

Resources Safety and Health Queensland (RSHQ)

RSHQ provides free respiratory health assessments to former coal or mineral miners and quarry workers.

For more information about MDLD and support for affected workers, eligibility for health assessments, and to order copies of free pocket guides please visit www.rshq.qld.gov.au/miners-health-matters or contact the Mine Dust Health Support Service.

Find out more at

www.rshq.qld.gov.au/miners-health-matters/contact



**MINE DUST
HEALTH
SUPPORT SERVICE**
1300 445 715

info@minedusthealthsupport.com

Connect with us



**Mine dust lung
diseases and workers'
compensation in
Queensland**

Mine dust lung disease (MDLD) is a broad term used to identify a range of work-related lung diseases, such as coal workers' pneumoconiosis (CWP) and silicosis, caused by exposure to harmful levels of respirable dust at mines and quarries.

Workers who develop a mine dust lung disease because of their work are entitled to workers' compensation. If you receive a diagnosis of a mine dust lung disease, you should lodge a workers' compensation claim as soon as possible.

How to lodge a claim

You can lodge a workers' compensation claim with WorkCover Queensland by:

- phoning **1300 362 128**
- completing and submitting the online claim form at **worksafe.qld.gov.au**
- lodging through your doctor (if you're unsure if this has happened, you can either call WorkCover Queensland or your GP to check).

If you work or worked for BHP Group Limited, Glencore Queensland Limited or South32 Cannington Pty Ltd, contact them directly as they are self-insured for workers' compensation:

BHP Group Limited: **1800 469 931**,
bhpsselfinsurance@eml.com.au

Glencore Queensland Limited: **(07) 3833 8563**,
xtracare@glencore.com.au

South32 Cannington Pty Ltd: **(07) 3023 7908**,
south32east@allianz.com.au

A claim lodged with a self-insurer for MDLD will be managed in a similar way and will require the same information to be provided to the insurer.

Important information

You must submit a claim within six months of being diagnosed with a mine dust lung disease.

However, the insurer can make exceptions if you can show that the failure to lodge in time was due to a genuine mistake, your absence from Queensland or Australia, or another reasonable excuse.

An example of a reasonable excuse may include that your doctor never informed you of a possible link between the disease and your work.

WorkCover Queensland or the self-insurer has 20 business days to make a decision on a claim.

Once they have all of the information to decide your claim, they will inform you of the decision. If a decision can't be made in 20 days, the insurer will contact you to explain why.

Benefits payable

If your claim is accepted, you will be entitled to:

- weekly compensation (your wages)
- medical, surgical and hospital expenses, and medicines
- counselling and pulmonary rehabilitation services
- rehabilitation treatment and equipment or services
- travelling expenses
- lump sum compensation.

Safe return to work

Speak to your doctor when considering returning to work.

Your insurer can also assist reviewing return to work options including alternate location of duties and host employment options.

The *Returning workers with mine dust lung diseases to the workplace* guidelines provide an evidence-based framework to assist in deciding if safe return to work can be considered for you.

You can find the guidelines at
www.worksafe.qld.gov.au

Mine Dust Health Support Service

The Mine Dust Health Support Service is a 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 all Queensland workers affected by a mine dust lung disease and provides a single point of contact for all enquiries regarding mine dust lung disease.

The service can provide you with information regarding:

- your rights
- lung screening and diagnosis process
- how to lodge a workers' compensation claim
- how to access ongoing support.