

NSW Standing Health Committee

Summary report: February 2025



Latest meeting

The Standing Health Committee (SHC) met in Sydney on Wednesday, 12 February 2025 to progress the development of the NSW Coal Industry Cardiovascular Health Standard. The SHC was supported by Associate Professor James Otton as subject matter expert.



The Cardiovascular Health Standard has been drafted and further industry consultation is planned with the NSW Minerals Council (NSWMC) and the Mining & Energy Union (MEU) representatives in March 2025

Highlights and key initiatives

- The SHC reviewed the committee's feedback on Cardiovascular Health Standard and determined follow-up requirements and management, in line with best practice.
- The Cardiovascular Health Standard has been developed to include Risk Categories for coal mine workers. This allows Order 43 medicals to determine a coal mine worker's risk based on their role. Coal mine workers in lower risk roles will have fewer follow-up requirements, reducing impact to industry.
- The committee reviewed a summary paper on the Cardiovascular Risk calculator, used for over 10 years, to determine cardiovascular risk in Order 43 medicals.
- A new calculator, introduced in Australia in 2023, more accurately identifies people at a high risk of cardiac events and provides guidance on managing risk factors.
- The previous Cardiovascular Risk calculator overestimated the number of people in the high-risk category. The implementation of the new calculator reduces the number of coal mine workers requiring follow-up with their GP or specialist and reduces the number of reviews.
- Clinical management flow charts have been developed and were tested by the SHC with case study examples.
- The SHC made note of two research activities relevant to industry:
 - Coal Services Health & Safety Trust Frontline Innovation Grants which close Friday, 28 February 2025 <https://www.coalservices.com.au/about-us/health-and-safety-trust/>
 - University of Newcastle, Walk and Talk study which provides an opportunity for men with low mood to access free mental health support [Walk and Talk study information and screening form](#)

Recommendations and actions

- Draft Cardiovascular Health Standard to be reviewed in March 2025 by:
 - NSWMC representatives
 - MEU representatives
 - Coal Services' Clinical Governance Committee
- Communication plan to include a reminder to industry that this is a medical standard and is a tool for Approved Medical Practitioners (Order 43 doctors) to ensure standardised decision making.

Next SHC meeting: Wednesday, 2 April 2025

For further information, including the list of SHC representatives, visit:

www.coalservices.com.au/health/standing-health-committee/