

MOBILE MEDICAL TRUCK DELIVERING LUNG CHECKS FOR CURRENT AND FORMER MINE AND QUARRY WORKERS

Heart of Australia's newest mobile medical clinic, HEART 5, is a joint initiative with the Queensland Government to provide increased accessibility to lung checks for current and former mine and quarry workers in rural and remote Queensland.

The first-of-its kind mobile medical imaging clinic includes X-ray and CT scanner equipment to assist in the screening and early detection of mine dust lung diseases, such as black lung and silicosis.

Heart of Australia founder, Dr Rolf Gomes, says HEART 5's revolutionary technology has pioneered the delivery of radiology services in regional Queensland and made an enormous difference in improving patient outcomes and supporting the work of local GPs.

"The battery technology we have designed and built in Queensland to power the CT scanner means with HEART 5, we can do a CT parked on a mine site – and that is a world first."

"HEART 5 breaks down the barriers of distance, so if you do have a lung disease, we can find it early and quickly," Dr Gomes said.

Head of Operations, Ewan Wylie said he is thrilled to be bringing HEART 5 to Townsville for the North QLD Quarrying & Mining Safety & Health Conference.

"We are excited to bring HEART 5 to the conference to share more about its healthcare capabilities and world-first CT scanning technology. We know that early detection of lung disease leads to better health outcomes, so we encourage current and former mine and quarry workers to come forward to access this service".

Heart of Australia began in 2014 and is the brainchild of Brisbane-based cardiologist Doctor Rolf Gomes. Since then Heart of Australia's medical specialists have seen more than 13,000 patients and saved more than 500 lives.

The five-truck fleet has travelled more than 500,000 kilometres servicing towns from Stanthorpe in the south to Weipa in the far north and Mt Isa in the west.

Former mine and quarry workers may be eligible for a free lung check. Please contact Mine Dust Health Support Service on 1300 445 715 or visit <https://www.rshq.qld.gov.au/miners-health-matters>

If you are a current mine and quarry worker, please talk to your Health and Safety team about getting HEART 5 to your site.