Silica dust can cause cancer

- Silica dust isn’t like the dust in your home. Silica dust particles are tiny and can get deep inside your lungs causing permanent damage.
- An estimated 230 Australians develop lung cancer each year after breathing in dust from materials such as artificial and natural stone, bricks and concrete.
- You make silica dust when you do things like drill, saw, cut, sand, or grind stone, concrete, slates, tile, some plastic composites and many other materials.
- Reduce the risk by using these methods every time:
  - use tools with water suppression whenever possible
  - use local exhaust ventilation to remove dust at the point it is produced
  - operate on-tool extraction on hand held devices
  - wear a well-fitted and maintained respirator