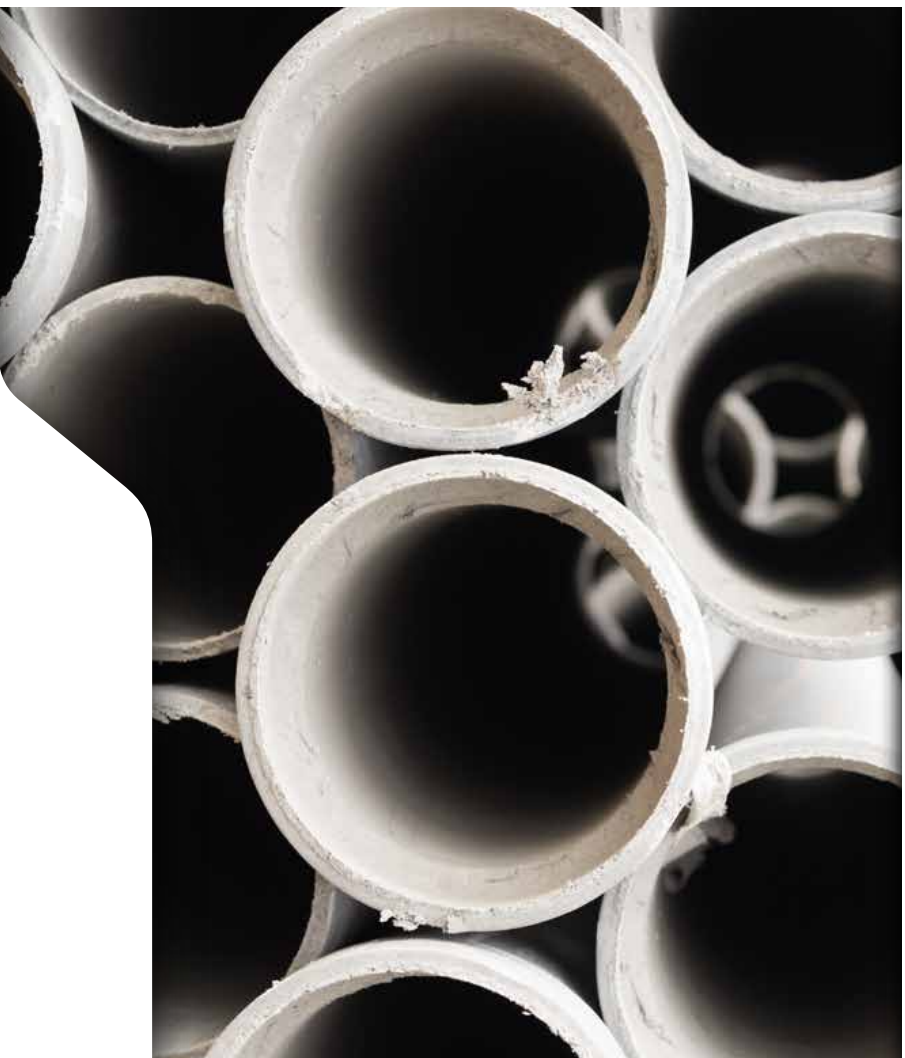



National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness 2016-17 PROGRESS REPORT



Australian Government working with:



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 Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency

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2016-17 was the second full year of the implementation of the *National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness 2014-18*. I am pleased to report that significant work continues to be undertaken across Australia by all governments contributing to the deliverables and outcomes of the plan. Total activities reported to the agency have increased by 25 per cent since last. This shows that the transparent and coordinated approach taken by all governments has had a positive impact as they work towards the elimination of asbestos-related diseases in Australia.

Overall, the report shows that we are achieving impact through greater coordination. Supporting evidence suggests we are seeing more asbestos removed and disposed of than in previous years, but it is too soon to identify significant behavioural change in the general population regarding asbestos risks.

When looking through each of the strategies, not only does the work towards the elimination of asbestos-related diseases appear to be increasing, there is also an increasing trend in the completion of reported activities. Much of the work in the plan has seen significant progress, but it will require continued effort beyond 2018, due to the extent and complexity of Australia's asbestos legacy. Work continues under each of the six strategies of the plan with most of the effort being directed towards the first four strategies. State and territory governments continue to place a strong continuing focus on increasing asbestos awareness, with new initiatives in 2016-17 designed to better target do-it-yourself (DIY) home renovators, such as:

- new fact sheets and information for tenants and frequently-asked-questions (FAQs) for contractors and tenants for WA householders
- a checklist for homeowners, farmers and tradespeople in NSW which have been published on www.asbestosawareness.com.au
- an integrated public asbestos safety campaign in Tasmania including television advertisements for DIY renovators.

All jurisdictions have worked together to coordinate national efforts to reduce the risk of imported materials. Sharing information and knowledge allows for quick and uniform responses when imported materials are identified and have been found to have crossed state/territory borders.

During 2016-17, the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (ASEA) continued to promote the development of targeted national research to support the implementation of outcomes in the National Strategic Plan, including:

- working with industry to develop a consistent model for asbestos awareness training for the utilities sector
- reviewing national disaster planning and practices to reduce risk of exposure to asbestos following disaster events
- researching stabilisation and containment practices to assist in the management of in situ asbestos
- reporting on the risks of asbestos in remote Australia and highlighting positive asbestos management practices in remote indigenous communities that can be built upon.

The success of the agency's coordination and reporting activities requires the continued support and effort of our stakeholders. The support of the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council has been invaluable, as this represents a tripartite approach to asbestos management and awareness. The agency's is also supported by expert advice from the Technical Research Advisory Committee, the Building, Construction and Demolition Sectors Committee, the Asbestos Waste Working Group, the Asbestos Communications Working Group and the Asbestos Support Group Network. The

advice and guidance provided by our stakeholders ensures that governments are working in collaboration with social partners and independent experts as we grapple with the impact of the asbestos legacy across Australia and identify practical solutions.

Looking towards the future, it is important that efforts to raise awareness of the presence and dangers of asbestos in the Australian built environment continue. This will remain a priority, with corporate engagement activities and partnerships planned to broaden the reach of our key messages and research findings.

In 2017-18 the agency will continue to focus on finalisation of the current phase of our research and evidence program. This will inform future directions of our national approach, and we will seek to provide evidence and information that will inform consultation on the next phase of the plan.

I look forward to working with all governments on the development of the next phase of the National Strategic Plan and seeing our collective important work continue.

Peter Tighe
Chief Executive Officer
Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency



Progress report by the Chair of Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council

It is my pleasure to provide this report on behalf of the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of my predecessor Mr Geoff Fary and thank former councillors for their guidance of the agency over the past three years.

I am pleased to note that this progress report highlights significant work being undertaken nationally.

It is clear that all governments are committed to progressing the outcomes and deliverables of the National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness 2014–18.

The dangers of asbestos are ever-present in the Australian environment. Continuing to ensure national focus on these dangers is an important task. Much has been achieved since the National Strategic Plan was endorsed nationally, but the ultimate goal of eliminating asbestos-related disease in Australia requires continuing effort and focus.

The progress report confirms that there is increased

transparency on government action to prevent asbestos-related disease. This transparency increases the opportunities for information sharing and partnering across governments to identify how best to respond to our aging asbestos legacy. Reports to ASEFA show 151 separate activities contributing towards the deliverables and outcomes of the plan with 51 activities completed in the 2016-17 reporting period.

Evidence is an important cornerstone in informing prevention policies now and into the future, and there is still much we do not yet know. Council was particularly impressed by the commitment in the ACT, where the results of a two year study found that men who lived in a Mr Fluffy home have a 2.5 times greater chance of contracting mesothelioma than those who have not. Interestingly there were no observable differences for women¹.

The efforts by the Tasmanian government, with support from ASEFA, to raise awareness of asbestos risks with an integrated campaign showed that there is a large appetite for knowledge in the DIY sector. I encourage more states to consider investing in DIY

asbestos awareness and prevention campaigns. ASEFA has commenced a national working group on asbestos communications that will support the development of consistent messages. This is particularly important, as a single voice from all jurisdictions will help the asbestos prevention message be heard.

We need to remain vigilant to the risks of imported products containing asbestos. There has been an increased focus on this issue during 2016-17 and the workload of the Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities (HMSA) Imported Materials Containing Asbestos Working Group and Asbestos Interdepartmental Committee (IDC) has increased during this year as more asbestos-containing products have been identified. We have also seen more applications for permits to import asbestos containing materials for the purposes of research, analysis or display. More requests for permits show that business is becoming more aware of this risk and are making efforts to ensure their products are asbestos free.

The case studies provided for this progress report are particularly important, as each show how governments are addressing particular challenges. From large scale identification and removal programs, to community awareness activities, all are useful in understanding both the complexity of our asbestos legacy and promising solutions across government.

Work on the evaluation of the current National Strategic Plan is underway. This progress report provides a detailed outline of the progress reported against deliverables and outcomes. The Council encourages ASEFA to consider how to increase the measurement and outcomes reporting for the National Strategic Plan in order to best demonstrate how we are progressing towards our ultimate aim, which is to eliminate asbestos-related disease in Australia.

Diane Smith-Gander
Chair

Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council



¹ See ACT Asbestos Health Study on page 68 of this report

Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency and the National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness 2014-18

The Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (ASEA) was established 1 July 2013 as a statutory authority that provides a national focus on asbestos issues. Part of the agency's function is to encourage, coordinate, monitor and report on the implementation of the National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness (the plan).

