

Latest meeting

The Standing Health Committee (SHC) met in Newcastle on 4 February 2026 to finalise the development of the NSW Coal Industry Sleep Health Standard following industry consultation.



The SHC is finalising the NSW Coal Industry Sleep Health Standard and supporting resources, which are planned for release in April 2026.

Highlights and key initiatives

- The SHC reviewed feedback on the draft Sleep Health Standard (SHS) following the completion of industry consultation. This included feedback from:
 - MEU and NSWMC consultation meetings
 - other industry stakeholders following circulation of the SHS via email and the Coal Services website.
- On request, the NSWMC and MEU consultation period has been extended to 13 February.
- The SHC reviewed and discussed updates required to the SHS to address industry feedback. This included:
 - a stronger focus on objective evidence of excessive worktime sleepiness that may trigger a fitness for work (sleep) assessment, with removal of more subjective measures
 - changing wording of lifestyle-related conditions to non-occupational health conditions
 - improved clarity regarding the medical evidence base used within the standard
 - addition to approved medical practitioner (AMP) duties and accountabilities to specify that any collection and sharing of coal mine worker health information must be in accordance with relevant privacy legislation
 - improved clarity on the reporting and interpretation of sleep study results and circumstances when repeat sleep studies may be required
 - improved clarity on the medical information required by AMPs to confirm if coal mine workers diagnosed with obstructive sleep apnoea have an adequate treatment response
 - clearer articulation of roles and responsibilities relating to the provision of coal mine worker education.

- The SHC discussed the remaining steps required prior to finalisation of the SHS and release.
- The SHC reviewed the supporting resources drafted to support the release of the SHS including fact sheets, information packs and videos.
- The SHC chair called for renominations and nominations to SHC membership and identified updates required to the terms of reference (TOR).

Recommendations and actions

- SHS to be updated to incorporate changes identified by the SHC, and any further feedback received during the extension to the NSWMC and MEU consultation period.
- CS Health to meet with the NSWMC and MEU to discuss the changes made to the SHS to address previous feedback.
- SHC to endorse the SHS following incorporation of stakeholder feedback, prior to Clinical Governance committee and independent occupational physician endorsement.
- Industry forums and education to be arranged prior to the planned release of the SHS and supporting resources in April 2026.
- The next SHC meeting will focus on:
 - the development of the Diabetes Health Standard
 - a review of the current priority order for developing the remaining industry health standards to ensure ongoing alignment with industry needs.

Next SHC meeting: April 2026.

For further information on the SHC visit:

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

If you have any feedback on the existing industry health standards, please email shc@coalservices.com.au