

7.3.23

Hi,

I am a family member of someone who has been diagnosed with silicosis. This has changed our lives; [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and we don't know how long [REDACTED] will live, and the Government/Doctors seem to be doing nothing about it.

I feel very strongly that the stone benchtops should be banned in Australia.

- Silica is known to cause silicosis for hundreds, if not thousands, of years. Why wasn't this monitored when it first arrived? Why was it even allowed to be imported? What safety measures were put in place for workers? It appears VERY LITTLE or NONE!
- Even after workers were diagnosed with silicosis, some firms have been fined for not enforcing safety regulations. A Fine! What an insult. They should be at least shut down and possibly charged with manslaughter.
- If asbestos is banned, why would we allow silica which is just as bad or worse?
- Do we even get into the disposal discussion about when people unwittingly renovate, and it puts more risk on workers/owners?
- Even if workshops are monitored, what happens when workers go to a site, miles from the workshop and the bench is just a tiny bit big? They are not likely to drive all the way back to the workshop. They may use a hose if its convenient or they will just sand a little bit off to fit. How will bosses react if they drive 30km back to sand a little bit off?
- Do we have any faith in the industry being monitored and the product being 100% safe for the entirety of the products life? Absolutely not