The plan is a long-term strategy for achieving significant progress in six areas related to current asbestos issues in Australia: awareness, best practice, identification, removal, research, international leadership. These six strategies contain deliverables and outcomes that all governments are working together to achieve.

This second annual progress report follows the same principle as the inaugural progress report and outlines the work that has been reported by state, territory and Australian Government agencies throughout 2016-17 which contribute to the six strategies of the National Strategic Plan.

The report is presented in three sections. The first section is an outline of the coordination of the National Strategic Plan, including a progress assessment for 2016-17. The second section presents supporting evidence and data, and the last section presents case studies.

There is no single source of evidence for measuring Australia's progress in the elimination of asbestos-related disease. The information in this report is based on activities, data and case studies provided by state, territory and Australian Government agencies with a role in managing asbestos risks, and significantly shows how all governments in Australia are working towards the elimination of asbestos-related disease.

By providing the information in this format, an overall point-in-time picture of efforts to eliminate asbestos-related risk in Australia is developed. This highlights that there is an increasing trend in work being delivered, but it is difficult to demonstrate the impact.

Coordination of the National Strategic Plan

This section details the nationally coordinated approach for asbestos in Australia. The activities are reported against each deliverable and outcome of the National Strategic Plan.

Increasing coordination and sharing of information supports an environment where governments, businesses and individuals have access to evidence-based information to improve the management of risks and contribute to eliminating asbestos-related diseases.

The Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (ASEA) has provided an assessment for the plan and each of the individual strategies to highlight the progress that has been achieved in 2016-17.

The Australian Government Minister for Employment launched *The National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness 2014-18*² on 28 August 2015 following a meeting of state and territory ministers. It is the first time a plan of its type has been endorsed by state, territory and Australian governments.

The plan provides a framework within which states and territories work cooperatively and independently to achieve set objectives.

ASEA administers the National Strategic Plan by coordinating the activities, research and consultation that are undertaken in line with the plan and asbestos issues nationally across public health, environment and work health and safety.

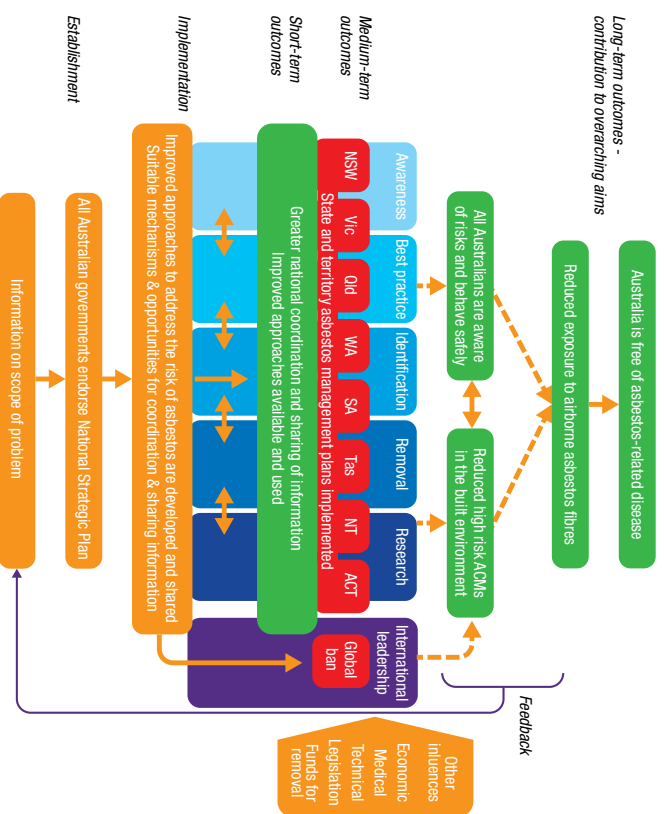
ASEA's coordination of the National Strategic Plan is achieved by working with the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council under a tripartite framework working with all levels of government; employer and employee representatives; and with the support of independent experts. In 2016-17, this included collaborating with state and territory governments to produce quarterly reports, and six council meetings where progress was reviewed and national asbestos issues were discussed.

The evaluation framework for the National Strategic Plan highlights how the short term measures of greater national coordination and sharing of information will contribute to the Plan's long term aim of eliminating asbestos-related disease in Australia. The evaluation framework in Figure 1 highlights the importance of fostering greater collaboration and information sharing about asbestos risks and practical solutions in order to improve asbestos awareness, encourage safe behaviours and reduce high risk asbestos in the built environment.

² For more information about the National Strategic Plan, see www.asbestosafety.gov.au/national-strategic-plan. A summary of the strategies and outcomes of the plan is at page 74 of this report.

Figure 1: Logic model illustrating how coordination of the National Strategic Plan contributes to prevention of asbestos-related diseases

The agency program model demonstrating the contribution of short-term outcomes to the elimination of asbestos-related disease in Australia:



Source: National Strategic Plan evaluation framework (2015)

In addition to working with the state and territory governments and the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council, key highlights of coordination activities in 2016-17 were:

Building, Construction and Demolition Sectors Committee

The Building Construction and Demolition Sectors Committee (BCDS) is the agency's primary industry consultation forum, and includes employer and employee representatives from industries impacted by Australia's asbestos legacy, such as plumbing, electricians, asbestos removalists and the building and construction industry. The BCDS met five times during 2016-17, and contributed to:

- ASEAs Annual Operational Plan
- safety information for the removal of <math><10m^2</math> asbestos
- asbestos awareness information for electricians.

Technical Research Advisory Committee

The agency has a Technical Research Advisory Committee (TRAC), made up of experts in health, epidemiology, work health and safety and economic analysis. The committee met three times during 2016-17. Key activities included:

- revision of ASEAs research governance
- formulation of direction for research projects on exposure during DIY renovation activities

- advice and guidance on Australia's National Asbestos Profile and the Economic and Social Impact of Asbestos in Australia projects.

Asbestos Support Groups Network

The Asbestos Support Groups Network (ASGN) is made up of not-for-profit advocacy and support groups for people with asbestos-related diseases in Australia. The ASGN works cooperatively with the agency and ASFC to support the National Strategic Plan. The group met five times during 2016-17 to share ideas and formed a sub-group to discuss a nationally branded awareness campaign to be run during National Asbestos Awareness Week 2017.

Asbestos Communications Working Group

In 2017 ASEA formed an Asbestos Communications Working Group (ACWG), bringing together communications specialists from the state and territory workplace health and safety regulators, Safe Work Australia and the Commonwealth Department of Health. The group supports effective collaboration and information sharing between the state and territory members regarding asbestos awareness campaigns occurring in their jurisdictions.

Asbestos Waste Working Group

The Asbestos Waste Working Group (AWWG) is comprised of state and territory environmental regulators, and the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy. The group has been convened to identify best practice for transport, storage and disposal of asbestos containing materials (ACMs), in line with deliverable 2.4 of the National Strategic Plan.

Identify and promote best practice transport, storage and disposal practices, including support for-

- *initiatives to encourage safe storage and disposal at licensed facilities*
- *initiatives for the reporting of illegal disposal sites.*

Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities Imported Materials with Asbestos Working Group

The Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities (HWSA) Imported Materials with Asbestos Working Group enables government agencies to work cooperatively and efficiently across jurisdiction and portfolio lines when products have been identified as containing asbestos and there is concern such products may cross or have crossed state borders. The working group has reviewed a variety of potential importation of asbestos containing material events, and contributed to the dissemination of three safety alerts (which is consistent with 2015-16). In 2016-17 the working group met 15 times.

2016–17 PROGRESS ASSESSMENT

2016-17 Progress assessment of the National Strategic Plan

The National Strategic Plan provides a framework for governments to work together. A rise in the number of activities reported for 2016-17 shows increased focus across Australia on asbestos management and awareness is taking place. In an environment that is complex, has many different stakeholders and no single point of measurement, sharing of information and increasing coordination demonstrates national cooperation and consistency to work towards eliminating asbestos-related diseases. This supports continual improvement in prevention efforts and the sharing of best practice evidence, which ultimately contributes to reducing the risk of asbestos exposure.

NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS ASSESSMENT

Status: Significant progress underway

Progress made in 2016-17

Total activities	2015-16:	2016-17:
	121	151
Increase of:		25%



Activities completed

2015-16:	50
2016-17:	51
Stable	



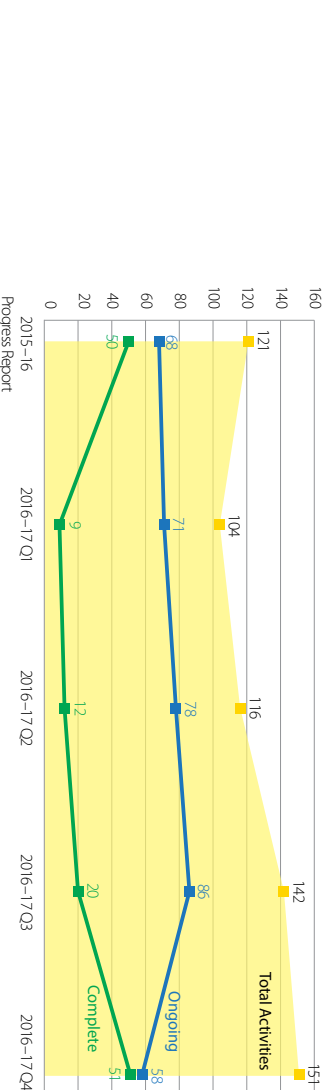
Total activities reported to the agency supporting the National Strategic Plan have increased from 121 in 2015-16 to 151 in 2016-17, showing an increase of 25 per cent. When reviewing the trend for the last twelve months, the overall number of activities being reported and shared across jurisdictions continues to rise. 51 activities were completed in 2016-17, consistent with 2015-16. Overall there has been increased activity by all jurisdictions and improved reporting against the plan in 2016-17. We have assigned a progress assessment status of significant progress underway, due to these achievements. Progress is on track to complete all of the plan's deliverables by 2018, and there are no deliverables that have been assessed as at risk.

