

Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Comr

From: Wendy [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 3 January 2019 7:46 PM
To: Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee
Subject: Silicosis - submission for Inclusion on QLD DUST REGISTER and other concerns.

[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern

I write this email with a very heavy heart.

My daughter and her husband have 3 beautiful daughters aged 2, 5 & 8. My son in law was a strong, hardworking stonemason, a good husband and is adored by his young children. His job was his passion and he took much pride in his work and providing for his family. Sadly this began to change over the last few years as he lost his energy and his health. In spite of many doctors and specialist appointments and even hospital admissions his illness was undiagnosed until recently when he had the dreadful and deadly diagnosis of STONEMASONRY SILICOSIS. His work life had to stop immediately and we've now had to watch him go from bad to worse. I'm not sure whether it's because his body seems to have gone into shock after he's obviously pushed himself far too hard through the pain and his shortness of breath or whether it is depression knowing he's a "dead man walking" - his words not mine.

I am horrified to learn of the dangers of this deadly manufactured stone which you as a government allowed to be imported into this country and now with you knowing that this is made up of 90% deadly silica with assumedly the other 10% being an adhesive holding it together, you still allow it to be imported into Australia. I understand a Bill has been tabled to include Silicosis on the QLD Dust Register which is positive but probably not enough.

The number of diagnosed cases in QLD will only be the tip of the iceberg, and the thought of the number of young men Australia wide that are going to die because of this is sickening. I saw my husbands brother die of asbestosis and saw the terrible and painful death he had but at least he lived long enough to watch his children grow up and walk his daughter down the aisle. Our son in law won't get that opportunity and all I can think about is how my daughter and our grandchildren are going to get through this, even with our love and support.

Please take on board what I am saying here. These new processes of wet cutting this killer stone is not enough - BAN THE IMPORTATION OF IT and acknowledge what has already happened. You need to be providing funding and rehab centres to help these hard working young men and their families to come to terms with this preventable illness, physically, mentally and financially and to hopefully prolong their lives with some level of comfort. The financial pressure on them should also be looked into, the wait for Workcover payments to come through took far too long and now with all the added pressures, they're expected to be living on 80% (?) of the last 12 months of income - income which had already been reduced by our son in law not having the strength to do the hours he could do before. Their cost of living has not reduced so why are they expected to live on less? This has unnecessarily added to their pressures.

I look forward to hearing of some positive news and help for the victims and families of this deadly disease and that this product can not ruin the lives of more young men in the future.

Thanking you in advance that this will happen.

Yours sincerely
Wendy Rayner (Mrs)

[REDACTED]



Sent from my iPad