We're the most experienced Dust Disease law firm in Australia, having acted for thousands of victims.



I just wanted to personally thank you for your support and hard work and going that extra mile to help. Thank you very much from the bottom of my heart.

Harvey

Turner Freeman have the most experienced dust diseases practice in Australia. We acted in the first ever product liability claim against James Hardie for victims of disease caused by exposure to asbestos fibre. Our team of dust diseases experts continue to help people today who have been diagnosed with lung diseases caused by the inhalation of dusts such as asbestos or silica.

If you have been diagnosed with a dust disease, you may have extensive legal entitlements. The claim process can unfortunately be very complicated.

# **Legal Entitlements and Process**

### **Dust Act**

If you were exposed to dust whilst employed by a New South Wales employer then you potentially have significant rights under the provisions of the Dust Act. A claim under the Dust Act is administrative. The worker completes an application, which is lodged with the Dust Diseases Authority together with certain supporting documentation including medical evidence.

If your claim is successful, you are entitled to receive weekly payments of compensation as well as payment of expenses including medical, pharmaceutical, travel, lawn mowing and domestic assistance.

A claim under the Dust Act is usually determined within four to eight weeks of lodging the claim.

## Common Law Claim

A common law claim is also known as a negligence claim. The claim can be brought against your employer/s or a third party such as the manufacturer of the products that you worked with. A common law claim results in a lump sum payment. The lump sum payment will include compensation for general damages (pain and suffering), damages for loss of expectation of life and damages in relation to gratuitous at home care that you receive from your family.

Proceedings for diseases caused by exposure to dust are filed in the Dust Diseases Tribunal of NSW, a specialist court that deals only with asbestosand other dust disease claims.

Not all claims proceed to hearing. Mediation is compulsory in all dust disease claims and a majority of cases settle either at mediation or shortly thereafter.

Depending on the type of dust disease you have, it usually takes between about 5 months and 8 months from when we file the statement of claim to the point of mediation.

### Costs

We act in all of our dust diseases matters on a 'no win, no fee' basis. Unless we are successful in recovering compensation and damages on your behalf, you will not be charged for the work done.

## Things you should know

- If you have been diagnosed with a dust related lung condition, you may have extensive rights and entitlements both under the Dust Act and in a claim for negligence.
- There are many types of dust related conditions. If you are unsure whether your condition is dust related, we can help you.
- We will gather necessary evidence to support your claim.
- Our specialist lawyers will work with you to identify all relevant exposures to dust.
- We will make arrangements for you to be examined by doctors who are familiar with the legal process and have extensive experience diagnosing dust related conditions.
- If you are too ill to travel, we can visit you at home or at hospital.
- Employment documents are useful but not always necessary.
- Your dependents may also have extensive rights and entitlements.
- There is no time limit to start a claim.
- We act on a no win, no fee basis.
- Your claim will need to be investigated.
  If we determine that you do not have a claim available at the time of investigation, we will keep your file open and review your condition every 12 months.

"Please accept our thank you for your time, support, expertise, discretion, professionalism and sensitivity with our asbestos compensation case. We greatly appreciate all that you did for us."

Peter & Joy

Thankful for the time, support, expertise, discretion, professionalism and sensitivity our compensation case was dealt with.

Peter & Joy