Type of activity in 2016-17 by strategy

- Awareness 18%
- Best Practice 29%
- Identification 20%
- Removal 21%
- Research 8%
- International Leadership 4%

The majority of activities are directed to the first four strategies of the plan which is consistent with 2015-16.

Figure 2: Trend analysis by quarter over 2016-17 for activities reported under all strategies of the plan



Outlook for 2017-18

Fifty-eight activities were reported as ongoing, or without an end date and 68 per cent of all current activities will continue in to 2017-18 as they are either ongoing or in progress. Completion of a significant number of deliverables does not indicate that the outcome in the plan is complete. The work required to eliminate asbestos-related disease in Australia is complex and will require continuous effort to work towards the outcomes of the plan's six strategies. In many cases, the work started under the plan has now become business as usual. This is most clearly seen in the Awareness strategy, where 78 per cent of all activities are reported to continue in to 2017-18. This reflects that all governments recognise the need to continue focus on raising awareness in order to work towards the behavioural change needed to prevent exposure to asbestos fibres.

Status: Significant progress underway

Progress made in 2016-17

Total activities	25
2015-16:	27
Increase of:	8%
Activities completed	11
2015-16:	6
Increase of:	45%

Achievement of the three deliverables of the awareness strategy of the plan has been assessed as significant progress underway. Twenty-seven awareness activities were reported in 2016-17 and six were completed. All jurisdictions have reported ongoing supplementary activities showing commitment by all governments to increasing community awareness of the risks posed by asbestos and its impact on the health of the community.

Deliverable 1.1 of the plan, to review communications material was assessed as complete in 2015-16. This led to research in 2016-17 for evidence-based material for a consistent asbestos awareness campaign which is currently in progress.

While there has been a decrease in completed activities, the total number of activities has increased, and there is clearer emphasis on the continued need to raise awareness and provide advice about asbestos safety.

All jurisdictions have increased ongoing information channels for asbestos related issues since 2015-16. Websites and dedicated email and telephone advice services are identified as key vehicles for improving awareness about asbestos risks. All jurisdictions have been increasing the development of practical evidence based asbestos safety awareness material. This demonstrates a strong commitment to the awareness deliverable.

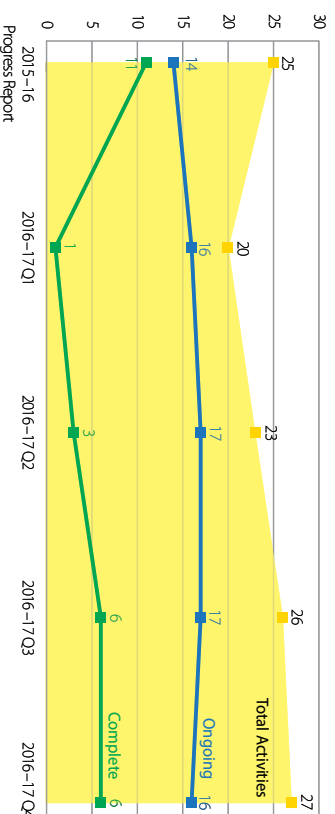
A highlight of awareness strategy activity is 'Berty', a portable model house displaying where asbestos can be found in the home which has continued to travel extensively in 2016-17 and is featured in the case study section of this report on page 52.

Outlook for 2017-18

Ongoing activities	14
2015-16:	16
Increase of:	15%

Seventy-eight per cent of all current awareness activities will continue in to 2017-18 as they are either ongoing or in progress. This shows that previously reported work is now considered 'business-as-usual' by government, and that all jurisdictions show strong commitment to working towards demonstrated cultural and behavioural change as a result of improved understanding about asbestos safety.

Figure 3: Trend analysis by quarter over 2016-17 for activities reported under the awareness strategy of the plan



NSP 1 – AWARENESS

GOAL: Increased public awareness of the health risks posed by working with or being exposed to asbestos

Deliverable	Assessment		
D1.1 Review of awareness raising information, programmes and campaigns in Australia and internationally to identify gaps and improve awareness in the Australian community of the risks of asbestos in the built environment	Complete		
Deliverable complete 2015-16	O1.1 Increased community awareness of the risks posed by asbestos and its impact on the health of the community		
D1.2 Develop a 'one-stop-shop' of information on asbestos related issues, integrating information and providing referral points for members of the public	Significant progress underway		
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
All jurisdictions	Websites - respective jurisdiction and Commonwealth asbestos websites, Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency website: public websites	Ongoing	O1.2 Improved access to information for those who work and live with asbestos, including when to source information and advice
SA	Help centre for the general public: call centre to provide information and advice on asbestos	Ongoing	
WA	Information and advice for the general public: email, telephone and web advice to the public; Worksafe website - communication materials developed	Ongoing	
NSW	1800 Asbestos enquiry line: central enquiry line for all NSW asbestos enquiries	Ongoing	
NSW	asbestosawareness.com.au - comprehensive website detailing vital information about the safe management of asbestos, including the development of an Asbestos Products Online Database	Ongoing	
TAS	Helpline for the general public: email, telephone and web advice to the public providing asbestos information and advice	Ongoing	
ASEA	National website: national online resource portal allowing the community easy access to information that supports greater awareness across all portfolios and promotes state and territory asbestos portals	Ongoing	

NSP 1 – SUPPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

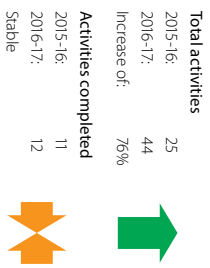
Deliverable	Assessment		
D1.3 Develop practical, evidence-based asbestos safety awareness material for people likely to come into contact with ACMs in a residential setting	Significant progress underway		
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
ACTSA	National asbestos awareness campaign: research and development to promote outcomes of asbestos research to improve asbestos safety	In progress	O1.1 Increased community awareness of the risks posed by asbestos and its impact on the health of the community
NSW	Aboriginal Communities Project: pilot of non-flammable asbestos removal training and an asbestos awareness campaign designed specifically for Aboriginal communities	In progress	
NSW	Safework NSW: Fact sheets and Checklists for homeowners, farmers and trades on the Asbestos Awareness website	Complete	
QLD	Promotion of short film 'Dear Dad' with safety ambassador Trevor Gillmeister: promotion of short film to increase community awareness about asbestos safety (DIY focus)	Ongoing	
QLD	Short film 'How to use, maintain and test H Class HEPA vacuum cleaners': development of film to improve compliance of PCBUs performing asbestos related and removal work in regard to proper use of H Class vacuum cleaners	In progress	
TAS	Asbestos at home - information for home renovators booklet developed in consultation with Asbestos Free Tasmania Foundation	Complete	
SA	Community and industry information sessions: community and targeted industry information sessions on health risks and exposure	Ongoing	
WA	Worksafe WA: Developed industry checklist for asbestos removal	In progress	
WA	Housing Authority: Asbestos Management Plan, Asbestos Management Policy Fact Sheet/Asbestos Information for tenants, FAQ for contractors and tenants published on website	Complete	
WA	Department of Communities: development of guidelines/information sheets on identification of ACM, AC fences and AC roofs	Complete	
WA	Public seminars and other presentations: presentations and seminars delivered to increase awareness. Joint seminars by Worksafe WA and the Department of Health held in metropolitan and regional areas on asbestos removal	Ongoing	
WA	WA Health: Guidance Notes on Asbestos Cement Fences and Asbestos Cement Roofs published on Department of Health website completed and published for use by local government Environmental Health Officers and the general public	Complete	

Outcome		
O1.1 Increased community awareness of the risks posed by asbestos and its impact on the health of the community		
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status
All jurisdictions	Asbestos week/month: all jurisdictions support community awareness and education events in November	Ongoing
NSW	National Asbestos Awareness Campaign: the Asbestos Education Committee oversees a comprehensive campaign across Australia to help raise awareness about the risks of exposure to asbestos during home renovations and maintenance	Ongoing
NSW	Betty - the ADRI house: a mobile home that travels throughout Australian communities to display where asbestos can be found in and around the home and advice on the safe management of asbestos/shore. SA Government sponsored the Betty 2016 Awareness tour in South Australia	Ongoing
SA	Funding to asbestos victim support organisation: SA Government funding to Asbestos Victims Association and Asbestos Diseases Society of South Australia	Ongoing
VIC	Worksafe VIC: funding to asbestos victim support organisations: funding to GARDs/ACV to provide support and advocacy services	Ongoing
NSW	Naturally occurring asbestos (NOA): YouTube video to increase awareness about naturally occurring asbestos; development of Fact Sheets/FAQs, additional mapping of high risk areas	Complete
TAS	Asbestos awareness communications plan: campaign being developed to increase community awareness of the risks posed by asbestos and its impact on the health of the community.	In progress
Outcome		
O1.2 Improved access to information for those who work and live with asbestos, including where and when to source information and advice		
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status
All jurisdictions	Safety alerts: consumer safety alerts	Ongoing

BEST PRACTICE STRATEGY

Status: Significant progress underway

Progress made in 2016-17



Achievement of the four deliverables of the best practice strategy of the plan has been assessed as significant progress underway. Forty-four best practice activities were reported in 2016-17 and 12 were completed.

