

OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE MATTERS

Welcome to the April 2020 edition of Occupational Hygiene Matters.

A quarterly newsletter from

The Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists,
Inc. (AIOH)

Australia's premier professional association representing the interests of occupational hygienists and allied professionals.

Our mission is to promote and preserve the health and wellbeing of Australian workers through application of the knowledge, practice and standing of occupational health and occupational hygiene.

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



Andrew Orfanos - AIOH President 2020

What a time to be President of the AIOH!

The impact that the current COVID-19 Pandemic has had on human interaction and how we go about business is unprecedented, something I doubt any of us have experienced before. Unfortunately, it is unlikely to be the last and it would be very naïve to think that this isn't something we may have to face again in the future.

As such, we must take this opportunity to learn from what we are currently going through, to ensure that we are better prepared and equipped to deal with any future pandemics or other adverse risk events for that matter, that could potentially impact on public health and the ongoing sustainability of our Institute.

I doubt that there wouldn't be a single member that this pandemic has not had a significant impact on. Whether it be the impact on our workplace or how we undertake our day to day work activities, we have been forced to re-evaluate how we traditionally do business. In particular, what we can do to minimize the impact that this pandemic has had on workplaces, businesses and person to person interactions. The positive changes we have had to make to continue to operate effectively will remain well after this pandemic has been successfully navigated.

During this current Pandemic we have been talking about SOCIAL distancing, would not a more correct turn of phrase be PHYSICAL distancing as we still need social interaction? More than ever, the mental health and well-being of us all will be significantly challenged by physical distancing. We need to stress the importance of not socially isolating members of the community during this time, especially those that are socially isolated at the best of times.

Please think of loved ones and friends that may be at risk and reach out to them. Ring them regularly, FaceTime them, arrange Zoom meetings with friends. I have been "Zoombeering" with my friends online every week to ensure that we still have an opportunity to catch up virtually for a beer until these restrictions

are eased. It is important to maintain that social connection.

Despite the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 Pandemic, the AIOH can take this opportunity to think about how we effectively communicate to our members, as well as how we can maintain, or better still, improve the delivery of existing member services.

The 2020 Council, Staff and Committees have been working in unison to identify all of the potential impacts that this Pandemic may have on the Institute's ability to deliver on its Vision, Mission and Objectives, and more importantly developing contingency plans to mitigate these potential risks.

This has already identified several great opportunities to better deliver services to our members, including.

- Online Membership interviews,
- Online Certification Oral Examinations,
- Online delivery of Chapter events and seminars.

Not only will this allow the Institute to continue to deliver critical services to our members, but it will also allow important revenue streams into the Institute to continue.

Talking about important revenue streams, the Council, RAFQ Committee and the 2020 Conference Committee are also working hard to identify all the possible scenarios that we may have to consider with respect to our 2020 Adelaide Conference. In these uncertain times it is critical we investigate all of the potential opportunities that we may be faced with so that we are ready to execute the best option once we get a clearer picture on the environment we will be facing, leading up to conference time.

The 2020 Council has also taken to running our monthly Council and Executive meetings remotely. This has been very successful, with productivity not being compromised. It also allows the Institute to save money on Council member flights and accommodation, that are associated with face to face Council meetings. I have no doubt that this will impact the frequency of face to face meetings, not only for Council, but for all Committees going forward.

Even during this pandemic, a range of positive activities have continued. The External Affairs Committee actively continue to deliver on our Institute's key objective of influencing government and industry to create healthy workplaces. Read about it in the Committees Update.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank outgoing External Affairs Committee member, Dr. Julia Norris for her hard work and commitment to advocating the AIOH to external stakeholders. Julia was instrumental in the development of this committee and the two major projects associated with this committee; Breathe Freely and RespFit.

Mark Reggers and his committed team also continue to develop and deliver on RespFit (/resp-fit/resp-fit-testing-training).

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to once again acknowledge the incredible contribution that our members continue to put in every day, volunteering their precious time on Council, Committees and various activities, even with the family and business pressures that this pandemic has placed on them all. Without you, we could not continue to run our Institute to the standard we do.

Stay safe and continue to look after your families and loved ones.

