

Date: 10 April 2019

icare NSW brings Lung Bus to Broken Hill, Taree and Forster

The Insurance and Care NSW (icare) Mobile Lung Screen (also known as the 'Lung Bus') is visiting Broken Hill, Taree and Forster in May to provide specialised lung health assessments to current and retired workers who are at risk of developing a workplace dust disease, such as mesothelioma or silicosis.

"Our Lung Bus may look like any other semi-trailer, but on board is a medical screening team that includes an experienced general practitioner who can provide a full lung screen health assessment, a radiographer that performs the chest x-rays and a certified respiratory scientist who performs the lung function tests. The full examination is just 25 minutes," said icare Interim General Manager, Specialist Care Christine Callaghan.

"We recognise that it's difficult for people in regional or rural areas to access specialist health services – they often have to travel long distances or experience lengthy wait times for an appointment.

"By bringing our Lung Bus to Broken Hill, Taree and Forster, we can ensure retired workers and current at-risk workers can access this critical health monitoring service, while also saving them valuable time and minimising disruption to their busy day," Ms Callaghan said.

The Mobile Lung Screen is available, free of charge, to workers who may have been exposed to workplace dust. This includes retired workers with possible exposure to hazardous dusts during their working life, and also current workers who were previously employed in an at-risk industry but have now moved into a different occupation.

"Work activities like abrasive blasting, brick cutting, excavation and demolition work, road construction and stonemasonry are some common avenues for hazardous dust exposure.

"If during your working life in NSW, you were regularly carrying out work of this type, we really encourage you to contact icare Dust Diseases Care to arrange a free lung health assessment," Ms Callaghan said.

The Mobile Lung Screen is also available to assist high-risk employers meet their obligations under the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017 which requires NSW employers to provide health monitoring for employees exposed to hazardous dusts.

"We want to make it easier for NSW employers to meet this obligation, so we bring the service to their door step, and offer it at a subsidised rate of just \$100 plus GST per person.

The Mobile Lung Screen will be available for screenings on:

- Broken Hill – Monday 13 and Tuesday 14 May
- Taree – Wednesday 29 May
- Forster – Thursday 30 and Friday 31 May

If you live or work in Broken Hill, Taree or Forster and you are interested in taking advantage of this lung screen service, contact icare Dust Diseases Care on 13 94 44 or visit

<https://www.icare.nsw.gov.au/lungbus/>

In 2017-18, the icare Mobile Lung Screen travelled more than 50,000km and provided lung health assessments to 3,660 retired and at-risk workers at 71 locations across NSW.

If you are diagnosed with a dust disease as a result of harmful dust exposure in a NSW workplace, icare Dust Diseases Care will provide financial support to you and your family. In 2017-18, the Dust Disease Care scheme provided support and care to 4,609 past and present workers with dust diseases and their families.

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