative and culturally appropriate interventions that can be implemented to provide WHS knowledge for migrant workers in Victoria and is due to be complete by mid-2027.

Queensland government

Between 2021 and 2025, the Queensland government allocated \$3.5 million for medical research to improve the health and wellbeing of workers suffering from occupational dust lung disease, in particular coal workers' pneumoconiosis (CWP) and silicosis (including accelerated silicosis).

The funding supports targeted medical research to improve outcomes for Queensland workers with occupational dust lung diseases, focusing on:

- advancing understanding of the pathogenesis of silicosis (including accelerated silicosis) and CWP
- identifying factors influencing disease severity and progression, including implications for return-to-work capacity
- assessing the effectiveness of early diagnosis, prevention and treatment approaches, including anti-fibrotic therapies, pulmonary rehabilitation, whole lung lavage and emerging treatments
- analysing gaps in return-to-work outcomes for affected workers in the mining and artificial stone industries

Across 2 funding rounds, more than \$3.5 million has been awarded to projects involving local, interstate and international research collaborations. These include partnerships

with the University of Chicago, I-Med Queensland, the University of New South Wales and the University of Queensland, addressing early disease detection, screening effectiveness, disease progression, rehabilitation and return-to-work outcomes.

Three projects are expected to be completed by 31 July 2026, with the University of Queensland return-to-work research project expected to be finalised in 2027.

ACT government

Under the ACT Health and Community Services Plan 2022–30⁴⁴, the ACT government continues to identify opportunities to advance clinical research and integrate research into clinical practice. This includes medical technology advancements and systems used for prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation.

Improving support through workers' compensation

To better support workers and their families affected by dust diseases, in March 2022 WHS Ministers requested the Heads of Workers' Compensation Authorities Dust Diseases working group to develop best practice principles related to workers compensation. The principles are intended to contribute to a more consistent, fit for purpose, tailored and improved workers' compensation system to better support workers and their families. The working group completed its work in May 2025, producing the *Best practice workers' compensation principles for workers with silicosis and related diseases*, which is expected to be published in late 2025. It is a matter for individual jurisdictions whether the principles are adopted.

44 [ACT Health Services Plan 2022 to 2030](#)

3.3

International leadership



Priority 5: International collaboration

The high prevalence of silica-related diseases all over the world makes their elimination a global imperative. Learning from and sharing knowledge with other countries will build our collective capability and capacity.

The Australian Government will lead the national actions which include monitoring international developments in relation to silica safety and silica-related diseases and developing relationships with relevant international organisations, researchers, governments and industry.

ASSEA consulted on the establishment of an international collaboration group for silica, with the first engagement to commence in early 2026. Given the considerable interest internationally in the approach Australia has taken to prohibit the import and use of engineered stone, the establishment of this group will provide the opportunity to bring together a range of global experts on silica safety and silica-related diseases, to share information and experiences, improve knowledge and capability, and identify opportunities for international collaboration and technical assistance.

During the reporting period, DEWR held meetings with officials from Malaysia, Belgium and New Zealand to discuss Australia's experience in prohibiting engineered stone. On 6 December 2024, SWA hosted the Special Equipment Safety Supervision Bureau, State Administration for Market Regulation of the People's Republic of China's visit, to share learnings about the respective legal (WHS) frameworks and policy approaches, including Australia's engineered stone ban.

The SWA CEO also represents Australia on the G20 Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Expert Network and a senior staff member of SWA was the Head of the Australian delegation at the UN Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals⁴⁵ in July 2024. The G20 OSH Expert Network assists G20 countries to exchange WHS knowledge, expertise and best practices, as well as identify and coordinate global responses to policy and technical challenges, including worker exposure to airborne contaminants.

⁴⁵ [ECOSOC Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals \(AC.10/C.4\) \(49th session\) | UNECE](#)

The purpose of the UN Subcommittee on the GHS is to develop and update the GHS, a system for consistently classifying and labelling chemicals worldwide, to improve hazard communication and protect human health and the environment. Meetings for the G20 OSH Expert Network are generally held annually and the UN Subcommittee on the GHS meets biannually.

There has also been liaison between government officials in Australia and Canada regarding the BCCSA Silica Control Tool⁴⁶ and its adaptability to the Australian regulatory context. The BCCSA Silica Control Tool, a Canadian initiative, is a predictive silica exposure model that was developed to assist workplaces conduct silica dust risk assessments and implement suitable control measures.