A 76 per cent increase in the number of reported best practice activities demonstrates the strong commitment by all jurisdictions to identify and share best practice approaches. The number of completed activities is consistent with 2015-16. All jurisdictions reported ongoing supplementary activities showing significant ongoing commitment by governments to the identification strategy.

Safework SA has undertaken an initiative to develop an online notification portal for asbestos removal licence holders to streamline processes, enhance monitoring

capabilities and source asbestos related data to monitor trends and share information with other regulatory bodies. This best practice activity is highlighted in the case study section of this report on page 64.

In 2016-17 ASEA finalised a comparative study of standards and practice across all jurisdictions and internationally of efficient and effective approaches to asbestos storage, transport and disposal and provided recommendations for best practice. Completion of this activity signifies completion of deliverable 2.4 to identify and promote best practice for asbestos storage, transport and disposal.

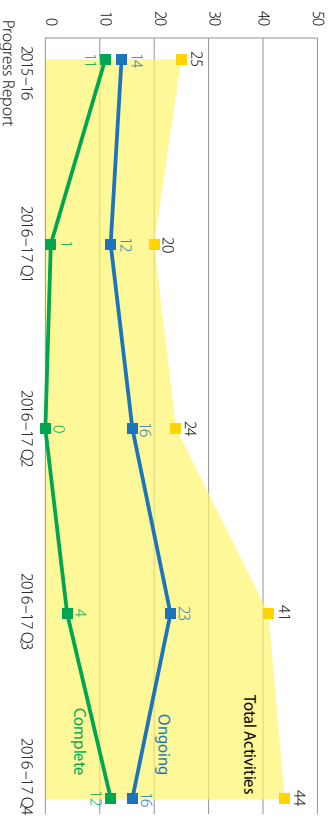
Outlook for 2017-18

Ongoing activities

2015-16:	14
2016-17:	16
Increase of:	15%

Seventy-three per cent of all current best practice activities will continue in to 2017-18 as they are either ongoing or in progress. This illustrates broad commitment to adopting best practice activities as 'business and usual' across jurisdictions.

Figure 4: Trend analysis by quarter over 2016-17 for activities reported under the best practice strategy of the plan



NSP 2 – BEST PRACTICE

GOAL: Identify and share best practice in asbestos management, education, handling, storage and disposal

Deliverable	Activity	Activity status	Assessment
D2.1 Identify opportunities to share best practice for initiatives related to the safe management of asbestos such as licensing, education, training and home renovations where ACMs may be present	All jurisdictions Asbestos licensing: licensing of removalists and assessors, including training	Ongoing	Significant progress underway
ASEA	Online videos: development and promotion of case studies that identify best practice opportunities in asbestos training, management and removal to targeted audiences	Complete	
QLD	Contact with asbestos removal licence holders to increase compliance with certain requirements: regulatory compliance checks delivered to improve management practices	Ongoing	
WA	Revision of the Health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992: to improve management practices in residential sector	In progress	
WA	WA Local Government Association (WALGA) establish preferred supplier panel Environmental Consulting Services (NAMI): linking Local Governments with companies able to identify ACMs in Local Government buildings and establish management plans	Complete	
WA	Department of Health and Worksafe: establishment of asbestos regulators interagency group	In progress	
NSW	Model Asbestos Policy: adoption of the revised Model Asbestos Policy 2016 in all NSW Councils	In progress	
NSW	Naturally occurring asbestos (NOA): development of Asbestos Management plan templates: for small business owners, development of a criteria matrix for determining priorities for further mapping of NOA	In progress	O2.1 Evidence-based best practice to minimise risks in targeted areas
NSW	Revised Asbestos Blueprint: update to the 2013 guide to roles and responsibilities for state and local government operational staff	In progress	
TAS	Contact with asbestos removal licence holders to increase compliance with certain requirements: regulatory compliance checks delivered to improve management practices	Ongoing	
TAS	Building asbestos registers: Proactive campaign to ensure currency	In progress	
Commonwealth	WHS Regulations coordination: coordination of the amendments to the WHS regulations (Safework Australia)	Ongoing	
VIC	Contact with asbestos removal licence holders to increase compliance: regulatory compliance checks delivered to improve management practices	Ongoing	
SA	Safework SA: development of an online notification portal for asbestos removal licence holders launched to streamline processes, enhance monitoring capabilities and source asbestos related data to monitor trends and share information with other regulatory bodies	Complete	

Deliverable	Assessment		
D2.2 Identify industry needs and gaps in awareness and training for workers who may come into contact with ACMs – such as tradespeople – and develop model training options for industry adoption	Significant progress underway		
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
ASEA	Model awareness training for utilities sector: developed model asbestos awareness training with utilities sector	Complete	
ACT	Workers to complete VET Asbestos Awareness Training: VET Asbestos Awareness Training completed for workers as defined by the Construction Occupations Licensing Act 2004 (ACT)	Ongoing	O2.2: Model training for workers likely to come into contact with ACMs
QLD	Increasing awareness of manufacturers, suppliers, hirers and users of high pressure water equipment about the illegality and risks of using high pressure water equipment on ACMs: tagged high pressure water cleaners with asbestos warnings to decrease risk they will be used on ACM	Ongoing	to increase competency and decrease risk
TAS	Asbestos awareness program: Worksafe Tasmania sponsorship with Asbestos Free Tasmania providing asbestos awareness and skill development for pre-employment and apprentice programs across all TAFE courses in Tasmania	Ongoing	
SA	Contribution to Doorway2Construction: the Doorway2Construction training programme creates increased awareness and knowledge on how to manage ACM for young people considering construction as a career	Ongoing	
Deliverable	Assessment		
D2.3 Review disaster planning practices and information regarding the risks of exposure to asbestos to assist in times of emergencies and natural disasters	Significant progress underway		
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
NSW	Asbestos Emergency Sub Plan: review and test the Asbestos Emergency Sub Plan to ensure appropriate response levels for asbestos incidents	In progress	O2.3 Australian communities are supported to manage asbestos risks during natural disasters or emergencies
ASEA	Review disaster planning and practice to prevent exposure to asbestos fibres: Evidence based recommendations	Complete	
SA	Review of hazardous waste management policies and processes: SA EPA undergoing internal review to feed in to State Emergency planning policies	In progress	
WA	WA Health: Updated guide for Health Officers in understanding and taking appropriate risk management action on incidents/emergencies involving asbestos-containing materials	Complete	

Deliverable	Assessment		
D2.4 Identify and promote best practice transport, storage and disposal practices, including support for - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ initiatives to encourage safe storage and disposal at licensed facilities ➤ initiatives for the reporting of illegal disposal sites 	Significant progress underway		
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
WA	Research and consultation for national criteria on waste management: including asbestos and contamination thresholds in mixed waste	In progress	
ASEA	Asbestos storage, transport and disposal best practice: comparative study of standards and practice across jurisdictions	Complete	
NSW	Waste Recycling Facilities Verification Program: capacity building/education and compliance activities (EPA and SafeWork NSW)	In progress	
NSW	Wastelocate: online system to monitor the transport and management of waste types and asbestos waste in NSW and allow information gathering to better target enforcement and compliance activities	Ongoing	
NSW	Research and review: research to identify motivators for peoples behaviour regarding waste; identify ways to make disposal of small quantities of asbestos more convenient and customer experience mapping for key stakeholder groups; Review of asbestos policy and guidelines	In progress	
NT	Waste tracking: Adoption of waste tracking system by December 2017	In progress	O2.4
NT	Review of Environmental Legislation: includes review of licensing and fees relating to asbestos waste; Completion expected 2020	In progress	Improved transport, storage and disposal practices for ACM
SA	Proactive interventions on illegal removal, dumping and transport of asbestos: targeted initiatives to prevent illegal dumping	Ongoing	
SA	Waste transport and storage: targeted compliance campaign on asbestos waste transporters utilising unauthorised waste depots	In progress	
WA	Department of Water and Environment: encourage and facilitate reporting of land pollution; Undertake covert and overt patrols of known dumping sites; camera surveillance; Investigation and prosecution of illegal dumping	Ongoing	
WA	Department of Water and Environment: unmix asbestos not subject to landfill levy at metropolitan landfills in WA	Ongoing	
WA	Department of Water and Environment fact sheet: requirements of Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004 relating to asbestos waste	Complete	
VIC	Illegal Waste Disposal Strikeforce Program: resources and mandate to understand and minimise the impacts of illegal waste disposal, including asbestos waste; Program runs until June 2018	In progress	
NSW	Verification programme on the management of asbestos in waste facilities: joint verification programme ("Under Wraps") between SafeWork NSW and EPA NSW on the management of asbestos in waste facilities	Complete	
VIC	Regulation 12 of the Victorian Environment Protection (Scheduled Premises) Regulations (general exemption relating to waste): amended to allow for temporary storage of asbestos without requiring a works approval or licence (under scheduled category A01), subject to conditions	Complete	
SA	Collaborative arrangement with EPA: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place for collaborative arrangements between SafeWork SA and EPA SA	Ongoing	
SA	New legislation: enactment of Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016	Complete	

NSP 2 – SUPPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

Outcome

Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status
O2.1 Evidence-based best practice to minimise risks in targeted areas		
All jurisdictions	State-wide approach to asbestos management: state-wide asbestos plans and strategies promote reduction in risks posed by asbestos	Ongoing
Commonwealth	Asbestos Verification Programme: Comcare asbestos verification programme for NBN roll out	Ongoing
NSW	HACA: Re-assessment and testing of potential asbestos disposal legacy sites	In progress
VIC	New Legislation: new Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017 enacted encompassing asbestos	Complete

Status: Significant progress underway

Progress made in 2016-17

Total activities	28
2015-16:	30
2016-17:	30
Increase of:	8%
Activities completed	13
2015-16:	13
2016-17:	13
Stable	

Achievement of all four deliverables of the identification strategy of the plan has been assessed as 'significant progress underway'. Thirty identification activities were reported in 2016-17 and 13 activities were completed. Total activities have increased by eight per cent since 2015-16 and the number of activities completed is stable indicating continued effort across jurisdictions to support the identification strategy of the plan.

