

Respiratory Disease Claims for Compensation

Personal injury
lawyers



Understanding your legal rights

If you have a respiratory illness that might be related to your current or past work, this guide will help you understand your legal rights for compensation and available support.

Some respiratory conditions, such as asbestos-related changes, may be the result of exposures in a non-work setting and may also give rise to a right to seek compensation.

Occupational respiratory diseases are work-related diseases that affect the lungs.

These diseases can develop rapidly or many years after the first exposure to a particular hazard. Some can also lead to cancer.

Early detection is critical.



Are you suffering from a respiratory disease?

The nature of particular occupations can cause or contribute to the development of an illness/disease or the acceleration of a pre-existing disease in past and current workers.

If you have been diagnosed with a respiratory disease that could be due to your workplace conditions, contact Zaparas Lawyers today, as you may be eligible to receive compensation.

Common respiratory diseases caused by work include

- Silicosis
- Mesothelioma
- Lung Cancer
- Asbestosis
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
- Chronic Bronchitis
- Occupational Asthma
- Pneumoconiosis

In some cases, a person's respiratory disease may be the result of exposures outside of work including:

- Living or performing activities near a hazardous substance
- Cleaning clothes contaminated with the hazardous substances
- Sharing a car with someone covered in the hazardous substance
- Performing renovations or demolitions
- Working on old cars

Have you been exposed to silica or worked with engineered stone tops?

Silicosis is a permanent and often progressive lung disease caused by inhaling respirable crystalline silica. It is also linked to increased risk of other conditions such as lung cancer, kidney disease, bronchitis, emphysema, and autoimmune diseases.

Please note

Exposure to silica and the onset of symptoms can be decades apart. This means you may not know if you have developed Silicosis until years after your exposure.

If you believe you have been exposed through your work, please consult a doctor right away, even if asymptomatic.

Occupations or activities that can create exposure include

- Mining

- Paving and surfacing

- Construction

- Stonemasonry

- Any work with manufactured stone products

- Manufacture of asphalt, cement, bricks, china, glass, adhesives, paints, soaps, and abrasives





What you may be entitled to

Medical and Like Expenses

WorkCover may pay for medical treatment that is reasonable and related to your work-related illness or disease.

Loss of Income (Weekly Payments)

If you cannot work due to your illness or disease (or have modified duties/hours) you may be entitled to weekly PIAWE payments (Pre-injury Average Weekly Earnings)

Impairment Benefits

You may be entitled to claim a no-fault lump sum impairment benefit.

This lump sum is payable if your illness or disease meets or exceeds a particular threshold.

Common Law Damages

Fault-based lump sum if your condition is due to the negligence of another party.

It is important to note that you can still pursue compensation even if

You do not have any symptoms.

You have left the job where exposure may have occurred.

Your employer is out of business.

You have retired.

You were a smoker or exposed to cigarette smoke.

You have since worked in other forms of employment where exposure may have occurred.

Get free legal advice

If you've worked in a dusty environment and are concerned about your health

You don't need to navigate this alone.

Zaparas Lawyers offer a free, no-obligation first appointment and operate on a No Win, No Fee basis, meaning you won't pay legal fees unless your claim is successful.

Contact Zaparas Lawyers today,
we're here to help

www.zaparaslaw.com.au/contact-us/

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**Getting legal advice early
can make all the difference**



Know your rights

This brochure is an educational resource produced by Zaparas Lawyers.

Zaparas Lawyers is a funding partner of The Alfred Occupational Respiratory Clinic's world-first clinical trial into the treatment of Silicosis. This partnership reflects our long-standing commitment to supporting workers affected by dust-related lung conditions and raising awareness of their legal rights.

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