⁴⁶ [Silica Control Tool@: BCCSA](#)

Appendices

Appendix A – Adoption status of model WHS laws related to crystalline silica substances

Crystalline silica substances regulations

Table 2: Crystalline silica substances regulations – implementation status as of 30 June 2025^{i,ii}

<u>Model WHS Regulation</u>	<u>Vic</u>	<u>WA</u>	<u>QLD</u>	<u>SA</u>	<u>ACT</u>	<u>NT</u>	<u>NSW</u>	<u>Tas</u>	<u>Australian Government</u>
529A Meaning of processing in relation to crystalline silica substances and related terms	Similar (See VIC Reg 319B)	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Different (See ACT Reg. 418A(3))	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar
529B When processing of CSS is controlled	Different (No equivalent)	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Different (See ACT Reg. 418B, 418BAA, 418C, 418CAA)	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar
529C Duty for processing of CSS to be controlled	Different (See VIC Regs 319S-X in relation to specific measures to control risks associated with engineered stone)	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Different (See ACT Regs 418B, 418BAA)	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar
529CA Identifying processing of a CSS that is high risk	Similar (See VIC Regs 319J, 319K)	Same/similar	Different (See QLD Reg. 529CA(1), 529CA(3), 529CA(5))	Same/similar	Different (See ACT Reg. 418A)	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar
529CB Silica risk control plan required for processing of CSS that is high risk	Similar (See VIC Regs 319D, 319L, 319M, 319N)	Same/similar	Different (See QLD Reg. 529CB(4))	Same/similar	Different (See ACT Reg. 291(1)(s), 299)	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar
529CC Compliance with silica risk control plan		Same/similar	Different (See QLD Reg. 529CC(1), 529CC(4))	Same/similar	Different (not adopted)	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar
529CD Duty to train workers about risks of crystalline silica	Different (See VIC Reg 319R)	Same/similar	Different (See QLD Reg. 529CD(1)(b), 529CD(2)(a), 529CD(4))	Same/similar	Different (See ACT Reg. 418D)	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar
529CE Monitoring in relation to processing of CSS that is high risk	Similar (See VIC Reg 166 & 169 & 319ZC-319ZD (in relation to engineered stone process))	Same/similar	Different (See QLD Reg. 529CE)	Same/similar	Different (not adopted)	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar

i Where jurisdictions have adopted the relevant model WHS Regulation or have applied them in a similar way, minor variations may still apply, such as differences in penalties.

ii Shaded cells indicate that there are substantial differences in one or more of the regulations in the jurisdiction. Refer to jurisdictional regulations for further detail.

Engineered stone regulations

Table 3: Engineered stone regulations – implementation status as of 30 June 2025^{iii, iv}

<u>Model WHS Regulation</u>	<u>Vic</u>	<u>WA</u>	<u>QLD</u>	<u>SA</u>	<u>ACT</u>	<u>NT</u>	<u>NSW</u>	<u>Tas</u>	<u>Australian Government</u>
529D Work involving engineered stone benchtops, panels or slabs – prohibition	Similar (See Vic Reg. 319Y)	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar
529E Work involving engineered stone benchtops, panels or slabs – exception for particular supply and installation	Similar (See Vic Reg. 319Z, 319ZA)	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar
529F Work involving engineered stone benchtops, panels or slabs—exception for particular processing	Similar (See Vic Reg. 319ZB)	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Different (See ACT Reg. 418H)	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar
529G Notification of particular processing of engineered stone	Different (not adopted)	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar
529H Notification of change in information given under Part 8A.3		Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Different (not adopted)	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar
529I Notification that work continues 12 months after last notice given under Part 8A.3		Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Different (not adopted)	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar
529J Duty to keep notice given under Part 8A.3		Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar	Same/similar

iii Where jurisdictions have adopted the relevant model WHS Regulation or have applied them in a similar way, minor variations may still apply, such as differences in penalties.

iv Shaded cells indicate that there are substantial differences in one or more of the regulations in the jurisdiction. Refer to jurisdictional regulations for further detail.

Reinstallation exemptions for engineered stone

All jurisdictions provided exemptions to allow for the reinstallation of engineered stone, either during the reporting period (refer to Safe Work Australia's [Review of the engineered stone prohibition \(Section 2.3\)](#)) or later (in September 2025 for Tasmania only, refer to [Class-Exemption-Gazettal.pdf](#)).

