



# ASEAMATTERS

OCTOBER 2018

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Welcome to the October ASEA Matters newsletter issued by the agency. This edition will provide an update on activities that the agency has undertaken over the last month, and provide an update on this year's conference, the release of new research and publications, the key findings of the 2018 National Awareness and Attitudes towards Asbestos survey, opportunities for Australian local governments in improving residential asbestos safety, 3M's podcast series on asbestos, and agency participation in industry events.

## 2018 ASEA Conference Program Highlights

There is less than two months to go until the agency's annual conference - **Asbestos: the next national plan - proactivity, prevention, planning**. With an expected 300+ industry professionals from a range of industries including work health and safety, public health and the environment, and a thought-provoking two-day program, this is an event not to be missed!

We are also excited to announce the addition of a brand new workshop to the program titled '**National Strategic Plan - Phase Two**' with Dr. Peta Miller, Work Health and Safety Consultant. Peta will work with delegates to shape the next phase of the National Strategic Plan in an interactive workshop, seeking feedback on the new goals, targets and strategies that have been developed. The workshop is scheduled on both day one and day two to give all delegates the opportunity to attend and participate.

If you haven't registered for the conference, [register](#) before Friday 12 October (5pm AEDT) to take advantage of the final week of the Early Bird discount and save up to \$100 on your registration.

If you are also looking for the rare opportunity to spotlight your company's role in the asbestos sector to an expected 300+ industry professionals, check out the newly designed [sponsorship packages](#). As a conference sponsor you will receive multiple benefits and opportunities to build awareness and connect with industry leaders pre-event, during the event and post-event.

We look forward to welcoming you to this year's conference in Sydney this November!



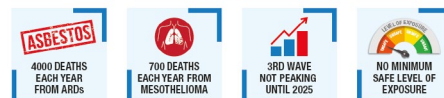
## Priority areas where ACMs may present a risk in the Australian community

ASEA has recently released a [video](#), [factsheet](#) and [infographic](#) that identifies the priority areas where asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) may pose a risk in the Australian community, based on feedback from stakeholder research and consultations.

Australia has a legacy of ageing ACMs and if degrading, creates exposure risks. ASEA commissioned Curtin University's School of Public Health to undertake an evidence review and survey to identify the current and future priority risks of asbestos exposure in Australia. The results of the review have been tested and validated by over 65 different representatives from governments, employer and employee groups, as well as industry and research experts. Asbestos in the community, asbestos in commercial and government buildings, asbestos contaminated land, and imported goods that contain asbestos are four priority risk areas identified through the research.

### Asbestos: Priority risk areas in Australia

#### HEALTH



#### ENVIRONMENT



## DID YOU KNOW?



ASBESTOS CAN BE FOUND IN A THIRD OF AUSTRALIAN HOMES



6300 TONNES ILLEGALLY DUMPED PER YEAR



4000 AUSTRALIANS DIE FROM ARDs PER YEAR

More information on our website:  
<https://asbestosafety.gov.au>



# Key findings from the 2018 National Awareness and Attitudes towards Asbestos survey

The 2018 national benchmark survey of awareness and attitudes towards asbestos has found that there has been an overall positive improvement in awareness and dangers of asbestos, how informed people feel about asbestos, and their ability to identify asbestos in the home.

ASEA has conducted the research every two years since 2014 to track shifts in community awareness about the risks of asbestos.

It measures responses from the general public, tradespeople, DIY home renovators, and real estate agents.

The survey findings strongly indicate that there has been a marked increase across all four categories in perception of being informed about asbestos and its dangers - either returning to the 2014 survey levels or higher.

The complete results of the survey can be found on our [website](#).



## Key findings:

- > 84% of the general public felt at least moderately informed about asbestos (up from 76% in 2016)
- > the proportion of tradespeople who felt poorly informed or worse about asbestos has halved
- > more than 1 in 5 tradespeople indicated a desire for more training on asbestos and its related dangers
- > 58% of DIY home renovators felt very informed or informed (up from 49% in 2016)
- > females, people aged 18-39, those renting their property and those who speak a language other than English were all observed to have significantly lower levels of feeling informed than other groups
- > 59% consider importance of being knowledgeable about asbestos and its related dangers to be 'very important' (up from 52% in 2016 and 43% in 2014)
- > where an asbestos assessment was undertaken, 22% of DIY home renovators said they did it themselves
- > where asbestos was identified, 20% of home renovators removed it themselves
- > of those who removed it themselves, 46% said it was because they knew how to do it, 39% said it was to save money
- > 58% of real estate agents/private landlords described knowledge of asbestos as very important (up from 39% in 2016)
- > increase in the proportion of real estate agents and private landlords who had formal asbestos training (24% in 2018, up from 20% in 2016 and 19% in 2014). However, 47% of real estate agents and private landlords indicated they felt they needed more training
- > self rated confidence in the ability to identify ACMs has remained stable over the three surveys

## Asbestos in the news: Developers accused of demolishing Corkman Irish Pub sentenced for dumping asbestos

September 12, 2018 - A magistrate says he would have jailed two Melbourne developers if he had the power to, after they pleaded guilty to dumping asbestos from an illegally demolished historic pub near homes and a childcare centre.

