

*T. Tabbalol!
Tierri hearing,
Brad Rogers 14/12/16.*

Good morning ,

My name is Brad Rogers and I am 56 years old and have worked in the Mining industry since 1985. I worked at Mount Isa Mines till 2002 and moved to Armidale and worked at a gold mine for 12 months .

Then moved back to Mackay and started working at Oaky North mine as a contractor then as a temp and then as a permanent employee.

After having a Coal board medical in 2009 the local doctor sent me for a CT Scan as he noticed some shading on my chest Xray.

I had the CT done and was asked if I had Pneumonia at all and I had when I was younger so I was told nothing to worry about it was just the scaring from the Pneumonia.

The next Coal Board Medical went through in 2014-15 with no mention of any problem with the chest Xray .

Then in 2016 we had to all have Xrays redone to the new standard and the results came back for me to have another CT done as it showed something.

Another CT was done and a recommendation to see a Thoracic Specialist as the most probable diagnosis was pneumoconiosis .

After seeing Dr Edwards in Brisbane he confirmed that I did have Black Lung as the report had suggested but also while looking at the CT Scans had asked about the scan from 2009 and what the result was .

After him looking at the CT he said that he could see the start of Pnuemunoconiosis in the scan from 2009. How this could have been missed and the other Xrays had not been picked up until 2016 is appalling. He went on to say if this had not been found until my next CBMedical that we would have been discussing pain management and life expectancy.

Due to this being found I have been restricted to surface work only and no dust.

Even though I am now working in the control room on the surface I am still in the dust environment although in the control room dust is minimal at 0.02 per cubic m I won't know if it will add to my condition until I have my 12 month check.

I still have another 6 months to go till I am to return to see Dr Edwards to re do all the tests and CT to determine if my diagnosis has developed.

I have found that the work I used to be able to do has been diminished and I have to stop and rest because of fatigue as my lung capacity has been reduced.

It seems that no-one knows what to do with us or who is to be held responsible.

The mines don't want to acknowledge that this has happened or the the government .

It seems that we are the test cases for the Black Lung .

At the moment my life is on hold and my family as I don't know if the mine will get rid of me and if so I stand to lose everything that I have worked for over the last 30 years.

It is not only the psychical side to deal with but the emotional side of not knowing what will happen in the future and the strain that it puts on family as well.

This enquiry needs to take a positive stand with the Mines on how they manage their Dust to prevent another round of workers being diagnosed with black lung and the way that coal mine workers are screened to prevent this happening again.