Appendix B – Silica-related compliance and enforcement

Australian Border Force (ABF)

Following the ban on engineered stone and amendments to prohibit the uncontrolled processing of crystalline silica substances, an additional layer of enforcement and deterrence was incorporated at the Australian border. The import prohibition of engineered stone is enforced by the ABF under the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956*. The ABF has undertaken the following compliance activities at the border during the reporting period:

Number of profile/alert matches	Tests for crystalline silica undertaken at the border	Positive detections	Country of origin	Type of goods	Infringement Notices served	Value of penalties served	Number of Warning Letters	Legal proceedings initiated	Prosecutions
969	75	13	China (12) Portugal (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • marble slabs • sintered stone countertop • countertop • zero silica stone • artificial quartz stone • stone slab • prefabricated building • quartz kitchen benchtop • natural quartzite slab • ceramic countertop • fabricated benchtop • quartz plate 	0	\$0	0	0	0

Comcare

Comcare implemented a process to ensure that silica related notifications are triaged appropriately. Comcare has undertaken 35 regulatory activities which were either proactive or in response to incident notifications or complaints related to silica, WES notifications, and Health Monitoring Reports (HMRs). Comcare received:

- one HMR relating to RCS exposure where workers were referred for further assessment to investigate changes to the lungs. Regulatory action commenced in response to this matter.
- 30 WES notifications, with regulatory activity commenced in response to each notification.

Comcare collaborates with other regulators where cross jurisdictional issues arise. This includes conducting joint inspections where appropriate.

WorkSafe ACT

During the reporting period, WorkSafe ACT conducted a silica enforcement campaign, which resulted in 3 workplace visits, 4 improvement notices, and 1 prohibition notice. WorkSafe ACT also launched proactive campaigns in the construction industry. Across all industries, WorkSafe ACT issued 9 improvement notices and 66 prohibition notices for silica-related offences during the reporting period. The majority of notices (93%) were issued in the construction industry.

Out of the 75 notices issued⁴⁷, the breaches of the WHS Regulation were:

- s418D: Duty to train workers about crystalline silica awareness (73%)

- s418BAA: Uncontrolled processing of other crystalline silica material – prohibition (19%)
- s418CAA: Control measures for processing other crystalline silica material (8%)

In addition, WorkSafe ACT issued 28 WHS infringement notices to the value of \$144,000 for silica-related offences. The majority of notices (93%) were issued in the construction industry.

During the reporting period, WorkSafe ACT received a total of 22 complaints, 4 enquiries, and one notifiable incident relating to silica and engineered stone risks. These matters were raised by members of the public, workers and PCBUs, highlighting ongoing concerns about compliance with safety requirements in managing exposure to crystalline silica and engineered stone hazards.

In addition, during this reporting period, WorkSafe ACT published 12 safety alerts with one of these alerts focusing on silica in safe work method statements.

Queensland OIR

The OIR received and triaged one RCS HMR that was referred for further assessment. OIR also received and triaged 30 RCS exceedance notifications. Twelve RCS exceedance notifications were referred for further assessment where potential or actual non-compliance with the WHS Regulation was identified. These involved 6 PCBUs – 2 of which reported 4 exceedances each, while the remaining 4 PCBUs reported one each.

⁴⁷ Notices were issued under other sections of the WHS Regulation which are not directly related to silica. However, they were issued due to unsafe work practices related to silica. These notices are not included above.

