

NSW Standing Health Committee

Summary report: June 2025



Meeting overview

The Standing Health Committee (SHC) met in Newcastle on Wednesday, 11 June 2025 to review the progress and actions required to support the release of the NSW Coal Industry Cardiovascular Health Standard. The SHC also reviewed the required updates and changes to the Respiratory Health Standard following its release in August 2024.



The Cardiovascular Health Standard (CVHS) is due for release in July 2025.

The Respiratory Health Standard (RHS) is currently undergoing a 12-month review.

Highlights and key initiatives

- The SHC reviewed the progress of the Cardiovascular Health Standard (CVHS), supporting resources and timeline for release.
- The CVHS has been endorsed by the Coal Services Clinical Governance Committee and an independent Occupational Physician.
- The SHC provided feedback on plans for the cardiovascular health campaign to support the release of the CVHS. This included concepts for campaign videos which aim to encourage workers to look after their cardiovascular health.
- The SHC reviewed updates to the Respiratory Health Standard (RHS). Key changes include:
 - removal of transitional arrangements and inhalable mine dust (IMD) thresholds for respiratory impairment following release of the IMD restriction review recommendations and Mine Safety Advisory Council (MSAC) endorsement
 - use of Z-scores for interpretation of spirometry results and classification of respiratory impairment severity to increase accuracy ensure best practice
 - updates to spirometry pathways to improve clarity and limit unnecessary medical escalations
 - wording updates and additions to align with the CVHS and proposed new Order.
- SHC members identified an ongoing lack of understanding regarding enhanced dust monitoring and the need for further industry education and support.
- SHC members reported confusion and concerns relating to the health certification and reporting obligations to the NSW Resources Regulator of lung

conditions such as emphysema which may be due to an occupational and/or non-occupational causes.

- The SHC noted further opportunity for industry involvement in the University of Newcastle Walk and Talk Study which provides support to men with low mood. [Walk and Talk study information](#).

Recommendations and actions

- The CVHS is planned for release in July 2025 following:
 - independent editor review
 - completion of industry education forums to held between 17 June and 2 July
 - finalisation of supporting resources including explainer videos, fact sheets and FAQs.
- Utilise the MSAC Implementation Working Group to review industry education, communication and support needs relating to the implementation of enhanced dust monitoring following a dust restriction.
- To obtain NSW Resources Regulator advice and clarification on reporting of respiratory diagnoses .
- Further updates to be made to the RHS prior to SHC endorsement, wider industry consultation and release.

Next SHC meeting: Wednesday, 27 August 2025.

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

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