

Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council

Summary of Outcomes

Meeting 44 – 26 July 2023

The [Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council](#) (the Council) met on 26 July 2023 via videoconference¹. Members congratulated Mr Paul Bastian (Chair), Ms Carolyn Davis, Ms Tracey Browne and Ms Vicki Hamilton OAM on being appointed to the Council.

Council members were briefed on the progress of developing the third phase of the Asbestos National Strategic Plan, which aims to address ongoing asbestos risks in the built environment and support removal so far as reasonably practicable. Members noted that in addition to conducting a socio-economic evaluation on asbestos management and removal options, the agency is considering the outcomes of an in-depth analysis of the 2012 Asbestos Management Review Report recommendations, and a desktop review of recent domestic and international government incentive programs.

The Council noted a draft third phase Asbestos National Strategic Plan is in development and it is proposed that consultation with government and non-government stakeholders will take place in September 2023, with a view to finalising it in October 2023. It is proposed that a workshop is held with Council members in September.

ASEA provided Council members with the results of the evaluation of the National Asbestos Awareness Campaign, which promoted the message 'Think Twice about Asbestos'. Overall, the campaign materials were viewed more than 65 million times across social media, video and digital display, exceeding Australian Government advertising benchmarks across all measures.

Members noted planning for a further campaign in 2023–24 is underway and provided feedback on the activities planned for National Asbestos Awareness Week (NAAW), to be held from 20–26 November 2023. The Council supported the development of communication materials that will include tailored messaging to mark the 20th anniversary of the asbestos ban in Australia.

Council members discussed ASEA's International Collaboration and Leadership Strategy and were also briefed on ASEA's recent visit to Jakarta in Indonesia to participate in a training program on diagnosing and treating asbestos-related diseases. ASEA provided funding support for the training which was delivered by the Asbestos and Dust Diseases Research Institute (ADDRI) as a three-day workshop. It was attended by doctors, nurses and specialists in pathology, radiology and oncology from around the country including students from the Binawan University. Members noted that given the success of the pilot program, ASEA is discussing opportunities to provide similar training in other countries with ADDRI and Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA.

The Council welcomed the announcement at the May 2023 Federal Budget to expand ASEA's functions, to also lead a co-ordinated national response to the high levels of silicosis in workers.

The next Council meeting will be held in Canberra on 8 November 2023.

¹ Note a quorum was not present at this meeting