



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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## > INTRODUCTION

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 factsheets 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](http://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 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 ASEA 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 women.<sup>1</sup>

The efforts by the Tasmanian government, with support from ASEA, 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. ASEA 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 (HWSA) 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 ASEA 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



<sup>1</sup> 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*<sup>2</sup> 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.

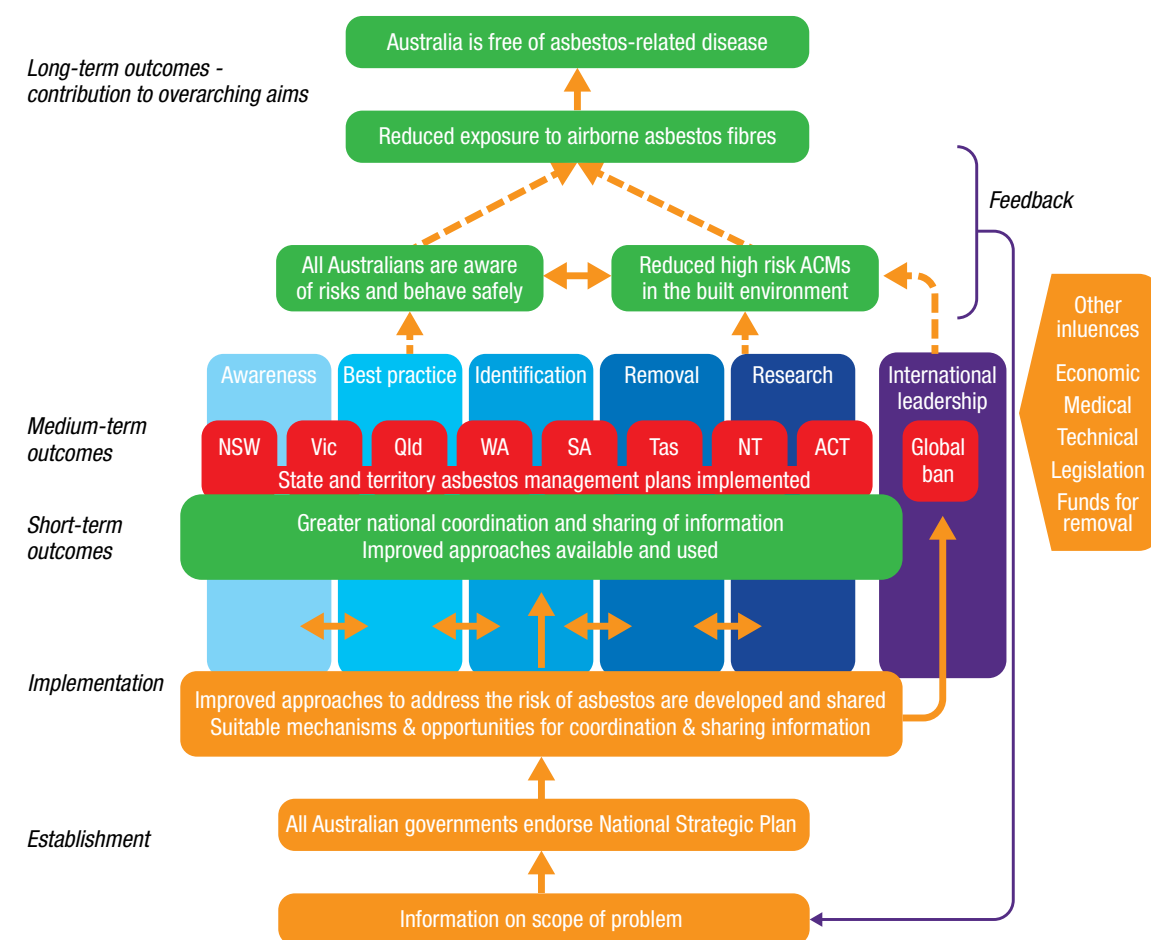
ASEA's coordination of the National Strategic Plan is achieved by working with the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council under a tripartite framework working with: all levels of government; employer and employee representatives; and with the support of independent experts. In 2016-17, this included 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.