Developers Raman Shaqiri and Stefce Kutlesovski were each fined \$120,000 for failing to securely contain asbestos-riddled debris at the site of the demolished Corkman Irish Hotel in inner-city Carlton, and for then dumping in Cairnlea, in Melbourne's north-west. Their company, 160 Leicester Pty Ltd, was fined a further \$300,000.

Richard Pithouse told the Sunshine Magistrate Court the men's "cavalier disregard for the law" meant they should go to jail, but the legislation did not allow it.

The EPA welcomed the fine.

"The directors of the company in this case have shown blatant disregard for the environment, for public health, for community safety", CEO Cathy Wilkinson said.

"It is unacceptable [and] EPA Victoria puts on notice illegal dumpers. Victorians want polluters, want people who do the wrong thing, held to account. We don't want asbestos uncontrolled in the environment, it needs to be dealt with appropriately."

Source: ABC News - [www.abc.net.au](http://www.abc.net.au)



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# ASEA's work into improving residential asbestos safety and opportunities for Australian Local Governments

Local governments play a key role in educating their communities about asbestos and residential asbestos safety. As the level of government closest to builders and DIY home renovators, local governments have a responsibility to ensure that any development activity within their local government area (LGA) is undertaken with regard to relevant federal and state legislation and local planning laws. This includes the safe handling of ACMs by residents.

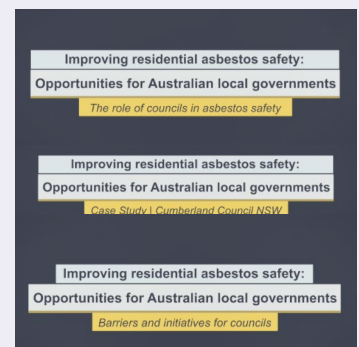
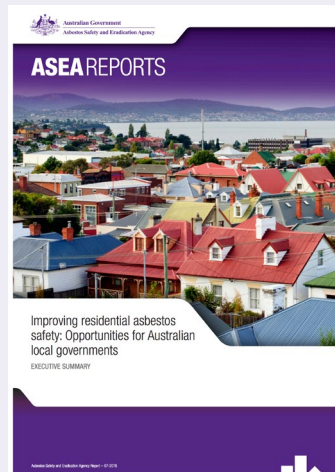
A [report](#) has been developed by ASEA and UTS: Centre for Local Government to provide insights into local government management of asbestos issues. The report looks at how local governments interact with the community, ideas for local government to improve community asbestos safety, examples of models that local governments could employ to influence behaviour change, and case studies of local governments currently delivering community asbestos safety initiatives.

ASEA has also produced [three videos](#) with the University of Technology Sydney, Cumberland Council NSW and Local Government NSW, which further emphasises the opportunities for Australian local governments and residential asbestos safety.

Former ASEA CEO, Peter Tighe attended the Western Sydney Professional Officers Forum in July to present an overview of the research undertaken in the '[Improving residential asbestos safety: Opportunities for Australian local governments](#)' report.

The forum presented a valuable opportunity to network and share information with members of local council and government who are involved in asbestos policy and programs, and generate ideas on how residential asbestos safety can be improved in local communities.

On the 20th September, the agency also had the opportunity to attend the Local Government NSW - Best Practice Asbestos Forum for Councils in Orange, NSW to explore the role that councils play in the safe management and regulation of asbestos within their local government areas.



## 3M's Science of Safety Podcasts on Asbestos

3M has recently launched their **Science of Safety** innovative podcasts hosted by Mark Reggers, one of 3M's Occupational Hygienists. The podcasts follow an interview style format and covers a number of topics all related to work health and safety. During October and November, the podcast features a six-part series dedicated to asbestos. With a number of different guests, Mark explores common asbestos queries, with our very own Former CEO, Peter Tighe concluding the series with the two final episodes.

