

## WHA QUEENSLAND MINERAL MINE, QUARRY AND COAL BOARD HEALTH SURVEILLANCE

Mine and quarry workers can be exposed to a range of respiratory hazards, such as mineral and coal dust from material development, production and processing as well as welding fumes and diesel engine exhaust emissions. Workplace exposure to harmful levels of respiratory hazards can lead to a range of lung diseases; these include forms of pneumoconiosis (for example silicosis), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and lung cancer. Lung damage is irreversible, however if the damage is detected early, it is possible to slow down or prevent the progress to more severe stages of illness.

WHA's Mineral Mine, Quarry and Coal Board respiratory health surveillance programs are underpinned by current Resources Safety & Health Queensland (RSHQ) requirements for mine and quarry workers, and include:

- Chest examination
- Spirometry (lung function test)
- ILO Chest X-Ray (baseline and high-risk workers only)



### OTHER WHA SERVICES

- Pre-employment medicals
- Annual worker health checks
- Drug and alcohol screening
- Hearing assessments
- Vaccination services
- Fitness to drive assessments
- Rail worker medicals
- OGUK medicals
- Health and wellbeing programs

Health surveillance programs for mine and quarry workers are key in supporting early detection and intervention for health and respiratory health issues, ensures regulatory compliance, liability reduction, and contributes to a safer, healthier, and more productive work environment.

**Regulatory Compliance:** Implementing a health surveillance program can help you comply with local, regional, and national regulations regarding occupational health and hazardous exposure relevant to mineral mine, quarry and coal workers.

**Early Detection and Risk Management:** By regularly monitoring employee health, you can identify potential and early stages of health issues. Early detection allows for timely medical intervention, improving treatment outcomes and potentially preventing the progression of the disease.

**Improved Productivity:** Health surveillance programs can contribute to a healthier workforce. Healthy employees are generally more productive, experience fewer sick days, and have lower turnover rates, leading to improved overall productivity for your organisation.

**Long-Term Cost Savings:** Investing in employee health surveillance can result in long-term cost savings by preventing medical expenses associated with advanced health issues and by potentially avoiding financial and operational impacts of employee turnover.

**Fostering a Positive Work Environment:** Prioritising employee health fosters a positive work environment and boosts employee morale. This can contribute to higher employee satisfaction, increased loyalty, and a more cohesive team. They also raise employees' awareness about the potential health risks associated with workplace hazardous exposures and respiratory health. This increased awareness can lead to better self-care practices and a greater emphasis on using personal protective equipment (PPE) correctly.

### **Mineral Mine and Quarry respiratory health surveillance is required:**

- for an employee when joining the industry and before starting working at a mine or quarry
- at least once every five years
- when an employee permanently leaves the industry, if requested.

### **Coal Mine workers health scheme assessment is required:**

- every two years for persons up to the age of 40
- and every year thereafter.



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