

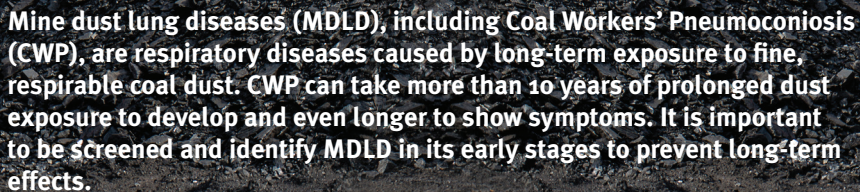


# Mine dust lung diseases

Information for current and former coal mine workers

- ✓ Respiratory screening
- ✓ Workers' compensation

# Respiratory health screening information



Mine dust lung diseases (MDLD), including Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis (CWP), are respiratory diseases caused by long-term exposure to fine, respirable coal dust. CWP can take more than 10 years of prolonged dust exposure to develop and even longer to show symptoms. It is important to be screened and identify MDLD in its early stages to prevent long-term effects.

## What health screening is available?

Under the Coal Mine Workers' Health Scheme, regular health assessments are compulsory for Queensland coal mine workers. Health assessments include respiratory screening.

## How frequent is the screening?

Your employer must arrange and pay for your pre-employment and periodic health assessments (at least once every five years), including any additional tests or follow-up investigation of abnormal screening results.

## What does respiratory screening include?

Respiratory screening includes:

- respiratory health questionnaire
- spirometry (lung function) test
- chest x-ray.

For abnormal screening results, a HRCT scan and respiratory physician appointment are required.

Your x-ray images are dual-read to the ILO classification by radiologists that are certified B-readers.



If you are retiring soon and have worked at least three years in the industry, you can ask your employer to organise and pay for an exit assessment that includes respiratory screening.

# Workers' compensation information

**If you develop CWP or another MDLD as a result of your employment, you are entitled to workers' compensation.**

You will need to provide a medical certificate from your general practitioner and complete an application for compensation form from your employer's insurer.

To assist with your application, you can access your health assessment records from the Coal Workers' Health Scheme at: [business.qld.gov.au/industries/mining-energy-water/resources/safety-health/mining/medicals/coal-workers-health/copies](https://business.qld.gov.au/industries/mining-energy-water/resources/safety-health/mining/medicals/coal-workers-health/copies)

## What are my entitlements?

You may be able to claim damages against your employer. If your claim is accepted, you may be entitled to:

- weekly compensation for lost wages
- medical expenses
- counselling and pulmonary rehabilitation services
- travelling expenses
- lump sum compensation (depending on your degree of permanent impairment)
- additional lump sum compensation if your diagnosis meets the criteria of CWP or other pneumoconiosis.

## Who can help if I have questions?

The Mine Dust Health Support Service is a new joint initiative between the Queensland Government and WorkCover Queensland that helps connect you to the information, services and support you need.

This service has been established for Queensland workers as a single point of contact for all enquiries regarding MDLD.

The Mine Dust Health Support Service can provide you with information regarding:

- your rights
- the screening and diagnosis process
- free lung checks for former mine and quarry workers
- how to lodge a workers' compensation claim
- how to access ongoing support.

**Contact the Mine Dust Health Support Service:**

**1300 445 715**

**[info@minedusthealthsupport.com](mailto:info@minedusthealthsupport.com)**





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**[dnrme.qld.gov.au/miners-health-matters/support](https://dnrme.qld.gov.au/miners-health-matters/support)**