



**Government
of South Australia**

TRS19D1098

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Hon Stephen Mullighan MP
Member for Lee
Unit 1, 62 Semaphore Road
SEMAPHORE SA 5019

lee@parliament.sa.gov.au


Dear Mr Mullighan

APPLICATION UNDER THE *FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1991*

I refer to your applications made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (FOI Act), dated 9 May 2019.

Your application seeks access to:

“All minutes, briefings and correspondence titled ‘Silicosis Campaign Project Brief’ as described on the Objective document management system, between 12 July 2018 and 9 May 2019.”

The legislative prescribed timeframe to determine this application has expired and is now deemed to have refused you access to all documents relevant to your application. I refer to my letter dated 26 May 2019 where I sought additional time to make my determination.

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of my determination. An extensive search was conducted within this office. A total of 1 document was identified as answering the terms of your application

I grant you access in full to 1 document; a copy of which is enclosed.

Please note, in compliance with Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045 - *Disclosure Logs for Non-Personal Information Released through Freedom of Information* (PC045), the Department of Treasury and Finance is now required to publish a log of all non-personal information released under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*.

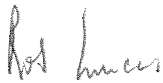
In accordance with this Circular, any non-personal information determined for release as part of this application, may be published on the DTF website. A copy of PC045 can be found at the following address: <http://dpc.sa.gov.au/what-we-do/services-for-government/premier-and-cabinet-circulars>. Please visit the website for further information.

As I am determining this application as Principal Officer, Section 29(6) of the Act does not provide for an internal review. If you are dissatisfied with my determination you are entitled to exercise your rights of external review with the Ombudsman.

Alternatively, you can apply to the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. If you wish to seek a review, Section 39(3) of the Act states you must do so within 30 calendar days of receiving the determination.

If you require any further information, please contact Vicky Cathro on 8226 9769.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Lucas".

Hon Rob Lucas MLC
Principal Officer

22 June 2019

MINUTES forming ENCLOSURE to

Date	17/1/19	18SWSA0736
File No	T19/069	
Physical ID	TR51900130	

TO: TREASURER

CC: UNDER TREASURER
 DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY AND FINANCE

SUBJECT: SILICOSIS CAMPAIGN PROJECT BRIEF

PURPOSE

To provide you with an update on the Silicosis Campaign Project which outlines SafeWork SA's (SWSA) activities relating to the engineered stone industry and the management of respirable crystalline silica (RCS) exposure.

BACKGROUND

SafeWork SA attended a meeting with the Treasurer on 7 December 2018 with key stakeholders to discuss the whole of government strategy to address the risk of RCS exposure.

During that meeting, the Treasurer supported the draft SafeWork SA Silicosis Campaign Project Brief that was provided prior to the meeting.

DISCUSSION

Adelaide Exposure Science and Health (University of Adelaide) study:

- As you are aware, earlier this year SWSA commissioned Adelaide Exposure Science and Health (University of Adelaide) to undertake a study and report on work practices and exposures to RCS in the fabrication of engineered stone benchtops and provide recommendations for worksite controls.
- It was intended that the findings of the report would assist SWSA in developing a suitable campaign to both educate and ensure compliance with the engineered stone industry.
- The findings of the Report included that dry processing during home installation without local exhaust ventilation generated dust levels well in excess of the relevant workplace exposure standards; respiratory protective equipment (RPE) provided was often poorly stored or not used by all workers; and that there was an absence of health monitoring in the sites visited.
- Recommendations made in the Report included that dry processing cease, or where it cannot, that it be done in conjunction with specific control measures outlined; that RPE be individually fit tested and training provided to the worker about this; and that health monitoring be provided, including to workers with past exposure that have left the industry.