Andrew Orfanos

2020 President

Back to the beginning of OH Matters



**WE'VE UPDATED
OUR PO BOX**

PO Box 2124, Gladstone Park
Vic 3043

Please update your records



THE PRODUCTIVITY NINJA'S GUIDE TO WORKING FROM HOME WEBINAR

5 MAY | 12PM - 1:30PM AEST



Are you struggling with the change of environment, the loss of familiar office routine and new ways of working? Need help to figure out how to make work from home actually work for you?

We are facing very uncertain times at the moment. Stress and anxiety are at the forefront of most peoples' minds. With a workforce now primarily working from home, AIOH are looking for ways to support with mental health and practical tools and will be staging a webinar on **THE PRODUCTIVITY NINJA'S GUIDE TO WORKING FROM HOME** on 5 May 2020 at 12:00pm AEST.

In this interactive live virtual session run by Matt Cowdroy, Founder of Think Productive Australia, we will discuss a range of practical tips and techniques and deal with questions to help you maximize work from home. Think Productive have been delivering workshops for QANTAS, Coca Cola, American Express, Blackmores, eBay, Travelex, Ferrero, and many government departments and universities.

This approach turns traditional time management on its head. **Time is not your most precious resource: your attention is.**

The webinar will:

- help you manage attention and focus whilst WFH;
- show you some of the common WFH pitfalls and how to avoid them;
- show you how to avoid the social isolation that home-workers experience;
- cover how to best set up your day to be filled with great productivity; and
- help you to 'switch off' at the end of the day when your office is in your house.

Click here (<https://www.aioh.org.au/events-public/the-productivity-ninjas-guide-to-working-from-home-webinar>) for more information. Places are limited so register now!

[Back to the beginning of OH Matters](#)

NATIONAL UPDATE



As the current COVID-19 pandemic rapidly evolves, the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) and the Australian and New Zealand Society of Respiratory Science (ANZSRS) have recommended **suspending the use of spirometry testing unless deemed clinically essential** by a respiratory physician, due to the potential risk of transmitting the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

TSANZ and ANZSRS also highlight the risk of some respiratory therapies which produce aerosols as they can transmit viral infection. These include nebulisation, high flow oxygen, non-invasive ventilation, and cough assist devices.

The complete statement from TSANZ and ANZSRS can be accessed through the link below.

<https://www.thoracic.org.au/documents/item/1864> (<https://www.thoracic.org.au/documents/item/1864>)

[Back to the beginning of OH Matters](#)

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

How Korea has managed the COVID-19 Pandemic

As told by Dooyong Park, DrPH, CIH, President KOSHA (Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency).

Read more here (</static/uploads/files/how-korea-has-managed-the-covid19-pandemic-wfbrbbuzlnsg.docx>)

[Back to the beginning of OH Matters](#)

RESEARCH BITES

COVID-19 Resources

- <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/04/commentary-masks-all-covid-19-not-based-sound-data> (<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/04/commentary-masks-all-covid-19-not-based-sound-data>)
- Ventilation, Surface Disinfection and PPE Considerations for the IP and IH, AIHA (</static/uploads/files/covid-19-webinar-handout-final-pdf-wfyxjeokmmve.pdf>)
- Respiratory Protection for Airborne Exposures to Biohazards, 3M (</static/uploads/files/respiratory-protection-for-airborne-exposures-to-biohazards-wfijobjzekce.pdf>)
- Recovering from COVID-19 Building Closures, AIHA (</static/uploads/files/recoveringfromcovid-19buildingclosures-guidancedocument-final-wfkcoxsjwnxs.pdf>)
- Viruses in Air, Virginia Tech (PPT) (</static/uploads/files/viruses-in-air-wfnakonnunlf.pptx>)
- Preliminary Report for Restoration Contractors Assisting Clients With COVID-19 Concerns, RIA/IICRC (</static/uploads/files/ria-preliminary-report-for-restoration-wfipffbugjv.pdf>)
- Covid-19: Protecting Worker Health, Annals Editorial (</static/uploads/files/wxaa033protecting-worker-health-wfdarmdueekh.pdf>)

Submitted by Gregor Riese, Associate Member: The attached article provides a summary of COVID19 - relevant information for behaviour of the virus and virus-particle dispersion.

