

## TSANZ VIC Branch Occupational Lung Disease (OLD) Dinner Meeting

Date: Monday 13 October 2025

Time: 6:30pm for a 7:00pm start - 9:00pm finish

Venue: Roccella, 158 Clarendon St, East Melbourne, 3002 VIC

**Dinner Topic:** Occupational Lung Disease: The pathways to compensation in Victoria

**Chairs:** Nicole Goh & Janet Williams

Time	Event	Speaker	Food
6:30pm	Registration and Arrival Drinks		
6:50pm - 7:00pm	Guests to take seats		<i>Entrée Served</i>
7:00pm - 7:10pm	Welcome	President - Dr. Nicole Goh	
7:10pm - 7:30pm (20 minutes)	'Silicosis in Victoria: an update	Dr Ryan Hoy	
7:30pm - 7:40pm (10 minutes)	Q&A	Dr Ryan Hoy & Chairs	
7:40pm - 8:00pm (20 minutes)	Break		<i>Main Served</i>
8:00pm - 8:20pm (20 minutes)	'Legal perspectives on access to compensation and what's involved in appearing at Court as a Medical expert'	Mr Jack Rush AO RFD KC, Ms. Jane McDermott & Ms. Karen Richards	
8:20pm - 8:40pm (20 minutes)	Case Study - Panel Discussion	The Legal panel, Dr Ryan Hoy & Dr Eli Dabscheck	<i>Dessert Served</i>
8:40pm - 9:00pm (20 minutes)	Networking and Close		

Thank you to our valued dinner sponsor



A member of



**Wording for Acknowledgement of Country (in-person events) to provide to chairs**

*We acknowledge the Boonwurrung and the Wurrundjeri Clans of the Kulin Nation who are the custodians of the land and waters, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.*

## **Speaker Bios**

### **Dr Ryan Hoy, MBBS MOccEnvHlth FRACP PhD**

Dr Ryan Hoy is a Respiratory Physician from Melbourne, Australia with a master's degree in occupational health. He is the lead physician for the Occupational Respiratory Clinic at the Alfred Hospital and is a Senior Research Fellow at the Monash University Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health. His primary research is in the field of silicosis, and he has 35 publications on the topic. In 2019, Dr Hoy was appointed to the National Dust Disease Taskforce, and in 2022 chaired the National Silicosis Prevention Strategy, facilitated by the Lung Foundation of Australia.

### **A/Prof. Eli Dabscheck**

A/Professor Eli Dabscheck is a respiratory and sleep physician at Alfred Hospital and Epworth sleep Centre. He is the co chair of the national COPD guidelines. A/Professor Dabscheck has been involved in medicolegal assessments for worksafe Victoria since 2017 and he is a member of the medical panels.

### **John T. (Jack) Rush AO RFD KC**

Jack Rush is a distinguished barrister whose career spans trial and appellate advocacy across all areas of common law. Appointed Queen's Counsel in 1992, he was later elevated to the Supreme Court of Victoria in 2013, though he returned to practice at the Bar two years later. His career includes significant contributions to major inquiries. In 2004, he represented victims and unions in the NSW Special Inquiry into the James Hardie corporate restructure. He was senior counsel assisting the Royal Commission into the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires and, in 2012, was appointed Commissioner of the State Services Authority to review Victoria Police, recommending sweeping reforms that were fully implemented. In 2019, he served as senior counsel assisting the IBAC Inquiry into police handling of the Silk/Miller murder investigation.

Rush also has an extensive career in military law. A Rear Admiral in the Royal Australian Navy, he was appointed Judge Advocate General of the ADF in 2021, following service as Deputy Judge Advocate General - Navy. He has appeared in numerous courts martial and Defence Force inquiries, representing families and assisting in high-profile investigations, including the 2005 Nias Sea King helicopter crash, the 2006 Black Hawk crash, and the 2008 inquiry into the loss of HMAS Sydney.

### **Jane McDermott, Principal**

For over 25 years, Jane has successfully represented asbestos victims and their families across Australia, particularly in Victoria and South Australia. Throughout this period, she has also passionately advocated for reforms to secure and improve access to justice for asbestos victims. This work has given Jane a deep insight into the difficulties clients and their families face when they are dealt the blow of an asbestos related illness or occupational lung condition.

Jane is highly experienced and always provides compassionate legal advice her clients need and deserve. Jane has a detailed understanding of the medical conditions related to past asbestos and silica exposure and actively follows developments in the diagnosis and treatment of these conditions to maximise her clients' results.

Jane's commitment to her work is evidenced by McDermott Richards Lawyers pledge to annually donate to medical, scientific and allied health research and programs that seek to support victims of occupational lung conditions and their families.

**Karen Richards, Principal**

Karen is committed to advocating for those who have been injured as a result of their employment due to past exposure to asbestos or silica dust and to ensuring they get the compensation they deserve.

She works hard to ensure her client's experience of the legal system is as straight forward as possible given all that they are going through apart from their legal claim.

McDermot Richards Lawyers believe everyone deserves to feel valued, heard and supported.