The asbestos series will begin on the 18th October and conclude on the 22nd November, with a new podcast released each week.

In the first two episodes Linda Apthorpe, Consultant Occupational Hygienist, will discuss common questions around asbestos - 'What is it and what can it do to you?' and 'Where was it used and where is it found today?' The podcasts will explore the different types of

asbestos, its history, the 'one fibre' statement, health effects and the 'safe level of exposure', categories of ACMs, how to tell if something contains asbestos, and provide insight into more key questions about asbestos.

Secure the below dates in your diary and be sure not to miss out on the Science of Safety's six-part series podcast dedicated to asbestos.

Release date	Episode	Guest Speaker
18/10/2018	11: Asbestos - What is it and what can it do to you?	Linda Apthorpe, Hibbs
25/10/2018	12: Asbestos - Where was it used and where is it found today?	Linda Apthorpe, Hibbs
1/11/2018	13: Asbestos - Managing Asbestos in the Workplace	Jason Wall, Acting State Inspector, SafeWork NSW
8/11/2018	14: Asbestos - Asbestos Removal	Jason Wall, Acting State Inspector, SafeWork NSW
15/11/2018	15: Asbestos: Asbestos in imported goods	Peter Tighe, Former CEO, ASEA
22/11/2018	16: Asbestos: Future of Asbestos in Australia	Peter Tighe, Former CEO, ASEA



Download the podcasts and subscribe through iTunes, Spotify and [3m.com.au/SOSpodcast](https://www.3m.com.au/SOSpodcast). Questions, comments and suggestions for future topics can be sent to [scienceofsafetyanz@mmm.com](mailto:scienceofsafetyanz@mmm.com).

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# 5th International Occupational Health and Environmental Conference - Hanoi, Vietnam

## 10 to 12 September

ASEA was delighted to attend the Fifth International Occupational Health and Environmental Conference in Hanoi, Vietnam. The theme of the conference was 'Occupational Health and Environment: Challenges and Opportunities in Sustainable Development'. The event highlighted the work health and safety and environmental challenges faced by Vietnam and other countries in Southeast Asia. It also identified opportunities for further research and greater collaboration.

Dr. Tim Driscoll, Professor, Epidemiology and Occupational Medicine, The University of Sydney, presented on the burden of asbestos-related disease in Asia - lessons from the global burden of disease study, in a workshop session at the conference. Additionally, there were sessions on day one of the conference that specifically addressed the topic of the prevention of asbestos-related diseases, with presenters from Australia, Vietnam, Laos and Japan, discussing various associated topics.



Photo: Dr. Tim Driscoll, Professor, Epidemiology and Occupational Medicine, The University of Sydney (left) and Shane McArdle, Director, Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (right)

## Comcare National Conference - Melbourne

### 18 to 19 September

The 2018 Comcare National Conference was held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre from 18 to 19 September. The event brought key industry leaders and representatives with a passion for work health and safety to share best practice, hear the latest research, be challenged by presentations, and build valuable networks.

Delegates also had the opportunity to hear from Diane Smith-Gander, Chair, Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council who presented on the topic 'New frontiers, old challenges' and was a speaker on the 'Innovation' panel session on day one of the conference.

ASEA's exhibition was visited by a diverse range of delegates who were interested in hearing about the role of ASEA and the next phase of the national strategic plan, asbestos support groups and services, the National Asbestos Exposure Register, increasing levels of asbestos awareness and preventing the importation of asbestos. Delegates also showed interest in the [asbestos awareness brochures](#) and [information for those arranging or undertaking an asbestos assessment booklets](#).



Photo: Bob the Builder (pictured) visiting ASEA's exhibition to remind the team to always investigate before you renovate.

## Australian Public Health Conference - Cairns

### 26 to 28 September

ASEA also exhibited at the recent Australian Public Health Conference (formally the PHAA Annual Conference). The conference celebrated the 45th year of the flagship event. The conference presented a national and multi-disciplinary perspective on public health issues, with delegates also given the opportunity to contribute to discussions on the broad range of public health issues and exchange ideas, knowledge and information on the latest developments in public health.

A range of delegates including students, educators, researchers, scientists, and health professionals such as community health workers, doctors and nurses, all visited the exhibition. Key points of interest from delegates were the different types of asbestos-related diseases and statistics of affected Australians, types of asbestos, where asbestos can be found and which areas contain the highest levels of asbestos. Additionally, there was particular interest in the recently published report titled '[The economic burden of asbestos-related disease](#)'.



Photo: Rosie Green, Events and Communications Officer, Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (left) networking with delegates at the APH Conference 2018.

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