- Key issues identified:
 - Workers engaged in jackhammering and grinding activities recorded RCS exposures above the workplace exposure standard.
 - Common deficiencies included:
 - » Lack of fit testing or improper use of respiratory protective equipment (RPE)
 - » Inconsistent control of dust at the source
 - » Workers not being clean-shaven while using tight-fitting RPE.
 - Several exceedances involved forklift operators exposed to RCS from dust generated by unsealed road surfaces, heavy vehicle movements, or bagging operations.
 - Some reports incorrectly recorded RPE types or failed to confirm fit testing for the make and model used.
 - One case identified a forklift operator exposed above the standard while working with doors open and without RPE in a dusty yard.
 - Activities such as forklift operation in dusty areas and concrete cutting were confirmed as crystalline silica processes under section 529A of the WHS Regulation.
- Outcomes:
 - Regional inspector response included:
 - » Review and improvement of control measures
 - » Updated RPE fit testing
 - » Revisions to Safe Work Method Statements (SWMS).
 - Four (4) statutory improvement notices were issued.
- OIR also investigated reports of PCBUs allegedly supplying and/or installing materials that may meet the definition of banned engineered stone via online marketplace platforms. Initial investigations have focused on listings found on online marketplace platforms, where materials such as engineering stone or “smart stone” have been advertised, with most listings detailing the products are silica-free or contain less than 1% crystalline silica. To date, 15 PCBUs have been contacted as part of this proactive investigation. The majority confirmed they supply materials outside the definition of banned engineered stone, consistent with the current legislation. Most suppliers have also demonstrated awareness of the new requirements and are adapting their business practices accordingly. Where potential risks or non-compliance have been identified, matters have been referred to regional inspectorates for further in person inquiries and site assessments.

WorkSafe Victoria

WorkSafe Victoria’s Silica Field team have taken compliance and enforcement action in relation to health monitoring, including issuing improvement notices where contraventions were detected.

WorkSafe Victoria undertook 213 inspections to stonemasons and suppliers in relation to the engineered stone prohibition during the reporting period. 59 notices were issued during this period, noting that not all notices directly related to crystalline silica. There were no detections of prohibited activities relating to the engineered stone ban during the reporting period.

WorkSafe WA

Two compliance campaigns were conducted during the reporting period.

- **Crystalline Silica Substance (CSS) project:** Inspection campaign assessed industry compliance with the CSS-related WHS regulations across general industry. Outcomes:
 - 16 workplaces inspected (laboratories, suppliers, foundries, builders, civil contractors).
 - 43 improvement notices issued, 10 related to risk assessment records for CSS processing and 8 for inadequate dust control measures.
 A follow-on project is planned in FY 2025–26, focusing more on construction sites.
- **Engineered stone ban verification project:** Inspection campaign to assess industry compliance with the engineered stone ban and to promote safe practices.

Outcomes:

- 32 workplaces inspected for health monitoring, respiratory protection (RPE), safe handling and processing methods, types of materials processed, and inventory of engineered stone on premises.
- 152 improvement notices and one prohibition notice issued. Of these, 85 related to CSS and engineered stone matters:
 - assessment of risk of CSS
 - RPE fit testing and maintenance
 - safety data sheets
 - air receiver registration
 - hazardous chemical register, and
 - training and health monitoring for workers.

SafeWork NSW

SafeWork NSW have undertaken several compliance programs relating to the engineered stone ban and the Crystalline Silica Regulations, as detailed below.

Engineered Stone Compliance Programs

Compliance Program	155 Inspections
– Engineered Stone Transitional Arrangements	146 Improvement Notices
(July 2024 to 30 June 2025)	9 Prohibition Notices 4 Penalties

Compliance Program	40 Inspections
– Full Engineered Stone Ban (Suppliers)	20 Improvement Notices
(1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025)	1 Penalty Notice 2 s155 Notices

Compliance Program	158 Inspections
– Full Engineered Stone Ban (Fabricators)	13 Improvement Notices
(1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025)	

Notes:

- The data in this table only captures the work undertaken by the Silica Compliance Team since its commencement on 22 August 2024.
- Figures current as at 31 December 2025.

The number of Workplace Exposure Standard Exceedance notifications received from commencement of the Crystalline Silica Regulations on 1 September 2024, to the end of the SNSP reporting period on 30 June 2025, is documented below.

Workplace Exposure Standard Exceedance Notifications

Period	Number of Notifications
Jun 2025	20
May 2025	25
Apr 2025	13
Mar 2025	19
Feb 2025	16
Jan 2025	15
Dec 2024	13
Nov 2024	17
Oct 2024	16
Sept 2024	4

WorkSafe Tasmania

During the reporting period WorkSafe Tasmania undertook 56 inspections relating to silica compliance under the *WHS Act 2012*, and issued 7 improvement notices and 2 prohibition notices for contraventions relating to silica under the *WHS Act 2012*.

For the above compliance and enforcement activities, none related to health monitoring, screening and surveillance of workers at risk of exposure to respirable crystalline silica.

In Tasmania, 13 workers have made workers compensation claims relating to silicosis since October 2018. Eleven have worked with engineered stone in the manufacturing industry, while 2 have worked in mineral quarrying.