Industry Forum:

- SWSA coordinated an industry forum on 28 November 2018 to present on silica exposure in the engineered stone industry. The forum was attended by approximately 50 people primarily from industry and suppliers. Representation from RTWSA, SA Health and the University of Adelaide were also in attendance.
- The forum focused on the findings of the Report and outlined: what silica is; what is hazardous exposure; what happens if you are exposed to too much silica; symptoms of silicosis; how is silica regulated as a hazardous chemical and what controls are needed for benchtop manufacture and installation.
- Speakers at the forum included Ms Shelley Rowett, Chief Adviser, SafeWork SA, Dr. Sharyn Gaskin, Occupational Hygienist University of Adelaide, Dr. Richie Gun, Occupational Physician and Prof. Hübertus Jersmann Respiratory Physician.
- As part of the Silicosis campaign, further forums will be held in January and February 2019.

SWSA campaign to reduce South Australian workers' exposure to RCS

- SWSA will undertake a campaign from February 2019, to inform South Australian workers' of the exposure to RCS by developing and publishing educational information on silicosis and undertaking legislative compliance audits across relevant industries.
- The focus of this information and the audits aims to:
 - reduce exposure of workers to RCS dust through:
 - o an increase in dust control during fabrication of engineered stone;
 - o compliance with South Australia's work health and safety (WHS) legislative provisions related to RCS; and
 - o health monitoring (initially supported by MAQOHSC);
 - provide guidance and information to businesses on how to meet South Australia's WHS legislative requirements when working with engineered stone.
- The campaign will be run in collaboration with RTWSA, the University of Adelaide, MAQOHSC and SA Health.
- SafeWork SA will audit all identified manufacturers and installers of engineered stone product, with the size of the industry estimated at 90 workplaces.

Education Materials

- SWSA has already distributed educational material to relevant identified workplaces and made information available on its website in relation to managing the risk of RSC exposure which includes the WHS responsibilities of a business.
- SWSA will consider developing other education material following the audit.

Health Assessments


- SafeWork SA understands that MAQOHSC will be conducting worker health screening program for initial medical screening tests relating to engineered stone workers. Further clarification is required to understand the scope of this health assessment and what is involved in the health assessments, which will be clarified in an agreement between SWSA, RTWSA, and MAQOHSC outlining the scope for each organisation for this project; which SWSA will prepare.
- All parties to this campaign are cooperating to determine the best health assessment process available for the worker and campaign outcomes.

SafeWork SA proposes to lead the campaign to ensure compliance activities align with health assessment deliverables so that the maximum benefit is achieved from the project.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That you:

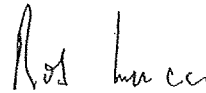
- note the content of this briefing.



Martyn Campbell
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SAFEWORK SA

16 January 2019

NOTED/APPROVED/NOT-APPROVED



Treasurer

Date: 21 / 1 / 2019



Silicosis Campaign Project Brief (SAFE 18/0483)

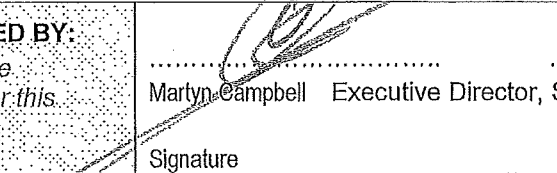
Outcome:	To reduce South Australian workers' exposure to respirable crystalline silica (RCS) by developing and publishing educational information on silicosis and undertaking compliance audits across relevant industries.
Project Sponsor(s)	Martyn Campbell, Executive Director, SafeWork SA
Project team/manager(s):	Mandy Kay, Shelley Rowett (lead), Mark Hulme, Chris Spinks, Barry Sheppard, Sylvia Uglesic, Shane Moss, Maria Kosti, Glenn Farrell, Imogen Selley, Tim Rasch.
Key deliverables:	<p>Develop and deliver educational information and undertake an audit program for SafeWork SA to educate and inform PCBUs and workers on their responsibilities when working with engineered stone and enforce compliance, where appropriate. Focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reduce exposure of workers - with increase dust control during fabrication of engineered stone, compliance with WHS provisions related to RCS and Health monitoring (initially supported by MAQOHSC) provide guidance and information on how to meet the WHS requirements in SA
Project justification:	<p>The use of engineered stone materials (composite stone, e.g. Caesarstone, Silestone, Quantum Quartz etc.) for benchtops in domestic and commercial premises has increased in the last 10 -15 years. Natural stone products e.g. granite may contain up to 40% crystalline silica as opposed to engineered products that may contain 93% or higher content. This change in product usage is likely to have increased silica dust exposure for workers fabricating the benchtops by cutting, drilling or polishing.</p> <p>Intense and/or prolonged inhalation of the dust can lead to irreversible lung disease and a number of recent research papers have shown this to be an issue of concern. In Australia, cases of lung disease in benchtop fabricators have been reported by respiratory specialists. The <i>Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ)</i> has argued for a more detailed understanding of exposures in order to adequately control dust and reduce risks.</p> <p>Medical monitoring / screening has produced mixed results – it is understood in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Queensland - 240 workplaces have been visited, 323 workers have been screened and there are 58 workers compensation claims (11 with mass fibrosis) New South Wales - 123 workplace visits, 2070 workers screened but it is unclear how many from engineered stone, 6 accepted claims (one from engineered stone) – unaccepted claim numbers also not known Victoria - 7 cases of accelerated silicosis reported in 2016 – claim numbers and screening numbers not reported. <p>South Australia has a similar RCS exposure measurement result to those in other states (AESH Adelaide University report). The report provides a range of findings and recommendations.</p> <p>On the basis of observed work practices, consultation and measured exposures, the following recommendations are made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dry processing should cease. Where dry processing cannot be avoided, such as in-home interior installation, wet spray in conjunction with tool-integrated local exhaust