[https://aiohygienists.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/CommunicationsCommittee \(/static/uploads/files/2020-03-01-svirchev-covid-19-particle-deposition-1-wfrnzjpnndszn.pdf\)/](https://aiohygienists.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/CommunicationsCommittee (/static/uploads/files/2020-03-01-svirchev-covid-19-particle-deposition-1-wfrnzjpnndszn.pdf)/)
([https://aiohygienists.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/CommunicationsCommittee/EXMx1C0PgTpHhQTNjfpxyyQBfE9rFe=IkYMHf\)EXMx1C0PgTpHhQTNjfpxyyQBfE9rPBTlgC8PskMReG1E0w \(/static/uploads/files/2020-03-01-svirchev-covid-19-particle-deposition-1-wfrnzjpnndszn.pdf\)?e=](https://aiohygienists.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/CommunicationsCommittee/EXMx1C0PgTpHhQTNjfpxyyQBfE9rFe=IkYMHf)EXMx1C0PgTpHhQTNjfpxyyQBfE9rPBTlgC8PskMReG1E0w (/static/uploads/files/2020-03-01-svirchev-covid-19-particle-deposition-1-wfrnzjpnndszn.pdf)?e=)

(<https://aiohygienists.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/CommunicationsCommittee/EXMx1C0PgTpHhQTNjfpxyyQBfE9rFe=IkYMhF>) (</static/uploads/files/2020-03-01-svirchev-covid-19-particle-deposition-1-wfrnzjpndszn.pdf>) (</static/uploads/files/2020-03-01-svirchev-covid-19-particle-deposition-1-wfrnzjpndszn.pdf>)

Full source article:

<https://www.paho.org/hq/dmdocuments/2009/Protecting%20the%20faces%20of%20health%20care%20work>
(<https://www.paho.org/hq/dmdocuments/2009/Protecting%20the%20faces%20of%20health%20care%20wor>

Laurence Svirchev (co-author) recently spoke at a Workplace Health Without Borders presentation.

Also more general resources on COVID19:

AIHA resources:

https://www.aiha.org/public-resources/consumer-resources/coronavirus_outbreak_resources
(https://www.aiha.org/public-resources/consumer-resources/coronavirus_outbreak_resources)

World Health Organisation:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
(<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>)

[Back to the beginning of Research Bites](#)

[Back to the beginning of OH Matters](#)

Safe Work Australia WES Review

In March 2020, Safe Work Australia (SWA) paused the release and public consultation for the workplace exposure standards (WES) review until further notice. However, during this period of pause, SWA note that you can continue to submit your comments for all current and previous releases. As asked previously, please provide comment to the Workplace Exposure Assessment Committee (previously Exposure Standards Committee) so that we can submit a combined AIOH comment document.

ExposureChair@aioh.org.au (<mailto:ExposureChair@aioh.org.au>)

Data centres are warm and designed to move air very efficiently. Are they safe to visit during the pandemic?

The AIOH President was interviewed to help answer this question

https://www.theregister.co.uk/2020/03/17/covid_19_on_site_visits_advice/
(https://www.theregister.co.uk/2020/03/17/covid_19_on_site_visits_advice/)

[Back to the beginning of Research Bites](#)

[Back to the beginning of OH Matters](#)

Quantitative skin exposure assessment of metals

Carmen Naylor, PhD candidate at the University of Wollongong, has published her first paper on Quantitative skin exposure assessment of metals with a literature review of current approaches for risk assessment using the construction industry as an exposure scenario. You can find it here:

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00420-020-01531-8>
(<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00420-020-01531-8>)

[Back to the beginning of Research Bites](#)

[Back to the beginning of OH Matters](#)



UNIVERSITY
OF WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

New Research Centre at the University of Wollongong



The Centre for Occupational, Public and Environmental Research in Safety & Health (COPERSH) is a new Research Centre in the School of Health & Society at the University of Wollongong (UOW). The vision of the Centre is to address new, emerging and complex health & safety problems in occupational, public and environmental settings through collaborative research with university and industry partners.

To achieve this vision COPERSH aims to:

- Partner with industry, university & government to conduct high-quality leading-edge research that addresses current and future risks to occupational, public and environmental health and safety.
- To build research capacity in the occupational, public and environmental health and safety workforce to lead generational change in managing new and complex issues.
- To produce high quality employable graduates who can think in imaginative and creative ways to address occupational, public and environmental health and safety issues.

