

## **Statement from Caesarstone Australia**

Safety is a top priority at Caesarstone Australia and we have and will continue to actively promote and educate on safe handling of our products by stonemasons to protect against the risks of silica dust exposure.

Caesarstone quartz surfaces comply with the strictest local and international safety standards and are completely safe in their manufactured state and when installed in any environment.

In the ten years since Caesarstone Australia began operations in Australia, we have provided the independent stonemason industry information about the safety measures required to be implemented when working in a silica dust environment including:

- Caesarstone provides every customer with comprehensive instructions via the Caesarstone Fabrication & Health Protection Guide and the Safety Data Sheets.
- Caesarstone supplies each individual slab to stonemasons with the relevant warnings, health and safety information prior to fabrication and installation.

Caesarstone is a founding member of the NSW Government Taskforce and the Queensland Government Code of Practice working group. Caesarstone continues to engage with Government Workcover agencies, unions, occupational physicians and the Thoracic Society, industry associations and State Health Departments, to ensure there is ongoing awareness of adequate safety standards and the importance of workplace monitoring.

We welcome the ongoing audits of stonemason workshops by the government to ensure full compliance with recommended safety standards.

State Governments have expressed a desire to develop a code of practice for industry and regulations that explicitly prohibit uncontrolled dry cutting of engineered stone and we are actively involved in providing input on that proposal. We welcome these initiatives and note that Caesarstone's own recommended safety standards have long urged stonemasons to use wet-cutting and proper respiratory protection.