	<p>ventilation (LEV) and respiratory protective equipment (RPE) (positive pressure air purifying device) should be used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fabrication processes should be enclosed as much as practicable, consistent with good occupational hygiene practice • Dusty processes should be isolated from general work areas. • Effective wet methods for dust control must be used for cutting, grinding and polishing processes in a fixed fabrication facility. • A high level of housekeeping is needed, and wet cleaning methods or high efficiency particle filtration (HEPA) industrial vacuum methods should be applied. • Compressed air clean-up should not be used. • Where personal protection is provided in the form of a half face or full face dust mask (negative pressure air purify respirator), this should be individually fit tested, and training provided to the worker. • Specific worker training should be provided. • Health monitoring should be provided. • All workers in the industry, other than office staff, should undergo health monitoring. This should also be available to workers with past exposure to dust but who have left the industry.
<p>Project description:</p>	<p>SafeWork SA will conduct a campaign that will educate and enforce compliance over a three month period.</p> <p>The scope of the campaign is limited to manufacturers and installers of engineered stone and high RCS exposure to this product in the construction industry, such as close proximity exposure during fit-out and refurbishment activities.</p> <p><u>Includes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • collaboration with MAQOHSC and ReturnToWorkSA SA to combine expertise and services • development and implementation of a communication plan to advise industry, unions and business of the campaign and promote guidance material and information available via forums and the SafeWork SA website • a cross-industry team compliance audit to ensure persons conducting a business or undertaking (PCBUs) understand and discharge their legal responsibilities • a staged approach through highest to lower exposure risk. <p><u>Excludes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • incidental dust exposures of low RCS content • workplaces with environmental RCS risk, such as places near mines, or sand quarries, and where naturally occurring dust clouds that may contain silica. <p><u>Outcomes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify non-compliance for the PCBU and issue appropriate statutory notices (i.e. improvement and prohibition notices); and • educate PCBUs and workers on reducing exposure to RCS dust in engineered stone fabrication and installation activities <p><u>Approach:</u></p> <p>The project team will ensure that the campaign is conducted by a systematic and targeted program of worksite visits and education forums over the period stated and consistent and appropriate action is taken for non-compliance.</p> <p>This project aligns to the agency's vision of "Making South Australian workplaces safe".</p> <p>It aligns the following SafeWork SA goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make it easier for people to engage with us