COPERSH currently has a number of research projects in progress in the areas of emissions-based maintenance, respiratory protective equipment, respirable crystalline silica exposure management and dust control. Three joint UOW-Industry scholarships have been awarded and it is anticipated that a further three scholarships will be advertised mid-year.

For further information contact the Centre Director, Professor Brian Davies AM at bdavies@uow.edu.au (<mailto:bdavies@uow.edu.au>)

[Back to the beginning of OH Matters](#)

AIOH COMMITTEE UPDATES

External Affairs (EA) Committee


Since the last edition of OH Matters, the External Affairs committee has been as busy as ever, although, the COVID-19 has slowed everything down to a halt.

In late February, Martin Jennings met with the Hon Steve Irons MP, Assistant Minister for Vocational Education, Training and Apprenticeships (see photo). The meeting was held in Parliament House, with the purpose of drawing attention to the lack of awareness of occupational health issues in various trades, as demonstrated by recent cases of silicosis in stone masons. It was proposed that by reviewing training of apprentices and improving the OH content of the 'white card' induction training of construction trades personnel, we might have a positive impact on occupational diseases across a wide range of trades. Discussions are ongoing, with industry reference committees and training content providers.

At the height of the bushfires, the AIOH published a media release expressing concerns about the long term effects of smoke exposure in firefighters and first responders. This was raised with the COAG Health Minister's Council. The story attracted widespread interest with President Andrew Orfanos giving a studio interview for ABC News, which can be viewed on the AIOH website. This story was also reported on the ABC news website. Interestingly, our sister organization, the American Industrial Hygiene Association became aware of this and were moved to donate \$5,000 (USD) to the Red Cross. This was an extraordinarily generous gesture. The AIOH, through Andrew Orfanos was also asked to provide media comment on asbestos in fire damaged properties. The AIOH will shortly be making submissions to both the Commonwealth and NSW inquiries into the bushfires.

In the last few weeks, the National Dust Diseases Taskforce released its interim report. The AIOH has been heavily involved in lobbying for the establishment of the Taskforce and has presented evidence, in both written and verbal submissions. So we note with interest, that one recommendation is:

Develop a national approach to understand the extent of occupational dust diseases in Australia through identification and capture of data, information collection and sharing, including:

- *Staged establishment of a National Dust Disease Registry that is initially focused on accelerated silicosis related to engineered stone.*
1. *The registry should include disease notifications from all jurisdictions together with available case finding data, exposure history and air sampling data.* 



External Affairs Chair, Martin Jennings with the Hon. Steve Irons, MP

The AIOH has argued that any national dust disease registry must be part of a multi-disciplinary institute, with physicians, hygienists, epidemiologists, toxicologists, bio-statisticians and other related occupational health professions.

The AIOH also gave evidence to the 2019 Review of the NSW Dust Diseases Scheme, and their report on Silicosis in the manufactured stone industry was tabled in the NSW Parliament in late March. The review made a number of recommendations relevant to occupational hygienists, including:

Recommendation 7

That the Minister for Better Regulation ensure that steps are taken to further reduce the workplace exposure standard to a time weighted average of 0.02 mg/m³ for non-mining industries as soon as possible, to ensure workers are protected from the harmful effect of silica dust.

Recommendation 9

That the NSW Government immediately introduce an explicit ban on dry cutting.

Recommendation 10

That the NSW Government provide an appropriate level of additional annual funding to SafeWork NSW to strengthen its regulatory enforcement and monitoring of health and safety standards within the manufactured stone industry.

Recommendation 11

That Health NSW, in conjunction with SafeWork NSW, co-ordinate a case finding study for respirable crystalline silica exposure in the manufactured stone industry, to improve the identification and assessment of workers at risk of exposure.

Recommendation 12

That the NSW Government immediately establish the Silicosis Health Register and ensure that it captures not only diagnosed cases of silica-related disease but also screening results and investigative reports undertaken for workers exposed to crystalline silica.

It is also worth mentioning, that on 26 September 2019, a member of the committee, David Shoebridge, tabled a motion in the NSW Legislative Council for the NSW government to take all necessary steps to institute a state-wide ban on manufactured stone products; and immediately issue safe handling guidelines that identify the potentially lethal risk of inhaling any silica dust from cut manufactured stone. The motion was passed.

