

7th January 2019

Committee Secretary Health
Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention
Committee
Parliament House
George Street, BRISBANE QLD 4000
Email: health@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary,

Re: Submission to the Queensland Parliament Committee reporting on the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

According to the explanatory notes the Bill amends the Public Health Act 2005 to:

- establish the Notifiable Dust Lung Disease register and require prescribed medical practitioners to notify the chief executive of Queensland Health about cases of notifiable dust lung disease
- enable the chief executive to require a person responsible for causing a pollution event to publish a pollution notice to inform the public of potential risks to public health, and
- enable the standard that a person must comply with when manufacturing, selling, supplying or using paint to be prescribed by regulation rather than in the Act

In our work on developing the first ever National Strategic Action Plan for Lung Conditions, the need to address the growing problem of occupational lung disease has been identified. This Action Plan has identified **'people exposed to dust, gas and fumes'** as a priority population, and outlined initiatives to address occupational lung conditions including:

- Delivery of an awareness and education campaign targeting employers, employees, representative bodies and key work health and safety stakeholders
- Development of lung health material to support education on prevention including reduction of hazards to provide healthy and safe workplaces.
- Development of lung health material to support early identification of symptoms
- Implementation of clinical practice audits
- Telephone coaching for those diagnosed
- Education for health professionals to assist in identification, diagnosis and management
- **Establishment of a national register** involving an expert steering committee to develop processes that ensure quality data, entry, collation and analysis.
- **Investigate the establishment of a process for mandatory notification of occupational lung diseases.**

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Patron: His Excellency General the
Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd)
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Lung Foundation Australia (LFA) has a history of working to support people living with lung conditions. We have a range of patient education, programs and services and can connect patients to those available in their local area. We have also successfully run campaigns to raise awareness amongst the population on lung health. For further information please visit our website www.lungfoundation.com.au

Over many years we have successfully worked with the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand on several initiatives involving the health professional community including research and education.

The Bill amendment proposed is an important first step in working towards the establishment of system to identify workplaces where there are unsafe work practices that increase the risk of lung disease to workers, employers and the community. LFA supports action where the prevention of lung conditions is undertaken to remove hazards and reduce the risk of lung disease, including the establishment of standards of practice.

LFA would like to see the process extended to encompass a comprehensive multi-faceted approach to address the prevention of lung disease and reduction of risk of lung disease, including support for those affected by occupational lung disease. These actions are outlined above and included in the National Strategic Action Plan for Lung Conditions which is scheduled for launch early 2019.

A future approach could include collaborative action involving employers, employees, representative patient organisation such as LFA, leading medical groups and government agencies to implement initiatives to prevent exposure for those people at risk and support better health outcomes for people affected.

We look forward to continuing to work towards better health outcomes for people with lung conditions including occupational lung conditions. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time to discuss further.

Yours sincerely



Mark Brooke

Chief Executive Officer

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