<sup>2</sup> For more information about the National Strategic Plan, see [www.asbestossafety.gov.au/national-strategic-plan](http://www.asbestossafety.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:

- ASEA's Annual Operational Plan
- safety information for the removal of <10m<sup>2</sup> 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 ASEA's 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 ASEC 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:	121
2016-17:	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

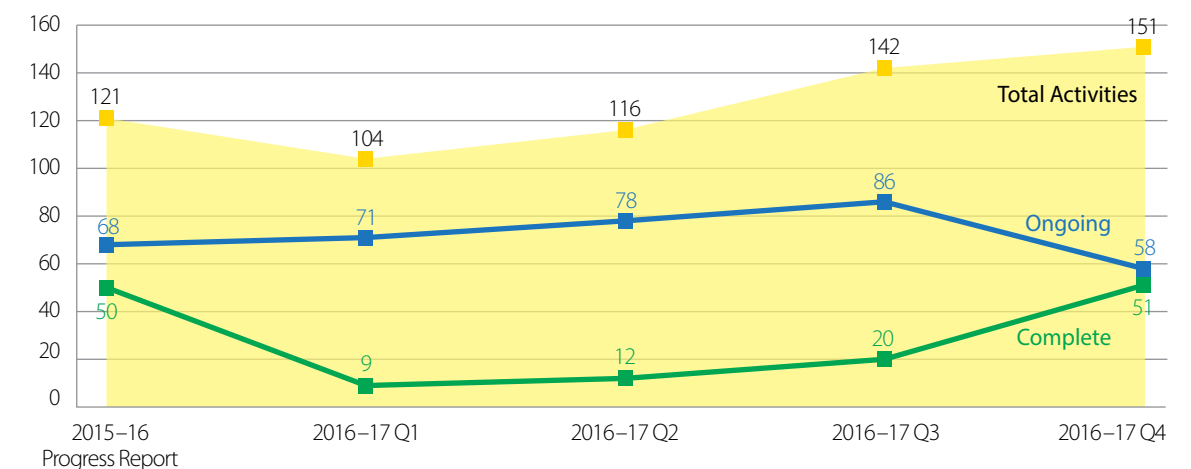
- > Awareness 18%
- > Best Practice 29%
- > Identification 20%
- > Removal 21%
- > Research 8%
- > International Leadership 4%

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

### 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.

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



Status: Significant progress underway

Progress made in 2016-17

Total activities

2015-16: 25  
2016-17: 27  
Increase of: 8%



Activities completed

2015-16: 11  
2016-17: 6  
Decrease 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 'Betty', 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

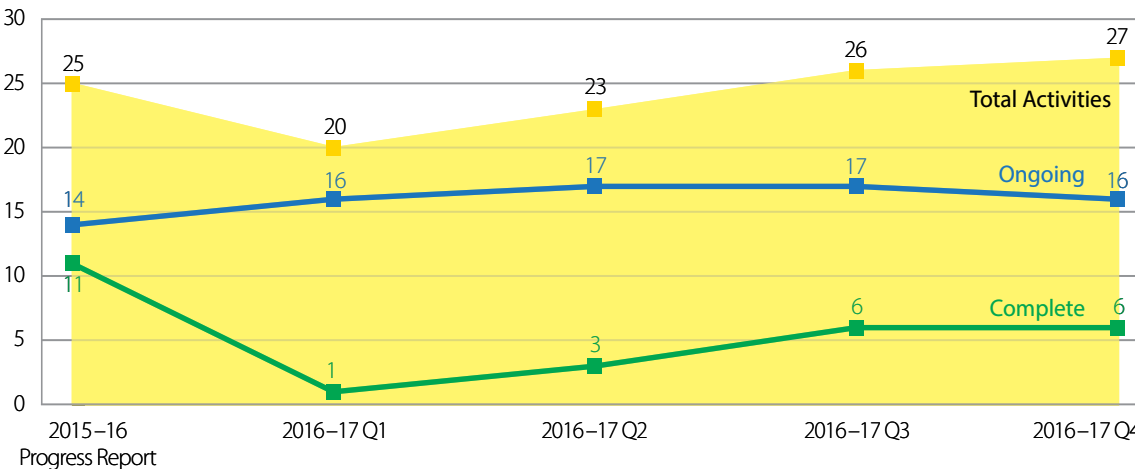
Ongoing activities

2015-16: 14  
2016-17: 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 where and 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 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	



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
AESA	<b>National asbestos awareness campaign:</b> 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	<b>Aboriginal Communities Project:</b> pilot of non-friable asbestos removal training and an asbestos awareness campaign designed specifically for Aboriginal communities	In progress	
NSW	<b>Safework NSW:</b> Fact sheets and Checklists for homeowners, farmers and tradies on the Asbestos Awareness website	Complete	
QLD	<b>Promotion of short film ‘Dear Dad’ with safety ambassador Trevor Gillmeister:</b> promotion of short film to increase community awareness about asbestos safety (DIY focus)	Ongoing	
QLD	<b>Short film ‘How to use, maintain and test H Class HEPA vacuum cleaners’:</b> development of film to improve compliance of PCBU’s performing asbestos related and removal work in regard to proper use of H Class vacuum cleaners	In progress	
TAS	<b>Asbestos at home - information for home renovators booklet:</b> developed in consultation with Asbestos Free Tasmania Foundation	Complete	O1.3 Demonstrated cultural and behavioural change within the community as a result of improved understanding of both the health risks and exposure pathways of asbestos in both commercial and residential environments
SA	<b>Community and industry information sessions:</b> community and targeted industry information sessions on health risks and exposure	Ongoing	
WA	<b>Worksafe WA:</b> Developed industry checklist for asbestos removal	In progress	
WA	<b>Housing Authority:</b> Asbestos Management Plan, Asbestos Management Policy, Fact Sheet/Asbestos information for tenants, FAQ for contractors and tenants published on website	Complete	
WA	<b>Department of Communities:</b> development of guidelines/information sheets on identification of ACM, AC fences and AC roofs	Complete	
WA	<b>Public seminars and other presentations:</b> 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	<b>WA Health:</b> 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	

