

## Health Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2025

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<b>Submitted by:</b>	Lung Foundation Australia
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<b>Submitter Comments:</b>	

Health, Environment and Innovation Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street BRISBANE QLD 4000

6<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Dear Committee Members,

**Re: Health Legislation Amendment Bill (No.2) 2025 - Transition to the National Occupational Respiratory Disease Registry**

We appreciate the opportunity to take part in the consultation, and we congratulate the Queensland government on your leadership in this space.

We would like to specifically address the Health Legislation Amendment Bill (No.2) 2025, which involves the transition to the National Occupational Respiratory Disease Registry (NORDR).

The Australian Government Dust Disease Task Force, established in July 2019, made several key recommendations in its Final Report to the Minister for Health and Aged Care in June 2021. One of the recommendations was to establish a national approach to the prevention, early identification, control, and management of silicosis and other occupational dust diseases. This recommendation underscores the importance of transitioning to a National Occupational Respiratory Disease Registry (NORDR) to ensure comprehensive surveillance and coordinated responses to emerging health risks.

In principle, Lung Foundation Australia supports the phasing out of the QLD Notifiable Dust Lung Disease Register (NDLDR) and the subsequent alignment with the National Occupational Respiratory Disease Registry.

It is crucial for Queensland policymakers and medical practitioners to continue having access to Queensland data within the NORDR and to be able to access broader trends within the national data.

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Lung Foundation Australia advocates for the continuous evolution and expansion of the NORDR to include more mandatory notifiable occupational lung diseases. It is essential that the registry remains fit for purpose to meet the needs of clinicians, patients, researchers, and governments. To achieve this, we encourage the NORDR team to engage with key opinion leaders, clinicians, and organisations such as the Thoracic Society of Australia & New Zealand for input.

Additionally, it is important for all stakeholders to understand how the Government will utilise additional surveillance tools to interrogate the data. Lung Foundation Australia is currently funded to develop a national Rapid Response Protocol, which is in its final stages of development. Once operational, this protocol will establish a process to rapidly identify and respond to emerging occupational health risks, utilising data collected through the NORDR.

**Types of outcomes the Registry should deliver over time:**

1. **Improved surveillance and monitoring:** The registry should provide comprehensive data on occupational respiratory diseases, enabling better surveillance and monitoring of trends and emerging health risks.
2. **Enhanced early detection and prevention:** By identifying patterns and risk factors, the registry should facilitate early detection and prevention strategies to reduce the incidence of occupational respiratory diseases.
3. **Informed policy and decision-making:** The data collected should inform policymakers and stakeholders, aiding in the development of evidence-based policies and interventions.
4. **Support for research and innovation:** The registry should serve as a valuable resource for researchers, fostering innovation and advancements in the understanding and treatment of occupational respiratory diseases.
5. **Improved patient outcomes:** Ultimately, the registry should contribute to improved health outcomes for patients by enabling timely and effective interventions and treatments.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Health Legislation Amendment Bill (No.2) 2025. Lung Foundation Australia remains committed to

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advocating for clean air to protect the lung health of all Australians. We strongly believe that everyone has the right to work in an environment free from harm.

Yours sincerely



**Mark Brooke**

Chief Executive Officer

**Lung Foundation Australia**

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