In presenting submissions, the AIOH is able to draw upon the tremendous body of knowledge that comprises Breathe Freely Australia. This is still under development by Sharann Johnson and most recently, she has added further slide packs for the Mining section of Breathe Freely Australia. These are:

- Diesel Exhaust in Underground Mines
- Coal Mining – Open Cuts, Silica and Coal Dust
- Coal Mining – Underground, Silica and Coal Dust
- Hard Rock Mining – Open Cuts, Silica Dust
- Hard Rock Mining – Underground, Silica Dust

These can be viewed at: <https://www.breathefreelyaustralia.org.au/mining/>
(<https://www.breathefreelyaustralia.org.au/mining/>)

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 outbreak has put a hold on any roadshows until further notice.

In the West, Barry Chesson has been involved in a "three hot topics" contribution made to the most recent WA Sundowner event - held at the ChemCentre on 24th February 2020. The talk was entitled "Engineered Stone Bench Tops, Bushfires and Coronavirus: An Occupational Hygiene Perspective". I don't know what it is about those Sandgropers but they turn out in their droves for these events. They obviously know they'll be in for a fascinating evening when Barry's presenting.

Finally, it is with regret that I have to announce that Julia Norris has stepped down from the EA Committee, due to work commitments. As President, Julia established the committee and was a significant contributor and wonderful spokesperson. She will be missed. She is carrying on as an expert member of the WA Commission for Occupational Safety and Health and we know that in that role, she will still be championing occupational hygiene and the AIOH.

Martin Jennings

28 March 2020.

[Back to the beginning of Committee Updates](#)

[Back to the beginning of OH Matters](#)

AIOH Mentoring Committee

Reverse Mentoring

- Reverse mentoring will be a **thing** in the program in 2020! In the interim check out these cool reverse Mentoring Video and Link.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1AUV26bR68&feature=youtu.be>
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1AUV26bR68&feature=youtu.be>)
- <https://hbr.org/2019/10/why-reverse-mentoring-works-and-how-to-do-it-right>
(<https://hbr.org/2019/10/why-reverse-mentoring-works-and-how-to-do-it-right>)

We Need Mentors (and Mentees!)

- **The AIOH Mentoring Program needs YOU!**..... We have had a few mentors and mentee come on-board which have been great! BUT...we still need more Mentors. Please think about it and if can spare a few hours a month the mentee from our AIOH would really really appreciate it!
- COH Points are earned by Mentors!! – 1CM per year per allocated Mentee.

AIOH Conference 2020

Mentoring Meeting - The Mentoring Meeting will be at the AIOH 2020 Conference. Click [HERE](https://www.aioh.org.au/static/uploads/files/aioh-2019-jason-green-wfziedweiatk.pdf) (https://www.aioh.org.au/static/uploads/files/aioh-2019-jason-green-wfziedweiatk.pdf) for the PPT from the session from the Mentoring Workshop from 2019.

Mentoring Workshop - The Mentoring Workshop will be back – hopefully as a Half day thing (or even as a CES?) . Click [HERE](https://www.aioh.org.au/static/uploads/files/aioh-2019-jason-green-wfziedweiatk.pdf) (https://www.aioh.org.au/static/uploads/files/aioh-2019-jason-green-wfziedweiatk.pdf) for the PPT from the session from the Mentoring Workshop from 2019.

Mentoring Testimonials – Very Happy Mentors and Mentees

My Mentor is a fantastic mentor. He was extremely generous with his time and made every effort to inspire me to reach my goals even through the difficulties. He never gave up hope in me even when I doubted myself or the circumstances of my life had changed. This inspired me to keep those goals in mind and search for alternative ways for me to reach my goals. I still have a long way to go, but for me I will keep his kind words close to my heart and hope that he can look back one day and say, I remember (Me), she was the girl that had big ambitions and dreams. Though it wasn't easy, she got there in the end and I helped contribute to that. I still see my Mentor as a professional contact that I could get in touch with if I had any questions. Thank you, my Mentor, for your time and your support.

Current Committee Members – Thank you!! - Thank you!! - Thank you!!

