

**PORT CURTIS AND HINTERLAND BRANCH
AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY (QLD)**

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Committee Secretary
Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

via email: cwpsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee,

First of all we'd like to thank the Queensland Government for their action regarding the re-emergence of Black Lung disease and for the opportunity to make a submission in relation to this important issue.

Member of the Port Curtis and Hinterland Branch of the Australian Labor Party (PCHB) reside in the Gladstone region, in Central Queensland. A region dominated by mining industries and as such exposed to respirable coal dust, for port workers, rail workers, coal-fired power station workers and residents in the region. The Government's decision to extend the terms of reference for this inquiry to include such workers is a welcome one.

The PCHB would like to see further clarification in the *Mining Safety and Health Legislation (Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2016* to ensure that any and all costs required for medical expenses associated with any mandatory Black Lung screening process are to be borne by the employer. This should include any pre-medical, cyclical, or post-employment medical screening costs. The current regulations doesn't clearly define who is responsible for covering these costs at each stage and there is concern that this ambiguity will lead to employees having to pay.

In addition we think consideration should be given to compensating workers who lose income as a direct result of suffering from Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis. This compensation would need to include those whose earning capacity has suffered from no longer being able to work in coal related fields. A compensation fund where victims of Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis can make a claim may be an appropriate way to recognise, and support workers whose lives are changed from this workplace related illness.

Thank-you,
Jarrod Simner

On behalf of Port Curtis and Hinterland Branch QLD Labor Party.