WA Health assisted with development of a residential asbestos identification app which was launched in 2016-17. This activity is highlighted in the case study section on page 48 of this report.

The Victorian Asbestos Eradication Agency was established by the Victorian government in 2016-17

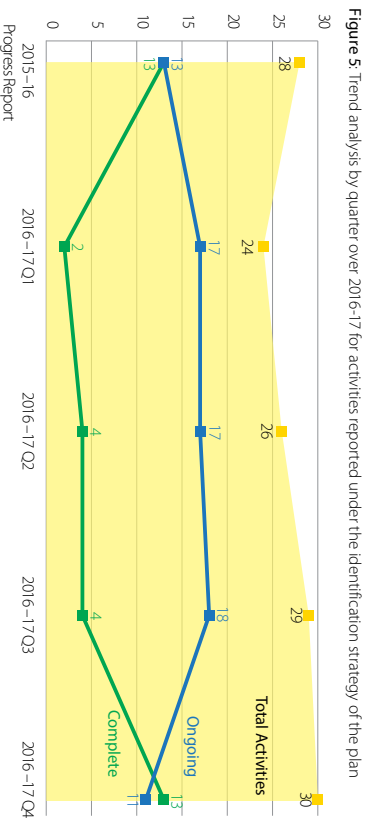
to target and prioritise removal of asbestos across government buildings. A case study on the agency's functions and achievements is on page 54 of this report.

The assessment of deliverable 3.4 has changed from 'nearing completion' in 2015-16 to 'significant progress underway' in 2016-17. This change is due to continued effort in the area identifying that improving coordinated efforts to identify and respond to the incorporation of ACMs is a perpetual goal, requiring ongoing effort each year.

Outlook for 2017-18

Ongoing activities	13
2015-16:	13
2016-17:	13
Stable	

Fifty-three per cent of all current identification activities will continue in to 2017-18 as they are either ongoing or in progress. Consistent effort from all jurisdictions towards achieving the outcomes and deliverables of the identification strategy will continue in to 2017-18.



NSP 3 – IDENTIFICATION

GOAL: Improve the identification and grading of asbestos and sharing of information regarding the location of ACMs

Deliverable	Activity	Activity status	Assessment
D3.1 Review current practices with the aim of developing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a model grading system for the condition of ACMs a model framework for the stabilisation and containment of ACMs in poor condition a model process to identify asbestos contaminated land 	Evidence based best practice - ID Grading of in-situ asbestos: researched options to develop evidence based guidelines for the visual identification and grading of in-situ asbestos	In progress	O3.1 Evidence-based model for grading in-situ asbestos is developed
ASEA	Review of stabilisation and containment practices for in-situ asbestos: to support safe and effective use of stabilisation and containment	Complete	O3.2 Improved stabilisation and containment practices for ACMs in poor condition
ASEA	Asbestos Removal Taskforce collaboration with industry for asbestos management: asbestos management plans for ACT Mr. Fluffy residences	In progress	
ACT	Research to improve consistency for in-situ asbestos identification and grading to improve services consistency and quality: research based best practice	Complete	O3.3 Improved identification and management of information regarding asbestos contaminated land
ASEA	Asbestos contaminated land review: including approaches to identification, registration and guidance	Complete	
SA	Mine site audits: Safework SA conducted mine site audits of 51 large to small mine sites with a focus on asbestos identification, registers and management plans	Complete	
VIC	Asbestos registers: designed and implemented a model for an aggregated, whole of government register	Complete	

NSP 3 – SUPPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

Deliverable		Assessment
D3.2 Review building and infrastructure data to estimate likely presence of ACMs		
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status
VIC	Victorian Asbestos Eradication Agency: established Victorian government agency to target and prioritise removal of asbestos across government buildings	Complete
VIC	Data Collection: developed standardised terminology on the material type, condition and location of ACMs to ensure consistency in data collected as part of the consolidated <i>Victorian Government Buildings Asbestos Register</i>	In progress
Commonwealth	Asbestos management projects: Defence asbestos surveys delivered to inform remaining ACM in Department of Defence estate	Ongoing
Deliverable		Assessment
D3.3 Prior residential ACM identification tools and strategies with local government partners		
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status
ASEA	Asbestos content reports: reviewed the use of asbestos content reports in various jurisdictions to identify consumer understanding in the residential sector	Complete
NSW	Householders' Asbestos Disposal Scheme: delivered NSW disposal scheme to make it easier to dispose of household ACM waste - ongoing subject to evaluation	Complete
WA	Workshops to local government: Local Government Area workshops delivered to support local government ACM management	Ongoing
WA	Identification app: WA Health assisted with development of residential asbestos identification App and helped advertise the App for use by local government EHOs for pilot study.	Complete
Deliverable		Assessment
D3.4 Support the 2003 ban on the importation of ACMs with improved coordinated efforts to identify and respond to the importation of ACMs.		
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status
All jurisdictions	HWSA Imported Materials with Asbestos Working Group	Ongoing
Commonwealth	Factsheets for Importers: to raise awareness and explain the border requirements for assurance that goods do not contain asbestos - Department of Immigration and Border Protection	Complete
Commonwealth	Targeted outreach of international suppliers and governments: raise awareness of Australia's prohibition on the importation of asbestos - Department of Immigration and Border Protection	Ongoing
Commonwealth	Asbestos Importation Review: independent (and internal) review of DIBP's management of Australia's asbestos border control	Complete
Commonwealth	Enhanced risk profiling: to better target goods at risk of containing asbestos - Department of Immigration and Border Protection	Ongoing
ASEA	Identification and promotion of strategies to reduce the risk of imported material containing asbestos: industry engagement and evaluation to raise awareness of import risks	Ongoing
Commonwealth	Asbestos Interdepartmental Committee (IDC): to provide strategic direction to enable effective policy and regulatory coordination across Commonwealth agencies in managing asbestos issues across the supply chain	In progress
Commonwealth	Intelligence led and targeted testing of consumer products that may cause injury or illness because they contain asbestos: Australian Competition & Consumer Commission consumer product safety	Ongoing

Outcome		Assessment
O3.2 Improved stabilisation and containment practices for ACMs in poor condition		
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status
All jurisdictions	Compliance management: regulatory compliance checks - including inspections and audits	Ongoing
Commonwealth	Remediation works: remediation works in Defence properties, does not involve removal work	Ongoing
VIC	In situ asbestos project - education: project targeting school, kindergarten and tertiary sector compliance with the OHS regulations	Ongoing
Outcome		Assessment
O3.3 Improved identification and management of information regarding asbestos contaminated land		
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status
NSW	Asbestos Legacy Sites Working Group: establishment of a cross agency Working Group to determine a coordinated government response to asbestos legacy sites including former disposal sites, abandoned properties and Aboriginal communities	Ongoing
Outcome		Assessment
O3.4 Estimated total presence of ACMs in the built environment is available		
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status
ASEA	Waste Data and Stocks and Flow report: produced a waste data and stocks and flow report to inform estimates of current and future remaining ACM	Complete
Outcome		Assessment
O3.5 Improved practice in the residential sector to identify and minimise the risk of exposure, in particular for DIY home renovators		
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status
ASEA	Guide to the removal of less than 10m²: developed FAQs on the safe removal of less than 10m ² of non-friable asbestos	Complete
NT	Department of Housing and Community Development: inspection of properties built pre 1983 to check for ACM to update asbestos database, assess condition and determine ongoing management	In progress
NSW	Real Estate Industry project: collaborated with real estate industry to inform industry awareness of ACM risks and WHS responsibilities	On hold

Status: Significant progress underway

Progress made in 2016-17

Total activities	25
2015-16:	32
2016-17:	28%
Increase of:	28%



Activities completed

2015-16:	9
2016-17:	13
Increase of:	45%



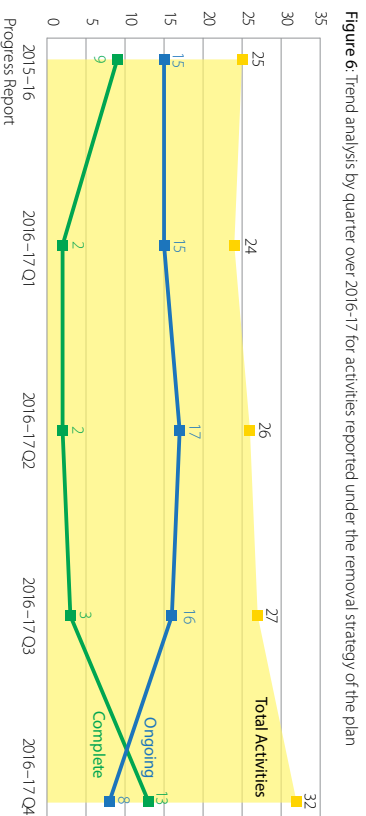
Achievement of three of the five deliverables of the removal strategy of the plan has been assessed as 'significant progress underway'. Thirty-two removal activities were reported in 2016-17 and 13 activities were completed. Total activities have increased by 28 per cent and completed activities by 45 per cent since 2015-16 showing that more emphasis is being placed on the deliverables of the removal strategy. In addition to the removal projects reported in 2015-16 (such as loose-fill asbestos removal in NSW and ACT, and asbestos removal in Victorian schools), new projects have commenced such as the WA Health project to investigate removal and replacement of asbestos roofs and highlighted in the case study on page 60 of this report. The increase in significant removal activities is also illustrated by the asbestos removal notifications and asbestos disposal data in the Supporting evidence and data section of this report that shows rising trends across all jurisdictions.

