



FACTSHEET 5: Case studies of illegal asbestos disposal prevention strategies being used by councils

Many councils in Australia have implemented **successful strategies to combat the illegal disposal of asbestos** in their **local government area (LGA)**. Some examples include:



Boosting awareness in the community

This metropolitan council is located in an area with many homes built before 1990. They offer a free household asbestos inspection service (promoted heavily during National Asbestos Awareness Week), whereby a professional contractor is arranged to provide 45-minute verbal consultations for residents. They also run professionally facilitated information sessions to provide practical advice to residents on how to handle asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) on their property.



More detail is provided in the Guide
(see link below to download)

Investing in compliance and enforcement



This metropolitan council invested in seven new live-feed surveillance cameras and created a position for a waste investigator for a trial-period of four years. The council has found that the amount it collects through fines and recouping of clean-up costs is double what it spends on the waste investigator's wages. This is an initiative that can actually generate revenue for councils.



Collection of ACMs from residential properties

This collaboration consists of a number of member councils who have pooled resources to assist residents within their LGAs to safely and lawfully remove legacy ACMs from their properties. Interested residents were required to complete an online survey and followed-up by phone. Over 100 properties participated in the pilot program that collected a significant amount of asbestos waste and also had a broader awareness and education focus.

Boosting awareness and skills in a rural area



This regional/rural council identified that the local housing stock still contained large volumes of ACMs, and thus set out to increase awareness amongst residents and those that work on houses. They partnered with a local bakery and ran a 'meat pie drive' targeting builders and trades operating locally, delivering hot pies and a 'goodie bag' of asbestos awareness materials to worksites to discuss working safely with ACMs. At the same time the council targeted new tenants and home buyers in the area with asbestos awareness information via real estate agents.



Free asbestos drop off days

This regional council undertakes waste management activities on behalf of several member councils. It provides free 'drop-off' days for up to 165kg of wrapped and labelled ACMs, with the aim of preventing illegal disposal of ageing asbestos materials. Due to demand the initiative has recently changed from monthly to weekly and there has been a noticeable decrease in volumes as ACMs are successfully removed from the built environment.

Cleaning up discrete Aboriginal communities



This regional/remote council enlisted the support of WasteAid to address legacy asbestos issues in its Aboriginal communities. They brought relevant stakeholders together, trained and employed local Aboriginal people, and began removing asbestos waste from communities. The work was complemented by a communications program focusing on asbestos awareness and the importance of not disturbing it.



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