

Understanding Occupational Cancers

We've been helping people suffering from occupational diseases and their families for over 35 years.

Learn more about Occupational Cancers

Many workers are exposed to carcinogens each year. While some exposures will result in a diagnosis of cancer, only a small amount of victims are compensated due to the limited knowledge around the links between exposure to specific carcinogens in an occupational context and the subsequent development of their cancer.

Slater and Gordon are experts in this area. Even if you're unsure of how you were exposed to carcinogens, we will work with you to investigate and understand your potential exposure history on your behalf. We have a vast database of detailed information regarding sites where carcinogens were used and other useful information that can assist to pinpoint an exposure.

Types of Occupational Cancers

Occupational cancers arise from exposure to carcinogenic (cancer-causing) agents in the workplace.

Common occupational hazards can include:

- + Asbestos
- + Solar, ultraviolet, or ionising radiation
- + Firefighting
- + Wood dust
- + Engine exhaust
- + Silica
- + Aluminium production
- + Pesticides
- + Mould/mycotoxins
- + Benzene
- + Painting
- + Coal
- + Welding fumes
- + Leather dust
- + Soot
- + Ethylene dibromide (used in waterproofing, as a solvent for plastics, resins and waxes, as a fumigant for tree crops, and in making dyes and pharmaceuticals)



If you were exposed to a carcinogen at work, even if your employer went out of business years ago, you may still be eligible for compensation. Regardless of your age or occupation, carcinogen exposure can occur in many different situations and may have a major impact on your health.

Exposure to carcinogens can cause the following conditions:

- + Mesothelioma
- + Lung cancer
- + Bladder cancer
- + Leukemia
- + Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- + Melanoma
- + Prostate cancer
- + Pancreatic cancer
- + Nasal cancer

It is important to note, that this list is not exhaustive and the link between exposure to carcinogens and the development of cancer is always growing due to advances in medicine. We are experienced in investigating whether there is a sufficient link to bring a successful claim.

At risk industries include stonemasons, firefighters, farmers, drivers, welders, miners, tunnellers, office workers, hospital workers, researchers, manufacturers, transport workers, and various trades.

Know your entitlements

If you are suffering from an occupational cancer, you may be entitled to compensation for:

- + Pain and suffering and loss of enjoyment of life
- + Past and future medical expenses
- + Your lost ability to provide care for others, even if not paid e.g. caring for a loved one
- + Other out-of-pocket expenses
- + Loss of earnings and loss of earning capacity
- + Cost of assistance around the home
- + Care received from others, even if not paid for by you

Act quickly

If you've been diagnosed with an occupational cancer or disease, it's very important to seek advice as soon as possible as strict time limits will apply and it's important to ensure your rights are fully protected.

How we can help you

Everyone is different and every case is different so depending on your claim and your health, the process at times can take as little as a few weeks to resolve. Our knowledgeable and caring team will work with you to try to achieve the best possible outcome.

With appointments and meetings that are most convenient for you

We understand that there may be circumstances where you may not be able to travel. We have offices nationwide, so we can come to you at home[‡], at the hospital, over the phone or via video conference.

You can decide how involved you'd like to be in your claim

We will keep you informed but also do the work for you, so you can focus on your medical treatment and look after yourself and your family. We're happy to be guided by you as to how much involvement you wish to have. You're also welcome to appoint a family member or friend to support you. If your case proceeds to trial, we'll guide you through the process ensuring your health and wellbeing are prioritised.

We offer free social work services[^]

We understand that seeking your legal entitlements is only one aspect of your journey after a diagnosis. That's why we offer free social work services[^] to provide additional support for what's to come.

Get in touch today and we'll take it from here.

1800 555 777 | slatergordon.com.au

*Conditions apply - No win, no fee, this means if you are not successful, you will not be liable to pay our professional fees. You may still be liable for third party costs and disbursements.

‡Conditions apply - Travel to regional areas and interstate may vary subject to Slater and Gordon's discretion.

[^]Conditions apply - Free social work services, www.slatergordon.com.au/the-firm/ourcommitment-to-you/social-work-services

**Slater
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Lawyers