Outlook for 2017-18

Ongoing activities	15
2015-16:	13
2016-17:	Stable
Stable	



Fifty-nine per cent of all current removal activities will continue in 2017-18 as they are either ongoing or in progress. There has been significant progress in the removal strategy in 2016-17 with a considerable number of removal activities completed and a continued focus on the strategy planned for 2017-18. ASEA has commenced research and consultation in support of deliverable 4.5, which is due to be finalised as a priority in 2017-18. The agency will publish a report on the future trends for asbestos management, removal, transport and disposal, and focus will also be placed on building the business case for safer removal in 2017-18.



NSP 4 – REMOVAL

GOAL: Identify priority areas where ACMs present a risk, identify the barriers to the safe removal of asbestos and review management removal infrastructure to estimate the capacity and rate for the safe removal of asbestos

Deliverable	Activity	Activity status	Assessment Outcome
D4.1 Identify priority areas where ACMs may present a risk due to deterioration for action			
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
Commonwealth	Managing ACM risks: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – Asbestos management plans - for overseas Commonwealth properties	Ongoing	O4.1 Priority actions identified support removal of ACMs in poor condition
ASEA	Identifying priority types of asbestos containing material for removal: research and consultation - evidence and information to identify location and support safe removal of asbestos cement pipes and reduce exposure risk	Complete	Assessment
Deliverable			
D4.2 Develop and conduct projects in various locations and conditions where ACMs are in poor condition or likely to cause risks to ensure removal approaches are effective			
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
ASEA	Case studies: case studies of significant removal projects to identify different approaches and demonstrate effective options for removing asbestos containing material	Complete	Significant progress underway
ACT	Loose Fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme - proactive community engagement: ACT Taskforce conducted community engagement to increase knowledge and awareness about asbestos risks and provide community support	Ongoing	
ACT	Loose Fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme - removal: removal of loose fill asbestos insulation from over 900 residential properties and safe demolition – buy back scheme	In progress	
Commonwealth	Planned works for asbestos removal across the Finance portfolio – small to medium projects based on risk: Department of Finance delivered planned works for asbestos removal across the portfolio from small to medium projects based on risk	Ongoing	
Commonwealth	Planned works for asbestos removal in the Finance portfolio – Cox Peninsula remediation project	In progress	O4.2 Options to remove asbestos in poor condition are practical, evidence-based and targeted towards sources of asbestos-related disease
Commonwealth	Defence Estate Works Program: significant asbestos removal and management projects undertaken within Defence through the Defence Estate Works Program (EWP)	Ongoing	
NSW	Loose-fill Asbestos Implementation Taskforce: identification of loose fill asbestos in NSW residential properties through the Voluntary Purchase Demolition Program	In progress	
NT	Asbestos Removal from Crown Land: additional budget allocated in 2017-18 to Crown Land Estate to remove asbestos from Crown Land	In progress	
QLD	Removal of asbestos in government assets: as part of asset management and service delivery responsibilities, asset-owning departments manage asbestos based on an assessed level of risk and use a variety of options to manage risk, of which removal is one	Ongoing	
SA	Management of the asbestos waste legacy in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) lands: management and removal of asbestos waste from remote Aboriginal community landfill sites	Complete	
SA	Removal of asbestos in government buildings: removal of asbestos in government buildings based on risk grading of asbestos	Ongoing	
WA	Asbestos water pipe remediation: Water Corporation (WA) removal of asbestos-containing bitumen coating on non-asbestos cement water pipes	In progress	
VIC	Removal of asbestos from schools programme: prioritised removal of asbestos in schools	Ongoing	

Deliverable	Assessment
D4.3 Conduct a review into asbestos removal infrastructure (transport, storage and disposal facilities) across Australia focusing on capacity and future risks	In progress
Jurisdiction	Activity
ASEA	Annual review of waste disposal facilities accepting waste in Australia: 2017 review of hours of operation, notification period, acceptance of residential asbestos, acceptance of commercial asbestos, quantity limits and disposal costs and update the National Disposal Facilities database published on the ASEA website with the revised information
Commonwealth	Hazardous waste data and reporting: Department of Environment has undertaken a series of studies as input towards the reform of Australian hazardous waste policies, regulations, markets and management, which are relevant to asbestos
Deliverable	Assessment
D4.4 Investigate the barriers to the safe removal of ACMs from government, commercial and residential properties, and develop policy options to support removal of asbestos in poor condition	Significant progress underway
Jurisdiction	Activity
ASEA	Behavioural research to identify the choices, barriers and motivations for industry and homeowners to safely manage asbestos risks: may influence positive choices that support the safe management and disposal of asbestos
ASEA	Asbestos risk management practices in remote indigenous communities: consultation and evidence coordination of asbestos risk management practices in remote indigenous communities
ASEA	Local government consultation and research: on promoting effective community asbestos management, removal and disposal
ASEA	Asbestos in water pipes identification, removal and management: research management, remediation and replacement options for asbestos in water pipes infrastructure
ASEA	Age of remaining ACMs and what is its useful product life: literature review to inform policies, and business and homeowner removal decisions
ACT	Buy back of houses of entirely bonded asbestos sheeting: buy back scheme for properties of bonded asbestos
QLD	Pilot scheme on disposal options for homeowners needing to dispose of small quantities of asbestos waste: improved access to asbestos waste disposal facilities and reducing illegal dumping
WA	WA Health Roofs strategy: project commenced to investigate the obstacles to the removal and replacement of asbestos roofs and identify incentives and educational and regulatory tools to overcome these

Deliverable	Assessment
D4.5 Review the potential risks and benefits of a prioritised removal programme to safely remove ACMs in government occupied and controlled buildings and commercial premises, including the requirement for exceptions, to reduce asbestos-related disease	In progress
Jurisdiction	Activity
ASEA	Consultation to inform research on the future of work and implications for asbestos related industries: research agenda includes a review of the risks and benefits of a prioritised removal program
Commonwealth	Department of Environment: project on waste levy harmonisation including the development of a case study on asbestos to examine pooled funding from a potential asbestos waste levy to fund removal, management and safe disposal of ACMs to be completed in 2017-18
ASEA	Research into the costs of asbestos management and removal, and building a series of case studies that highlight the business case in decision making for asbestos
ASEA	Commissioning research to better understand the economic impact of asbestos-related diseases in Australia

NSP 4 – SUPPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

Outcome
04.1 Priority actions identified support removal of ACMs in poor condition
Jurisdiction
SA
Activity
Construction initiatives: deliver proactive initiatives on major construction projects to reduce ACM risks, and presented information to construction companies on compliance with demolition/rebuildment asbestos surveys during National Safe Work Month 2016
Outcome
04.4 The barriers to the safe removal of ACMs are reviewed and options to address the challenges faced by government, commercial and residential sectors are evaluated
Jurisdiction
WA
Activity
Improved identification of ACM pre-demolition: asbestos surveys required pre-demolition
Activity status
Ongoing

Status: Significant progress underway

Progress made in 2016-17

Total activities	13
2015-16:	13
2016-17:	12
Decrease of 1, stable	
Activities completed	5
2015-16:	5
2016-17:	5
Stable	

Achievement of both deliverables in the research strategy of the plan has been assessed as 'significant progress underway'. Twelve activities were reported and five activities completed in 2016-17. The number of activities undertaken and completed has remained consistent from 2015-16 to 2016-17. A number of research projects have been undertaken by NSW, ACT, WA and the Commonwealth during 2016-17 highlighting the consistent effort by governments to commission research to reduce the risk of asbestos related diseases in Australia.

