

icare BRINGS MOBILE LUNG SCREEN TO EMPLOYERS & THEIR EMPLOYEES IN NOWRA

The [icare](#) Lung Screen Unit, a 'one-stop shop' mobile respiratory screening service, visited Nowra on Monday to provide health monitoring and peace of mind to businesses and employees in the area who work with asbestos, crystalline silica and other hazardous substances.

This visit marks the 11th time icare's mobile Lung Screen unit has visited Nowra.

icare General Manager for Dust Diseases Care, Chris Koutoulas, said: "The Lung Screen unit is an example of how icare is putting workers and employers at the centre of all that it does.

"We recognise that it is difficult for regional areas to have the same access to specialised health monitoring as other metropolitan areas. Bringing our mobile Lung Screen unit to at-risk workers, we can provide them peace of mind, save them valuable time and minimize disruption to their day," Mr Koutoulas said.

"The top four industries that use our mobile Lung Screen service to screen their workers are Energy, Local Council, Construction and Manufacturing, industries which make up over 37% of Nowra's workforce¹.

"The mobile Lung Screen unit includes an X-ray room, advanced lung function testing equipment and a medical practitioner to conduct the examination.

The stop in Nowra is part of a wider icare program to bring essential services to regional areas across the state. For local businesses, the screening provides assurance about the health and safety of their workers.

"From as far south as Griffith to as far north as Tweed Heads, we're making it easier for employers in NSW to proactively provide their workers with essential health-monitoring for potential dust diseases.

"In 2016-17, our Lung Screen unit travelled more than 50,000 kilometres across metropolitan and regional NSW and conducted almost 2,500 lung screenings of at-risk workers.

"In 26 of these screenings, a dust-related lung abnormality was detected." Mr Koutoulas said.

icare's Lung Screen unit will be returning to Nowra in 2019. Employers interested in taking advantage of this health monitoring service are encouraged to contact icare to arrange a booking or visit:

<https://www.icare.nsw.gov.au/employers/caring-for-your-people/lung-screening-service/>

icare's Lung Screen unit features a 13-metre trailer equipped with:

- A digital chest X-ray room;
- Advanced lung function testing equipment; and
- A medical practitioner to conduct lung examinations.

The screening takes 20 minutes and the results are reviewed by a respiratory physician. A report is then provided to each worker and the employer is immediately notified of any exposure to an industrial dust. At a rate of \$100 plus GST per person, an employer can book the bus for a minimum of 30 workers.

In 2016-17, icare's Dust Diseases scheme provided support and care to 4,522 past and present workers with dust diseases, and their families². This includes financial support and healthcare to workers with dust diseases throughout their life, such as medical examination, compensation payments, as well as payment of medical and healthcare expenses.

Watch the construction of icare's Mobile Lung Screen Service [here](#).

Media contact:

Catherine Rout | media@icare.nsw.gov.au | (02) 8297 7570

¹ Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2017, Nowra – Education and Employment

² Source: icare Dust Diseases Care 2018 scheme data