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take firm and fair action against non-compliance 		
Scheduling: <i>Major milestones and target dates</i>	DELIVERABLES / MILESTONES	COMMENCED	PLANNED COMPLETION DATE
	1. Forum on Adelaide Universities project results to Industry representatives	18/10/18	28/11/18 completed
	2. Forum Notes to industry.	28/11/18	17/12/18 completed
	3. Invitation to future forums to installers and manufacturers	14/12/18	18/12/18 completed
	4. Project brief considered by Project Team	30/11/18	14/12/18 completed
	5. Develop an agreement between SWSA, RTWSA, and MAQOHSC outlining the scope for each organisation for this project	Jan 19	End Jan 19 In progress
	6. Project brief approved	14/12/18	Jan 19
	7. Project commenced	Dec 18	Feb 19
	8. Identify PCBUs identified for compliance audits	Dec 18	Jan 19 Completed
	9. Develop Communications Plan	Dec 18	Jan 19 In progress
	10. SWSA to provide safety alert to other upstream industry contacts (low risk) e.g. builders, suppliers, kitchen designers and fabricators of timber benchtops	14/12/18	Jan 19 In progress
	11. Industry Education Forums involving SWSA, RTWSA, and MAQOHSC– 14 January, 30 January, and 11 February 2019	Dec 18	11/02/19 14 January completed
	12. Develop operational document on expectation and performance of the audit including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key performance indicators Audit tool Template notices How to perform audit 	Dec 18	18/01/19 In progress
	13. Communicate to staff (Inspectors and Advisors) the reasoning, requirements and expectation of the audit	Jan 19	4-6 Feb 19
	14. Health assessment conducted via MAQOHSC (to commence 21 Jan 19)	Jan 19	April 19
	15. Inspector Compliance Audits	1st Stage Engineered stone from Feb 19 at installers and manufacturing sites 2nd Stage Construction sites involving other potential areas of silica exposure	Feb to Apr 19 From Apr 19
	16. Team meetings to have an agenda item for audits for the audit timeframe	Jan 19	Apr 19
17. Report fortnightly to Executive on the progress of the audit, including commentary on trends, issues and/or barriers	Feb 19	Jul 19	

	18. Develop any additional education and awareness documentation following audit.	Apr 19	Oct 19
	19. Review/analyse complete audit findings	Apr 19	Jul 19
	20. Communicate to the public SWSA actions and ongoing expectations	Jan 19	Jul 19
	21. Report on audit program, actions, outcomes and recommendations provided to Executive for consideration		Jul 19
	22. Project completed		Aug 19
	23. Project closure report		Sep 19
Budget for Project	BUDGET: THERE IS NO ADDITIONAL BUDGET FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT		
	No additional budget is required. Can be absorbed within current workload. Inspectors from SWSA – Manufacturing, PIRCCE, CEBS and Construction Teams. Supported by Communications Team, Educator (via WAS)		
	Costs of campaign will be within SafeWork SA's current operating budget.		
	Development of resources and the sharing of information will be absorbed by each agency.		
Will a procurement process be required?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		

Overview of project risks	RISK	RANKING H / M / L	Treatment
	Medical monitoring has potential to overload thoracic services at SA health	Medium	Assist in facilitating via support provided by MAQOHSC
	Reduction of industry by impacting businesses ability to operate	Medium	Compliance with enforcement notices will need appropriate timeframes
	Availability of skilled resources to participate in the project	Medium	Ensure Team Leaders and Managers are across workloads and manage it accordingly.
	Engagement from the Industry Teams (Inspectors)	High	Ensure Inspectors are engaged for involvement and feedback throughout.
	Project timelines are not met (over-run)	Medium	Project team leader to monitor progress and provide timely updates in relation to variations in timelines.
Project governance: <i>Proposed strategy for oversight, decision-making and project coordination</i>	<p>SWSA will be the lead Agency for this program, working with RTWSA, and MAQOHSC.</p> <p>The Director, Workplace, Education and Business Services will be the Lead Officer for SWSA and this project.</p> <p>SWSA Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Director, SafeWork SA • Director, Compliance and Enforcement • Director, Workplace Education and Business Services • Executive Change Manager <p>A fortnightly status update on the project must be submitted by the Project Lead through the Project Support Office, Review and Reform Team, to SWSA Executive fortnightly</p>		

PROJECT APPROVED BY: <i>Who is the appropriate approving authority for this project?</i>	 Martyn Campbell Executive Director, SafeWork SA Signature 16.1.19/20.....
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