Thank you for the all the Mentoring Committee – who now looks like – Chris Aebi (NSW), Anthony Bamford (QLD), Jason Green (NSW & Chair), Kerri Ann Jessep (VIC), Nirajkumar Shah (VIC) Samantha Forster (QLD), Brett Young (SA,NT,Taz, NZ, O/S) and Dianne Allen (WA).

For further information and to join please select from the following:

- Click [HERE](https://www.aioh.org.au/education-cpd/mentoring-program) (https://www.aioh.org.au/education-cpd/mentoring-program) for further information on the AIOH mentoring program.
- Click [HERE](https://www.aioh.org.au/static/uploads/files/mentoring-information-package-240518-wfqeyjassawk.pdf) (https://www.aioh.org.au/static/uploads/files/mentoring-information-package-240518-wfqeyjassawk.pdf) for the AIOH Information Package.
- Click [HERE](https://www.aioh.org.au/website-forms/request-to-be-an-aioh-mentor-form) (https://www.aioh.org.au/website-forms/request-to-be-an-aioh-mentor-form) for the AIOH Mentor Form to become a Mentor.
- Click [HERE](https://www.aioh.org.au/website-forms/request-to-be-an-aioh-mentee-form) (https://www.aioh.org.au/website-forms/request-to-be-an-aioh-mentee-form) for the AIOH Mentee Form to become a Mentee.

Jason Green, Chair – AIOH Mentoring Committee

Jason.Green@greencap.com.au (mailto:Jason.Green@greencap.com.au)

[Back to the beginning of Committee Updates](#)

[Back to the beginning of OH Matters](#)

REGIONAL UPDATE

WA Sundowner 24 February 2020

LIAISON OFFICER: Kelly Hey

The first AIOH WA Sundowner for 2020 was held at the ChemCentre Seminar Room, Curtin University of Technology on 24 February 2020. Over 60 people attended to hear from Tegan Dixon and Monika Buys presenting on their Masters' Project findings, followed by Dr Barry Chesson updating us on three hot topics having local to worldwide ramifications.

Tegan Dixon of Newmont Australia presented "Welding fume exposure and control in a West-Australian mining population". Unfortunately Tegan's abstract is not available and will be presented in the next newsletter.

Monika Buys of RioTinto followed with a presentation on the "Quantitative evaluation of optimal water cart dust suppression on mining haul roads". Read on.

Excessive dust generation from haul roads is a typical issue experienced in most mining industries, yet there is limited comparable data to assess the performance of water cart dust suppression. A study was conducted to evaluate whether water cart dust suppression is effective and whether the optimal frequency of water spraying could be calculated.

The study found that water spray reduced dust generation by 50%, however an optimal water spraying regime could not be determined. Evaluation of the dust size fraction found that 79% of the dust was respirable in size when compared to the coarser fraction providing guidance on management and risk.

The data and literature review showed dust generation was dependent on traffic speed, traffic volume, type of vehicle, weather and optimal road surface quality. This showed dust management needs a holistic approach, with water cart use forming one part of the control process.

Dr Barry Chesson's concluding topic was "**Stone bench tops, Bushfires and Coronavirus: An Occupational Hygiene perspective**". Barry sought to respond to the following questions:

1. What is the current position with these three issues?
2. What parallels can be drawn between each?
3. What role can Occupational Hygienists play going forward?
4. What role is currently being played by the AIOH and what are some recent initiatives?
5. Where are the opportunities for improvement?

Key take-away thoughts:

- There has been ample experience in the past with the three issues. No "black swan" events here!
- The first (silicosis-related) is mainly a workplace issue - in heartland territory for Occupational Hygienists. The second is an issue for both workers (e.g. fire fighters) and communities. The third is primarily for the public and responders.
- Each issue has revealed gross weaknesses in preparedness including recognition, evaluation and control aspects.