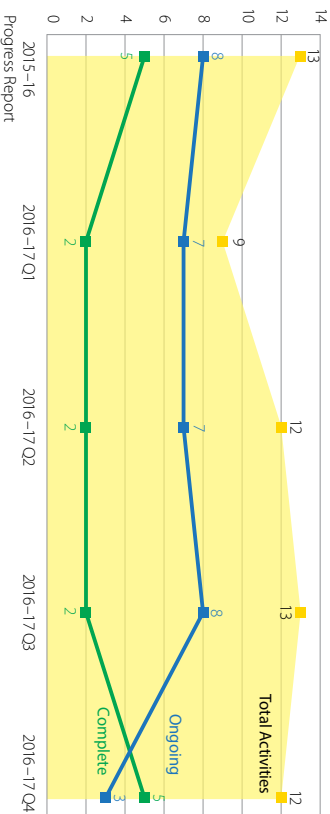
The ACT completed a significant research report in 2016-17 on the long-term effects of living in a Mr Fluffy house which is described in detail in the case study on page 68 of this report. Deliverable 5.1 to identify key national and international research and reports to enable better sharing of information to inform policy and best practice, has been assessed as complete due to delivery of a number of significant activities including development of a National Asbestos Profile for Australia by the agency which will be released in 2017-18.

Outlook for 2017-18

Ongoing activities	8
2015-16:	8
2016-17:	3
Decrease of:	62%

Fifty-eight per cent of all current research activities will continue in to 2017-18 as they are either ongoing or in progress. Agency management of the National Asbestos Exposure Register (NAER) is an ongoing focus with an analysis report scheduled for publication in 2017-18. **Deliverable and outcome 5.2 - to commission and promote research that reduces the risks of exposure to asbestos - will require continued effort as an ongoing goal.**

Figure 7. Trend analysis by quarter over 2016-17 for activities reported under the research strategy of the plan



NSP 5 – RESEARCH

GOAL: Commission, monitor and promote research into the prevention of asbestos exposure and asbestos-related disease

Deliverable	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
D5.1 Identify key national and international research and reports to enable better sharing of information to inform policy and best practice	National Asbestos Profile: provide a point in time measure of the amount and impact of asbestos in Australia	Complete	D5.1 Coordination of key research supports evidence informed policy and practice
NSW	Research - hazard issues: improve knowledge of emerging asbestos hazard issues, exposure levels and recommend practical controls	Complete	
NSW	Research - future risks: analyse recent experiences to inform and manage future risks such as asbestos emergency management and exposure monitoring; research from the Blue Mountains fire in NSW has been peer reviewed and is due for publication in 2017	In progress	
Deliverable			Assessment
D5.2 Commission and promote research that reduces the risks of exposure to asbestos and minimises the impact of asbestos-related disease			Significant progress underway
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
ASEA	Research on exposure risk: disseminated research on sources of exposure risk in the Australian community (remote communities, illegal dumping, grey literature, and fibre release)	In progress	
ASEA	Evaluation of the effective approaches to raise asbestos awareness in trade training students: to improve skills and knowledge of at risk occupational cohorts through new workers	Complete	O5.2 Commissioned research identifies practical and innovative approaches to prevent of minimise risks from exposure to asbestos fibres, and support for people with asbestos-related diseases
ASEA	Reviewing sustainable approaches to community support for victims of asbestos-related disease: research about how to provide effective support services	Complete	
ACT	Research - long term effects of loose-fill asbestos: research on impact living within a Mr Fluffy property	Complete	
Commonwealth	Australia Mesothelioma Registry (AMR): management of the contract for the Australian Mesothelioma Registry	Ongoing	
NSW	Research - provide epidemiological/research studies: commissioned research studies and report on trends and risk profiles	Complete	
WA	Department of Health: research commissioned on high risk groups for mesothelioma	In progress	

NSP 5 – SUPPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

Outcome		
05.1 Coordination of key research supports evidence informed policy and practice		
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status
All jurisdictions	Australian Mesothelioma Register review: working group led by Safework Australia focusing on the collection and evaluation of the usefulness of asbestos exposure information	In progress
ASEA	National Asbestos Exposure Register: manage and promote the National Asbestos Exposure Register (NAER) and publish first report on the NAER report analysis	Ongoing
Outcome		
05.2 Commissioned research identifies practical and innovative approaches to prevent or minimise risks from exposure to asbestos fibres, and support for people with asbestos-related diseases		
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status
Commonwealth	Defence Asbestos Evaluation Exposure Scheme (DAEES): assisting people who have been exposed to asbestos	Ongoing

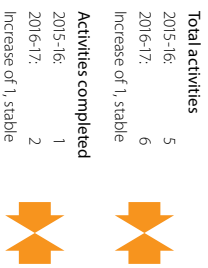




INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP STRATEGY

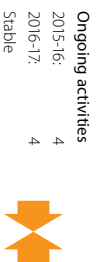
Status: Significant progress underway

Progress made in 2016-17

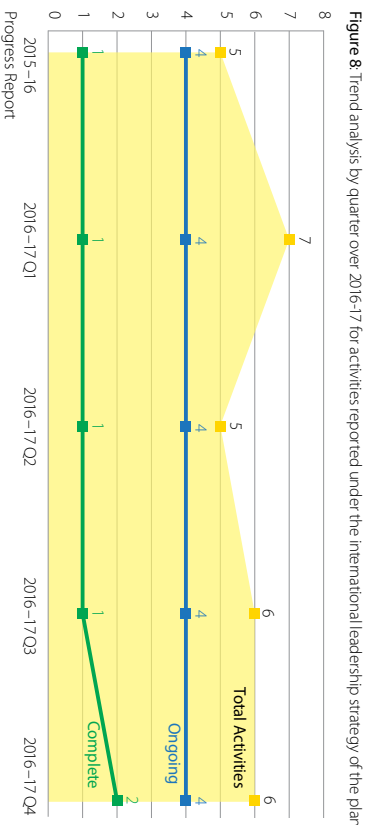


Achievement of the two deliverables of the international leadership strategy of the plan has been assessed as 'significant progress underway'. Six activities were reported and two activities were completed in 2016-17. The number of total activities undertaken and completed has remained consistent from 2015-16 to 2016-17. Both deliverables of the international leadership strategy are perpetual and require continued effort each year. Significant effort has been made by the Australian Government in 2016-17 to pursue improvement in international arrangements for asbestos awareness, management, and a global ban on asbestos mining and manufacturing.

Outlook for 2017-18



Sixty-seven per cent of all current international leadership activities will continue in to 2017-18 as they are either ongoing or in progress. In 2017-18 the agency will take part in workshops and meet relevant government officials when visiting Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam as part of an international delegation of asbestos experts. The agency will have further engagement in 2017-18 with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on the work they are undertaking on asbestos awareness in South East Asia, and with the Department of Environment and Energy on preparations for the 2019 Rotterdam Convention consideration of listing chrysotile asbestos in Annex III to the Convention.



NSP 6 – INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP

GOAL: Australia continues to play a leadership role in a global campaign for a worldwide ban on asbestos mining and manufacturing

Deliverable	Activity	Activity status	Assessment
D6.1 Pursue opportunities for improvements in international arrangements for asbestos awareness, management and a global ban on asbestos mining and manufacturing	Support of the listing of chrysotile in the Rotterdam Convention: Department of Environment and Energy - coordinates whole of government response to supporting the listing of chrysotile on the Rotterdam Convention supported by ASEA	Ongoing	O6.1 International issues relating to asbestos and asbestos-related disease are effectively coordinated
ASEA	Supporting international asbestos bans: Provision of support, information, research and advice to South East Asian and Pacific nations to work towards local asbestos bans and improvement management of asbestos risks.	Ongoing	O6.2 Australia recognised as an international voice in the global campaign against asbestos hazards
Deliverable	D6.2 Proactively share knowledge, tools and information on best practice with other countries and relevant international organisations		Assessment Significant progress underway
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
TAS	International participation: attendance at 2017 International Symposium on Malignant Mesothelioma and Annual International Asbestos Awareness and Prevention Conference	Complete	O6.1 International issues relating to asbestos and asbestos-related disease are effectively coordinated
ASEA	Internationally share knowledge and information: proactively share knowledge, tools and information on best practice with other countries and relevant international organisations	Ongoing	
ASEA	International Conference: planning and delivering 2016 Conference - planning for 2017 conference Note: SA Government sponsored the 3rd International Conference in November 2016	Complete	O6.3 Best practice for awareness, management and eradication of asbestos is shared internationally
Commonwealth	Australian Aid Program: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - support for asbestos management in developing countries; 'Managing Asbestos Risk in the Aid Program' policy includes ban on use of asbestos and/or ACMs in new aid and activities and Guidelines provide practical advice in the aid management cycle in support of policy implementation	Ongoing	

SECTION 2 – SUPPORTING EVIDENCE AND DATA

This section highlights the available data in Australia regarding asbestos awareness, removal and disposal.

There is no single source of data that can accurately measure progress towards elimination of asbestos related disease in Australia. The Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (ASEA) reviews available data and looks for changes. The most effective data sets available concern the level of awareness of the risks posed by asbestos and evidence that the remaining asbestos in our built environment is being safely removed and disposed.

Over time, the data will show the management of asbestos out of our built environment and identify emerging trends.

The data currently suggests that the amount of asbestos-related work (removal and disposal) being done is increasing; however data concerning awareness – which is measured biannually – will take longer to demonstrate changes. The increasing trend in number of registrations on the National Asbestos Exposure Register (NAER) may indicate that Australians are becoming more aware of the risks associated with asbestos exposure.

Awareness research

In 2014, the agency conducted a nationwide baseline survey – Survey 1 – to assess community awareness, understanding and attitudes regarding asbestos in the domestic built environment. In 2016, the agency commissioned an updated assessment of the community's awareness levels of asbestos – Survey 2. The next survey will be undertaken in 2018 using the same contact methodology and similar sample structure and survey questions to ensure comparability.