## NSP 1 – SUPPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

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	<b>Asbestos week/month:</b> all jurisdictions support community awareness and education events in November	Ongoing
NSW	<b>National Asbestos Awareness Campaign:</b> 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	<b>Betty - the ADRI house:</b> 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 asbestosNote: SA Government sponsored the Betty 2016 Awareness tour in South Australia	Ongoing
SA	<b>Funding to asbestos victim support organisations:</b> SA Government funding to Asbestos Victims Association and Asbestos Diseases Society of South Australia	Ongoing
VIC	<b>Worksafe VIC:</b> funding to asbestos victim support organisations: funding to GARDS/ACV to provide support and advocacy services	Ongoing
NSW	<b>Naturally occurring asbestos (NOA):</b> YouTube video to increase awareness about naturally occurring asbestos; development of Fact Sheets/FAQs, additional mapping of high risk areas	Complete
TAS	<b>Asbestos awareness communications plan:</b> 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	<b>Safety alerts:</b> consumer safety alerts	Ongoing

# BEST PRACTICE STRATEGY

Status: Significant progress underway

## Progress made in 2016-17

### Total activities

2015-16: 25  
2016-17: 44  
Increase of: 76%



### Activities completed

2015-16: 11  
2016-17: 12  
Stable



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

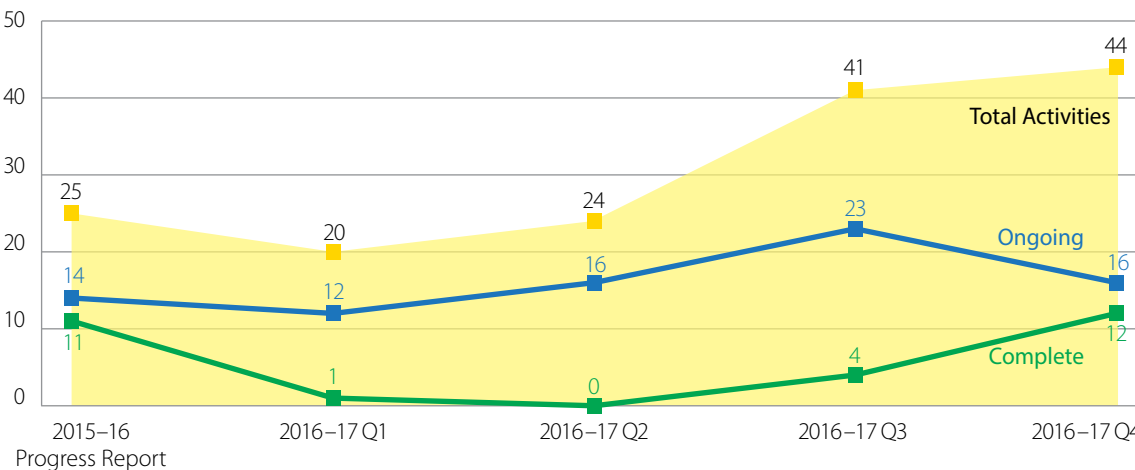
### Ongoing activities

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			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			Significant progress underway
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
All jurisdictions	<b>Asbestos licensing:</b> licensing of removalists and assessors, including training	Ongoing	O2.1 Evidence-based best practice to minimise risks in targeted areas
ASEA	<b>Online videos:</b> development and promotion of case studies that identify best practice opportunities in asbestos training, management and removal to targeted audiences	Complete	
QLD	<b>Contact with asbestos removal licence holders to increase compliance with certain requirements:</b> regulatory compliance checks delivered to improve management practices	Ongoing	
WA	<b>Revision of the Health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992:</b> to improve management practices in residential sector	In progress	
WA	<b>WA Local Government Association (WALGA) establish preferred supplier panel Environmental Consulting Services (NAM):</b> linking Local Governments with companies able to identify ACMs in Local Government buildings and establish management plans	Complete	
WA	<b>Department of Health and Worksafe:</b> establishment of asbestos regulators interagency group	In progress	
NSW	<b>Model Asbestos Policy:</b> adoption of the revised Model Asbestos Policy 2016 in all NSW Councils	In progress	
NSW	<b>Naturally occurring asbestos (NOA): development of Asbestos Management plan templates:</b> for small business owners, development of a criteria matrix for determining priorities for further mapping of NOA	In progress	
NSW	<b>Revised Asbestos Blueprint:</b> update to the 2013 guide to roles and responsibilities for state and local government operational staff	In progress	
TAS	<b>Contact with asbestos removal licence holders to increase compliance with certain requirements:</b> regulatory compliance checks delivered to improve management practices	Ongoing	
TAS	<b>Building asbestos registers:</b> Proactive campaign to ensure currency	In progress	
Commonwealth	<b>WHS Regulations coordination:</b> coordination of the amendments to the WHS regulations (SafeWork Australia)	Ongoing	
VIC	<b>Contact with asbestos removal licence holders to increase compliance:</b> regulatory compliance checks delivered to improve management practices	Ongoing	
SA	<b>SafeWork SA:</b> 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
<b>D2.2</b> 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	<b>Model awareness training for utilities sector:</b> developed model asbestos awareness training with utilities sector	Complete	O2.2 Model training for workers likely to come into contact with ACMs to increase competency and decrease risk