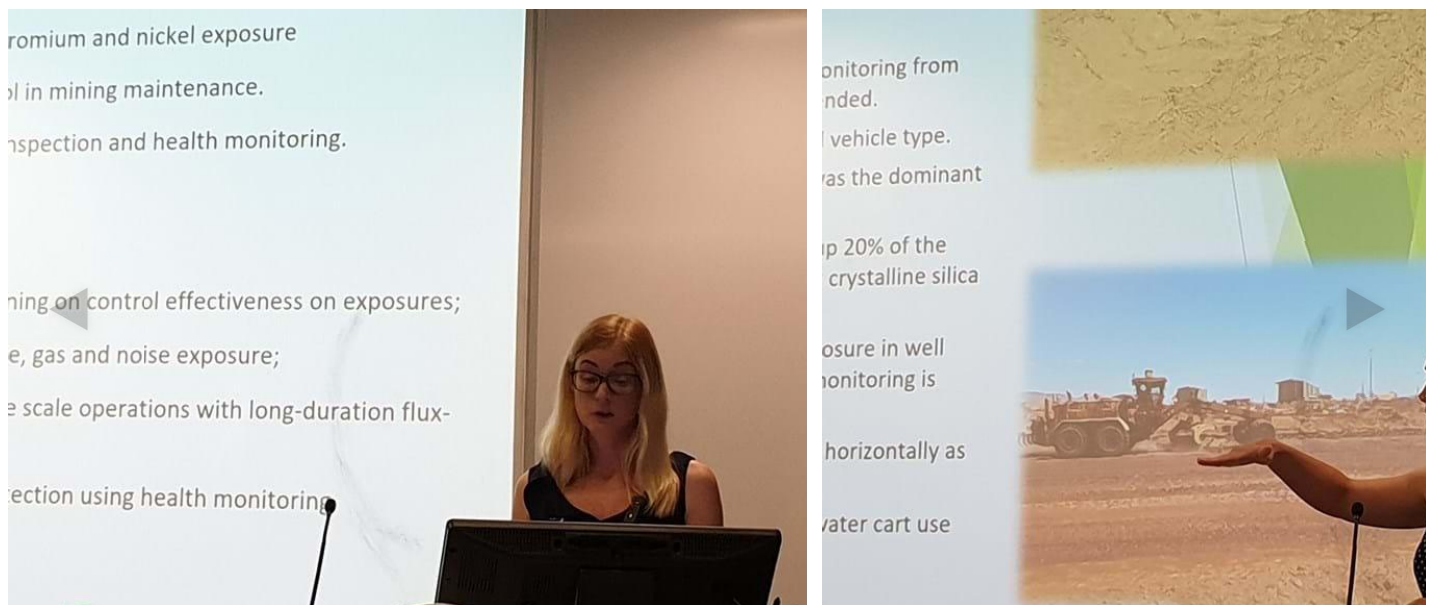
- Occupational Hygienists are well equipped to play a role in these and similar issues in the future.
- The AIOH has been highly successful in the last 12 months in raising the profile of Occupational Hygiene with politicians, State and Federal Government agencies, kindred health bodies and workers in affected industry.

Barry related current prevention efforts and opportunities to the familiar Hierarchy of Control approach.

The video of Barry's presentation is available via <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZIflyxq9s5g> (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZIflyxq9s5g>).

The AIOH WA Chapter extends their sincere thanks to:

- The presenters Tegan Dixon, Monika Buys and Dr Barry Chesson.
- Newmont Australia and RioTinto in enabling the Master's Degree project findings to be shared.
- All who assisted with the planning, registration and administration
- The ChemCentre who continue over the years to support the AIOH Sundowner program.



NSW Chapter Meeting February 20

LIAISON OFFICERS: Carmen Smith, John Tiong, Kerry McDougall

Thank you Michael Weller State Inspector SafeWork NSW who provided his time for the first AIOH NSW chapter meeting for 2020, February 20 to give us an update on the response from SafeWork NSW and the great progress that has been made in education and collaboration with business to focus on prevention and control of crystalline silica exposures in the workplace

