**XXXXX supports national occupational lung diseases campaign**

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Do you know what you’re breathing in? A new national campaign has been launched to highlight the hidden hazards at the workplace that can cause serious lung diseases.

Dusts, gases, fumes and vapours are often invisible, but breathing them in can damage the lungs and cause lung diseases like silicosis, lung cancer, emphysema and chronic pulmonary obstructive disease.

In the past decade over 6,000 claims workers’ compensation claims for occupational lung diseases were made and over the past few years, workers’ compensation claims for occupational lung diseases have nearly doubled.

Whilst this increase can be explained in part due to new screening regimes implemented in the states and territories leading to an increase in diagnosed cases and early identification of disease, the incidence of some occupational lung diseases may also be increasing.

NAME, ROLE said ORGANISATION supports the Clean Air. Clear Lungs. campaign led by Safe Work Australia. “Occupational lung diseases are not just ‘part of the job’, they are serious conditions that can be prevented.

“Employers have duties under the Work Health and Safety (WHS) laws to protect the health and safety of workers, and this includes protecting workers from the risks of exposure to hazardous air.

“This new campaign is focused on increasing awareness of occupational lung diseases, the risks of exposure to hazardous air in the workplace, and steps to manage risks.

“It’s important we increase awareness of occupational lung diseases to help employers and workers understand what they must do to meet their WHS duties and keep workers safe from the risks of hazardous air.”

The Clean Air. Clear Lungs. campaign targets micro and small to medium businesses in industries where there is a high risk of occupational lung disease, including construction, manufacturing, agriculture and engineered stone.

Tailored, practical information and resources for these industries, including information sheets, checklists and case studies are available at the campaign website.

The campaign is led by Safe Work Australia and is supported by WHS regulators and other stakeholders including the Lung Foundation and #####.