



## MEDIA RELEASE

6 March 2023

### **RANZCR Urges the Federal Government to Implement the Recommendations of the National Dust Diseases Taskforce**

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) urges the Federal Government to fully implement the recommendations of the National Dust Diseases Taskforce (the Taskforce) to protect the wellbeing of workers at risk of developing silicosis and other dust related diseases.

RANZCR strongly supports the Taskforce report and calls on the Government to establish a national respiratory disease register. The register would effectively monitor patient cases and disease progression providing a snapshot of disease at any time as well as collecting essential data.

The recommendation 5.b in the Taskforce report of better supporting medical, health and other related professionals to improve the diagnosis and management of silicosis should be **urgently** progressed.

Since the final Taskforce report was released in June 2021, there has been little progress made on implementing the recommendations. RANZCR has attempted to engage with the Government on the recommendations and is keen to assist. In the meantime, while we wait the health and wellbeing of workers is being compromised.

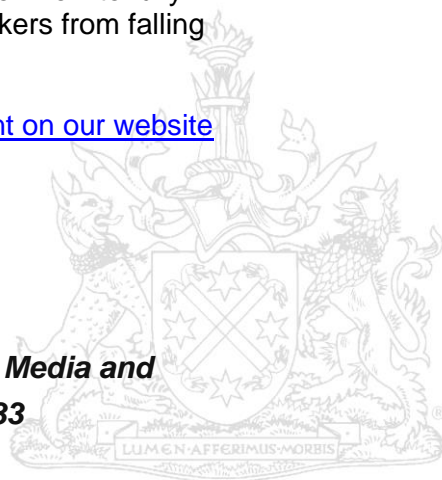
RANZCR believes that a strategic national approach to silicosis is imperative and welcomes the outcomes of the Workplace Health and Safety Ministers meeting which committed to addressing stronger rules for workplaces and for further consultation on a ban on engineered stone. This is a first step in a coordinated national effort to combatting this insidious disease.

RANZCR President, Clin A/Prof Sanjay Jeganathan said, “addressing the health issues for at risk workers and those with silicosis has been talked about and pushed into the background for long enough. We need the government to take action now to fully implement the recommendations of the Taskforce and prevent workers from falling victim to this insidious disease”.

[View the Imaging of Occupational Lung Disease Position Statement on our website](#)

**ENDS**

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# The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists®

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## About RANZCR

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) is committed to improving health outcomes for all, by educating and supporting clinical radiologists and radiation oncologists. RANZCR is dedicated to setting standards, professional training, assessment and accreditation, and advocating access to quality care in both professions to create healthier communities.

RANZCR creates a positive impact by driving change, focusing on the professional development of its members and advancing best practice health policy and advocacy, to enable better patient outcomes.

RANZCR members are critical to health services: radiation oncology is a vital component in the treatment of cancer; clinical radiology is central to the diagnosis and treatment of disease and injury.

For more information, go to [www.ranzcr.com](http://www.ranzcr.com) and follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).