



icare™
dust diseases care



**Applying for
Workers
Compensation**

You may be able to obtain financial and health care support from **icare Dust Diseases Care** if you have a NSW work-related dust disease.

Applying for compensation with Dust Diseases Care is free and we can help you with your application. We can help you gather all the information and paperwork needed to assess your application.

It is important that you make an application or contact us to discuss your situation to facilitate early and timely access to care and support. We accept applications lodged at any time, including outside of business hours and public holidays.

Who is entitled to receive compensation?

You may be entitled to receive compensation if you have been diagnosed with a dust disease that was caused by harmful exposure to dust as a worker in NSW.

What dust diseases are covered?

We cover the following dust diseases, caused by exposure to asbestos, silica and other harmful workplace dusts:

- Mesothelioma
- Asbestosis
- Asbestos induced carcinoma
- Asbestos related pleural disease
- Silicosis
- Silicosis tuberculosis
- Aluminosis
- Batassosis
- Berylliosis
- Byssinosis
- Coal dust pneumoconiosis*
- Farmers' lung
- Hard metal pneumoconiosis
- Talcosis

** Workers who worked in or around a coal mine are not covered by Dust Diseases Care. Coal Services Limited looks after coal mine workers.*

We may also cover other conditions affecting the lungs, pleura or peritoneum that can also cause one of the diseases listed above.

How do I know if I have a dust disease?

Dust diseases are rare and slow to develop. Most dust diseases do not develop for at least 10 years after your first exposure.

Dust diseases can only be detected through a medical examination. The examination should be carried out by a doctor who has experience in respiratory medicine and usually includes a chest X-ray or CT scan, and a lung function test. Other medical tests may also be required.

The examination may determine that you have pleural plaques. The presence of pleural plaques on an X-ray, while an indicator that you have been exposed to asbestos, is not, on its own, a dust disease. Refer to our Fact Sheet on Pleural Plaques for more information about this.

If you haven't been medically examined or had a chest X-ray in the last six (6) months, we can arrange a free medical examination for you with the provider of your choice. You can phone us to arrange a free medical examination on your behalf or you can make request a medical examination online.

How do I apply for compensation?

You can make an application by:

- Completing and submitting an online application for compensation form on the icare website;
- By downloading our application for compensation form from our website and sending the completed form to us by fax, mail or email using the contact details printed on our application form.
- You can contact us and our Client Liaison team can assist you by completing an application on your behalf.

We will ask you to provide copies of any doctor's report, respiratory tests or X-rays (taken in the last six (6) months) that you have that show you may have a dust disease. Please include your pathology results if you have cancer.

Don't worry if you do not have the medical reports. We can obtain them for you from your treating doctors and hospitals.

We will also ask you for proof of identity documents for yourself and anyone you have claimed as a dependent.. If you don't have the documents to send with your application, you can send them later.

What happens next?

Once you submit your application, we can assess your eligibility for compensation and care.

You may be interviewed by one of our industrial history officers after they have gathered information on your exposure to dusts at work, such as asbestos or silica.

Your application is then reviewed by an independent medical panel. They determine if you have a compensable dust disease, and if so, the level of related disability and the proportion of exposure due to working in NSW.

A decision will be made on whether you are eligible. We will inform you of our decision by phone, and then send you written confirmation.

What compensation will I receive?

If your application for compensation is granted, you may receive a fortnightly compensation payment for you and your eligible dependents, together with payment of your medical, hospital and treatment expenses related to the dust disease.

The payment will vary according to your level of disability and the portion of exposure that happened in a NSW workplace. The amount of your payment may also vary if you are still working or return to the workforce.

Your payments will continue for the remainder of your life. We'll also provide \$9,000 towards the payment of funeral expenses.

Will my Centrelink or Veterans Affairs pension be affected?

Your Dust Diseases Care compensation payment will be taken into account by other agencies. You may find that your pension payments are reduced when you receive compensation payments from us.

You should discuss the possible impact on your pension with the relevant agency. Centrelink can be contacted on (02) 9280 2001 and Veterans Affairs can be contacted on 133 254.

Your privacy

Your privacy is important to us and your personal information is protected by law. We cannot use or disclose your personal information unless you've agreed to its use or disclosure, or it is otherwise allowed under the *New South Wales Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*.

You can learn more about the personal and health information **icare** and Dust Diseases Care holds and how we manage it by referring to our Privacy Management Plan on the **icare** website or contacting us at privacy@icare.nsw.gov.au.

Would you like more information?

Call (02) 8223 6600 or toll free on 1800 550 027
Email DDAenquiries@icare.nsw.gov.au
Post GPO Box 5323, Sydney NSW 2001

You can learn more about Dust Diseases Care and our services by visiting our website www.icare.nsw.gov.au