



Australian Government

Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Council

Silica Advisory Committee

Communique

Meeting 1 – 1 April 2025

The Silica Advisory Committee (SAC; the Committee) held its first meeting on Ngunnawal and Ngambri lands on 1 April 2025 in-person in Canberra.

After the Chair's welcome, members and ASSEA's CEO, Jodie Deakes, reflected on the previous days' Council and Committee Forum, and recognised the active participation of attendees in its success.

The Committee noted the Terms of Reference (ToR) and purpose of the Committee to support the implementation of the Silica National Strategic Plan 2024-30 (SNSP) and provide advice to the Agency on project and initiatives related to priority actions. The Committee recommended that a requirement for communication of discussions and actions be included, such as a meeting Communique.

The Committee noted the Draft Silica Advisory Committee Advisory Plan to enable consideration, discussion and advice on the Agency's priority work for 2025-26. The priorities for 2024-25 are to:

- undertake a stocktake of awareness raising activities and guidance
- behavioural insights research on targeted education and behaviour change initiatives, and
- the development of relationships with relevant international organisations such as governments, researchers, unions and industry.

The key priorities for 2025-26 are to:

- investigate product labels and safety data sheets
- assess industry capacity to manage workplace risk reduction
- identify international opportunities for collaboration e.g. WHO, ILO, and
- monitor international developments.

Input and advice were provided by the Committee about ASSEA priority work including:

- silica facts and figures that are important or impactful to communicate
- the difficulties in communicating about silica safety
- examples of effective awareness raising projects and initiatives
- industry sectors, groups and occupations that are most at risk
- channels and opportunities that should be engaged to communicate about silica safety, including non-traditional ways, and in the international space, and
- approach that should be taken to establish and improve international collaboration.

Actions arising from the meeting include:

- ASSEA to consider and amend the ToR to ensure that communications from the Committee are broadly disseminated
- The Committee to provide to ASSEA by 30 April 2025:



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- Current international contacts that members may have to extend relationships across the globe and conduct future stakeholder mapping, and
- Any additional feedback on agenda items presented.

The next meeting will be held virtually on 1 October 2025.