The 2014 baseline survey results are available here: <https://www.asbestosafety.gov.au/benchmark-survey-asbestos-awareness>

The 2016 benchmark survey results are available here: <https://www.asbestosafety.gov.au/annual-report-2015-16/report-performance/2016-national-benchmark-survey-awareness-and-attitudes>

The four groups engaged in Survey 1 and Survey 2 were:

- the general population
- DIY home renovators
- real estate agents/landlords
- and trades people.

The results of the surveys note that there were some changes in the awareness levels in the targeted demographics, but it is too soon to identify if there is a change in the awareness levels of the general population.

Key survey findings were there is widespread recognition of the importance of being knowledgeable about asbestos and its dangers. However, actual knowledge and the perception of being informed has moderated from 2014 to 2016. Around three quarters of Australians (76 per cent in both Survey 1 and 2) felt it was important to be knowledgeable about asbestos and its dangers. Chart 1 identifies the perceived importance of understanding asbestos and its related dangers within the Australian community. Results are shown for all four groups on a five-point importance scale with a 'don't know' option included.

Chart 1: Importance of being knowledgeable about asbestos and its dangers (%)

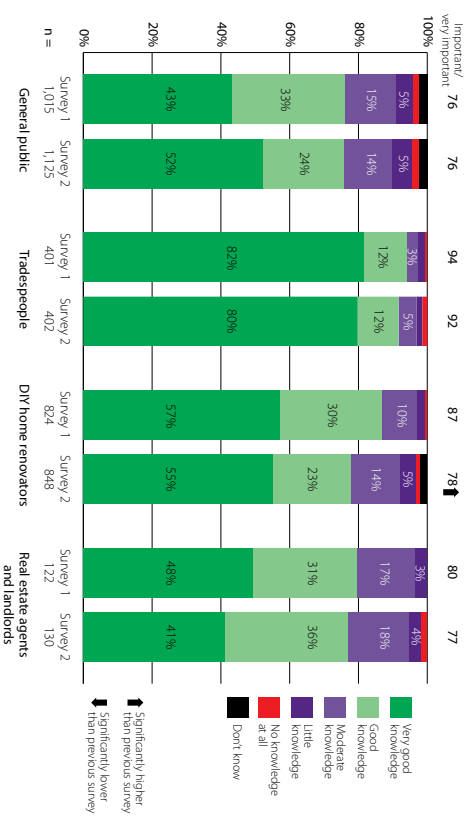
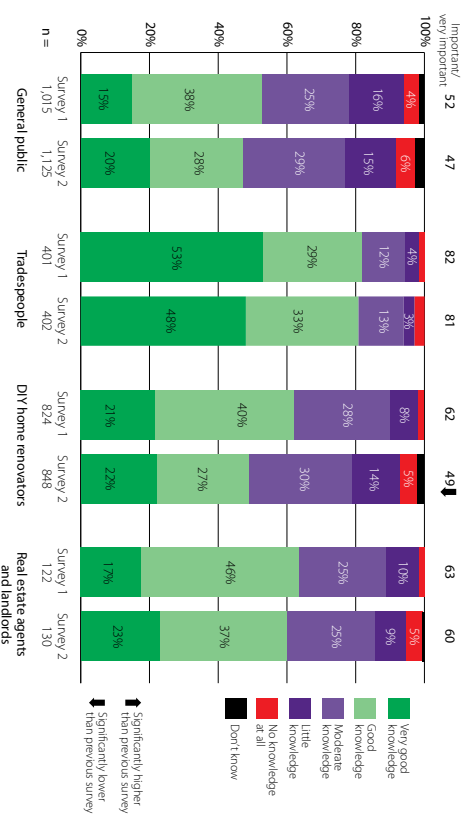
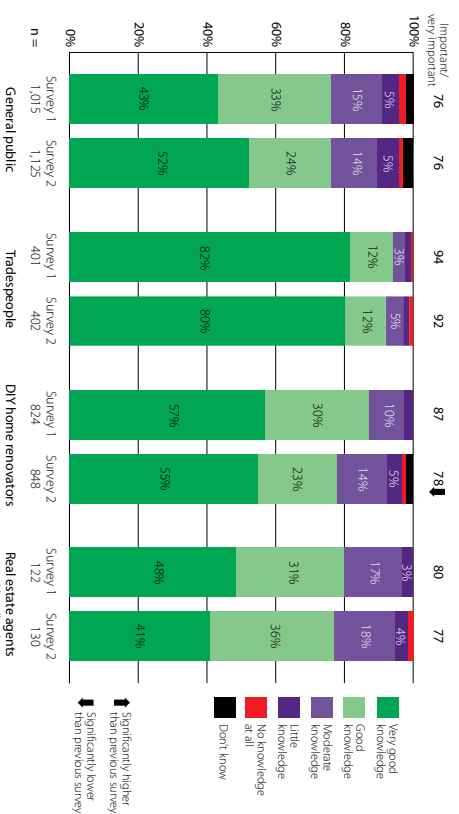


Chart 2: Perception of being informed about asbestos and its dangers (%)



Base: All respondents see chart for respondent base
 Q1: On a scale of 1-5, where 1 is not informed at all and 5 is very informed, how informed do you feel about asbestos and its related dangers?
 Q2: On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is not at all important and 5 is very important, how important is it for you to know about asbestos and its related dangers?
 Q3: On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is no knowledge at all and 5 is very knowledgeable how would you rate your own knowledge of the dangers associated with exposure to asbestos? Include 'don't know' option
 Similarly, fifty-three per cent said they felt knowledgeable about asbestos and its dangers in Survey 1 compared to 49 per cent in Survey 2, see Chart 3.

Chart 3: Perceived level of knowledge associated with asbestos and its dangers (%)



Base: All respondents see chart for segment base Q3. On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is no knowledge at all and 5 is very knowledgeable, how would you rate your own knowledge of the dangers associated with exposure to asbestos? Include 'don't know' option

Of those surveyed, the DIY home renovation group experienced the greatest decline in perceptions of being informed and feeling knowledgeable about asbestos and its dangers with 62 per cent stating they felt informed in Survey 1 compared to 49 per cent in Survey 2 (Chart 2). Also of concern is the attitude of Australians under 50 years of age, as the results indicate that this group has substantially lower levels of knowledge and feel less informed about asbestos compared to their older counterparts. Tradespeople have the strongest awareness of the dangers of asbestos across all key audiences surveyed. The importance of knowledge and understanding of asbestos appears to be slipping among real estate agents and private landlords.

The next awareness survey in 2018 will further assist identifying emerging trends and key areas where targeted campaigns should be directed.

- requests for information on safe removal practices
- licencing enquiries
- reporting suspected/improper asbestos removal, handling and disposal
- the illegal importation of ACMs (including building products and motor vehicle components)
- requests for information on health surveillance requirements following suspected asbestos exposure

Operational trends and insights

As part of the coordination activities for the National Strategic Plan, all jurisdictions were asked to identify operational insights and trends observed during the year. All jurisdictions observed that there were increased queries received about asbestos issues, and common themes identified were:

- identifying asbestos in the home, including among DIY home renovators
- requests for information on safe removal practices
- licencing enquiries
- reporting suspected/improper asbestos removal, handling and disposal
- the illegal importation of ACMs (including building products and motor vehicle components)
- requests for information on health surveillance requirements following suspected asbestos exposure

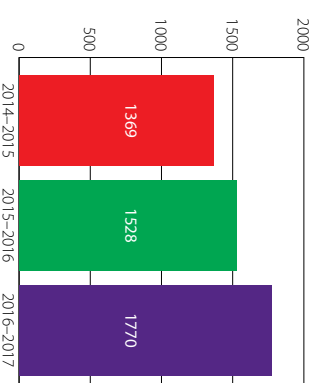
National Asbestos Exposure Register

The National Asbestos Exposure Register (NAER) captures details of potential exposure to asbestos. The information cannot be taken to be confirmed exposures, but it provides a valuable mechanism to monitor awareness of exposure, community concerns and perceptions of risk.

Trends

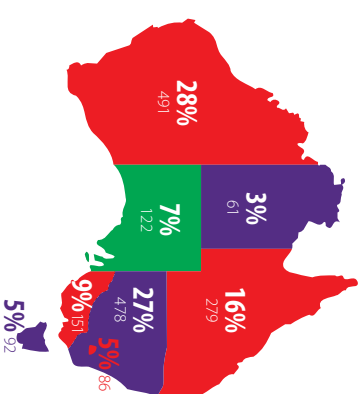
The number of people registering their details on the NAER continues to increase each year of operation, with the total number of registrations reaching 5776 from June 2013 to 30 June 2017. This may support an increasing awareness of potential asbestos exposure in the Australian community.

Figure 9: Total registrations by financial year



The occupational to non-occupational ratio has widened at 70 per cent to 30 per cent respectively, compared with approximately 64 per cent to 36 per cent in the previous financial year. This reflects a high incidence of reporting driven by employer referrals, which represent 31 per cent of all registrations compared to 27 per cent in the previous financial year.

Figure 10: Registrations by location of registrant 2016-17



Influences

There have been fluctuations from one month to another in the number of registrations on the NAER. Influencing factors observed include:

- government funded loose-fill asbestos inspection programs
 - reports of illegal dumping
 - reports of import of illegal building products
 - reports of incidents in schools or hospitals
- For more information and analysis about the NAER go to www.asbestosafety.gov.au