



State-of-the-Art Lung Bus Hits the Road

Friday 19th February 2010

NSW Minister for Finance Michael Daley today launched a state-of-the-art mobile screening service that will help with the early detection of work related respiratory disease.

Mr Daley said the NSW Dust Diseases Board's mobile respiratory service, a new 'Lung Bus', would increase the accessibility of screening and testing for workers, particularly those in regional New South Wales.

"This new \$870,000 State Government funded bus will help save lives by providing improved health surveillance for workers who may have been exposed to potentially deadly materials including asbestos and crystalline silica," Mr Daley said.

"The new bus is capable of screening up to 60 workers per day with each screening taking only about 10 minutes.

"Since the mobile screening service commenced in 2001, 280 employers across NSW have been visited by the bus and more than 28,800 workers have been tested.

"This new vehicle replaces the existing nine year old bus and is fitted with improved technology making early detection and referral for respiratory problems easier.

"Screening on the Lung Bus, the only one in Australia, is comprehensive and includes an x-ray, lung function test and examination by a doctor with the results checked by a radiologist and specialist respiratory physician," he said.

Mr Daley said that over the next 12 months the Lung Bus would visit regional centres including Orange, Newcastle, Tweed Heads, Nowra and Broken Hill.

"This is a great benefit to both employers and workers in regional areas as they don't lose time or incur the cost of travelling to the city for testing," he said.

"While the Lung Bus is a great success story, work related respiratory screening is also still available at the Dust Diseases Board Medical Centre in Sydney.

"In addition to screening and testing, the Dust Diseases Board also supports research into dust diseases and provided \$6.9 million for the development of the Bernie Banton Asbestos Diseases Research Institute together with \$1.2 million to assist with administrative and other costs over the first three years of its operation," Mr Daley said.

The bus was built by the NSW based firm Varley Specialised Vehicles in Tomago.

For Lung Bus bookings or more information on the services provided by the Dust Diseases Board visit www.ddb.nsw.gov.au or call 02 8223 6600.

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