



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by MR PARTON on 31 July 2023: Minister STEEL (Skills) took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: *Uncorrected Hansard Transcript* 31 July 2023 [page 33]

In relation to:

How was the training package developed and recognised for the silica dust mandatory training courses?

THE CHAIR: This may be the wrong area to ask, but it could be the right area to ask. I am trying to get my head around exactly when and by whom the decision was made that this would be the mandated silica training course. It would be just this one; this is the one that we are doing. Is that a Work Safe scenario? Is it with Minister Gentleman? Is it with CIT? It is obviously not with CIT—

Mr Steel: We can take on notice about the sort of genesis of that particular training package and how it is recognised, and whether there are other training packages that have been developed.

Mr Chris Steel MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: —

Crystalline silica is listed as a hazardous chemical under Schedule 14 of the *Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011* (Cwlth). The ACT Government made a commitment under the Parliamentary and Governing Agreement for the 10th Legislative Assembly of the ACT to introduce stronger workplace regulations to protect tradespeople exposed to silica dust.

On 14 July 2022, the ACT *Work Health & Safety Amendment Regulation 2022* (No 1) commenced. Schedule 1 inserts section 418D, which stipulates all employers must ensure all relevant workers have crystalline silica awareness training by 1 July 2023 (since amended by WorkSafe ACT to be by 1 October 2023).

The course, *10830NAT Course in Crystalline Silica Exposure Prevention*, is a national Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) accredited course, regulated by the body as the national regulator for Australia's vocational education and training (VET) sector. It is the only ASQA accredited course relating to silica exposure. Nationally, there are sixteen Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) currently scoped to deliver this course, including nine in the ACT.

This course specifies the outcomes required to recognise the workplace health and safety risks and hazards inherent in working with crystalline silica containing products, and to determine and plan for the implementation of safe systems of work aimed at reducing exposure within mandatory exposure limits.

The course became current (approved by ASQA) on 25 November 2019, and the current period ends on 24 November 2024.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Signature: 

Date: 11/8/23

By Minister for Skills, Chris Steel MLA