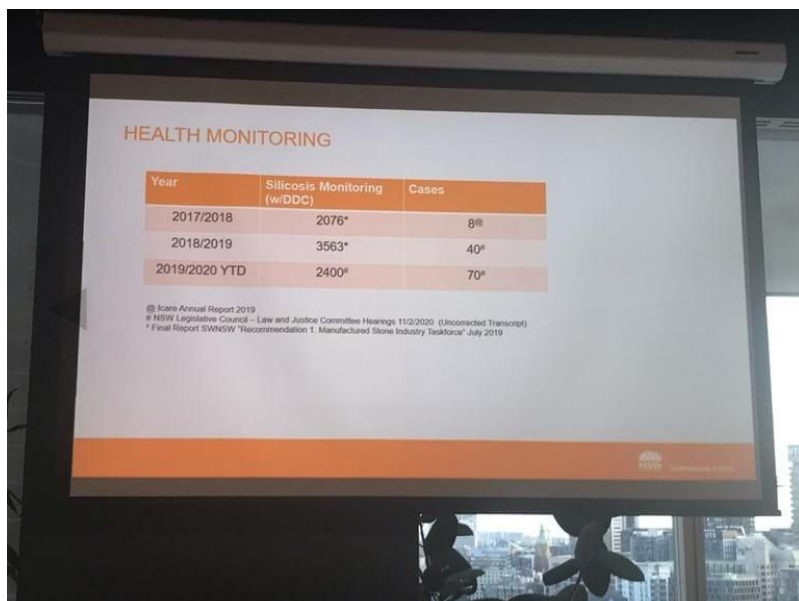
The last slide presented by Michael Weller on the emergence of accelerated silicosis in NSW said it all. In 2019/2020 70 new cases of silicosis were identified in NSW, up again from 2018/2019 where 40 workers were showed the signs of silicosis.

Why? A lack of compliance with Workplace Exposure Standards and WHS systems to protect worker health

SafeWork NSW Inspectors conducted up to 617 visits encompassing 246 NSW workshops of which ~10% were still dry cutting in the workplace. Through a range of processes improvements have been made in basic housekeeping, respirator fit testing, health monitoring and most importantly implementation of controls

Read up on SafeWork NSW resources on their website and rebates businesses can access to assist in control improvements <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/hazards-a-z/hazardous-chemical/priority-chemicals/crystalline-silica> (<https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/hazards-a-z/hazardous-chemical/priority-chemicals/crystalline-silica>)

Thank you Nathan Redfern of WSP Sydney for the fantastic venue and hospitality.





[Back to the beginning of Regional Updates](#)

[Back to the beginning of OH Matters](#)

FEATURE ARTICLE

AIOH Member recognized in 2020 Australia Day Honours list

by Martin Jennings



Congratulations to AIOH member Commander Bronwyn Ferrier, who was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC) in the Australia Day 2020 Honours List. The official citation reads, "For outstanding achievement in the management of occupational hygiene and environmental hazards in the Royal Australian Navy".

The Conspicuous Service Cross (see picture, right), was introduced in 1989 to recognise outstanding devotion to duty, or outstanding achievement in the application of exceptional skills, judgement or dedication, in non-warlike situations.

Bronwyn is a Commander in the Royal Australian Navy and is a Full member of the AIOH. She completed general nursing training at Royal North Shore Hospital in 1987, and Midwifery Training at the Royal Hospital for Women in Sydney in 1989. She then completed a Bachelor of Nursing at the Northern Territory University (now Charles Darwin University), and joined the Navy in 1994. She admits that she never expected to be in the Navy for so long and she intended to stay for just a few years, however, she now says, "I just loved it and enjoyed the variety of clinical and operational roles, from being dangled from helicopters with patient stretchers early in my career, and being part of a resuscitation team, to strategic management positions once she reached the rank of Lieutenant Commander.



Career highlights for Bronwyn include being the officer in charge of the Fleet Industrial Hygiene Support unit (FIHSU) from 2005 – 2008, where she gained significant insight into OH issues in Navy. Bronwyn had the opportunity to work with a team, and several experienced Occupational Hygienists to plan and try and reduce exposure of Navy personnel to OH hazards in the Fleet environment. In addition, after a couple postings in strategic level headquarters, she was posted to the Director of Navy Occupational and Environmental Health (DNOEH) position from 2014 – 2016. This was a great challenge and gave her the opportunity to work with another great team of people who were experienced occupational hygienists and/or environmental health specialists.

The Royal Australian Navy consists of nearly 50 commissioned vessels and over 16,000 personnel. They are one of the largest and most sophisticated naval forces in the Pacific region, with a significant presence in the Indian Ocean and worldwide operations in support of military campaigns and peacekeeping missions. In addition to the sea going Fleet, Navy also has seventeen shore establishments in every state

and territory. This presents a challenging job, with both industrial and highly specialised work environments for the two full time civilian Occupational Hygienists who now work in the Navy Safety and Policy Coordinating Office who have taken on all the work previously done by the DNOEH office.

Back to the beginning of OH Matters

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