

NSW Standing Health Committee

Summary report: April 2026



Latest meeting

The Standing Health Committee (SHC) met in Newcastle on 15 April, 2026 to commence development of the NSW Coal Industry Diabetes Health Standard, for which Professor Shamasunder Acharya was in attendance, to provide subject-matter expertise.



The SHC has commenced the development of the NSW Coal Industry Diabetes Health Standard.

Highlights and key initiatives

- SHC membership changes have been approved by the Coal Services Board, including changes to the chairperson and northern MEU representative.
- The release of the Sleep Health Standard (SHS) remains a key priority; however, further consultation is required before endorsement is finalised, which has impacted the timeline for release. Supporting resources (fact sheets and videos) continue to be developed in preparation for release of the SHS.
- The SHC welcomed endocrinologist, Professor Acharya, who will provide subject-matter expertise to the development of the Diabetes Health Standard (DHS). Professor Acharya provided an overview of diabetes and health and safety impacts for the coal mining workforce.
- Dr David Meredith provided an overview of NSW coal industry health data relating to diabetes.
- The SHC reviewed and provided feedback on the first draft of the DHS and identified updates required. These included:
 - Inclusion of pre-diabetes for early risk identification
 - Consideration of HbA1c screening at Order 45 health assessments
 - Clarification of targets for diabetes control
 - Improved guidance on management of severe hypoglycaemic events
 - Greater clarity on the interface between Order 45 health assessments, fitness for work assessments and the medical management guidelines outlined within industry health standards
 - Further consideration of risks, limitations and uncertainty surrounding use of electronic diabetes devices underground
- Emma Aynsough, SHC Resources Regulator (RR) representative presented an update on emerging trends and issues within the coal industry

- The SHC then reviewed the prioritised order of the development of the remaining industry health standards. There was strong consensus that the Mental Health Standard should be brought forward to meet an increasing industry need.

Recommendations and actions

- CS Health to undertake further consultation to finalise endorsement of the SHS.
- Following resolution, the updated SHS will be circulated to the SHC for endorsement.
- CS Health to update the DHS to incorporate SHC feedback and circulate for review.
- Clarify regulatory requirements with the RR regarding the use of electronic diabetes devices underground.
- SHC members to review the updated DHS, consult with their respective networks and provide feedback prior to the next SHC meeting.
- CS Health to circulate the updated order of development of the industry health standards to the SHC for further review and endorsement.
- The next SHC meeting will focus on:
 - Ongoing development of the DHS
 - Commencement of the 12-month review of the Cardiovascular Health Standard.

Next SHC meeting: 3 June, 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