ACT	<b>Workers to complete VET Asbestos Awareness Training:</b> VET Asbestos Awareness Training completed for workers as defined by the Construction Occupations Licensing Act 2004 (ACT)	Ongoing	
QLD	<b>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:</b> tagged high pressure water cleaners with asbestos warnings to decrease risk they will be used on ACM	Ongoing	
TAS	<b>Asbestos awareness program:</b> 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	<b>Contribution to Doorways2Construction:</b> the Doorways2Construction training programme creates increased awareness and knowledge on how to manage ACM for young people considering construction as a career	Ongoing	
Deliverable			Assessment
<b>D2.3</b> 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	<b>Asbestos Emergency Sub Plan:</b> 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	<b>Review disaster planning and practice to prevent exposure to asbestos fibres:</b> Evidence based recommendations	Complete	
SA	<b>Review of hazardous waste management policies and processes:</b> SA EPA undergoing internal review to feed in to State Emergency planning policies	In progress	
WA	<b>WA Health:</b> 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 - ➤ 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	<b>Research and consultation for national criteria on waste management:</b> including asbestos and contamination thresholds in mixed waste	In progress	O2.4 Improved transport, storage and disposal practices for ACM
ASEA	<b>Asbestos storage, transport and disposal best practice:</b> comparative study of standards and practice across jurisdictions	Complete	
NSW	<b>Waste Recycling Facilities Verification Program:</b> capacity building/education and compliance activities (EPA and SafeWork NSW)	In progress	
NSW	<b>WasteLocate:</b> online system to monitor the transport and management of waste tyres and asbestos waste in NSW and allow information gathering to better target enforcement and compliance activities	Ongoing	
NSW	<b>Research and review:</b> 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	<b>Waste tracking:</b> Adoption of waste tracking system by December 2017	In progress	
NT	<b>Review of Environmental Legislation:</b> includes review of licensing and fees relating to asbestos waste. Completion expected 2020	In progress	
SA	<b>Proactive interventions on illegal removal, dumping and transport of asbestos:</b> targeted initiatives to prevent illegal dumping	Ongoing	
SA	<b>Waste transport and storage:</b> targeted compliance campaign on asbestos waste transporters utilising unauthorised waste depots	In progress	
WA	<b>Department of Water and Environment:</b> 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	<b>Department of Water and Environment:</b> unmixed asbestos not subject to landfill levy at metropolitan landfills in WA	Ongoing	
WA	<b>Department of Water and Environment fact sheet:</b> requirements of Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004 relating to asbestos waste	Complete	
VIC	<b>Illegal Waste Disposal Strikeforce Program:</b> resources and mandate to understand and minimise the impacts of illegal waste disposal, including asbestos waste. Program runs until June 2018	In progress	
NSW	<b>Verification programme on the management of asbestos in waste facilities:</b> joint verification programme ("Under Wraps") between SafeWork NSW and EPA NSW on the management of asbestos in waste facilities	Complete	
VIC	<b>Regulation 12 of the Victorian Environment Protection (Scheduled Premises) Regulations (general exemption relating to waste):</b> amended to allow for temporary storage of asbestos without requiring a works approval or licence (under scheduled category A01), subject to conditions	Complete	
SA	<b>Collaborative arrangement with EPA:</b> Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place for collaborative arrangements between Safework SA and EPA SA	Ongoing	
SA	<b>New legislation:</b> enactment of Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016	Complete	

## NSP 2 – SUPPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

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

Status: Significant progress underway

Progress made in 2016-17

Total activities

2015-16: 28  
2016-17: 30  
Increase of: 8%



Activities completed

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 importation of ACMs is a perpetual goal, requiring ongoing effort each year.

Outlook for 2017-18

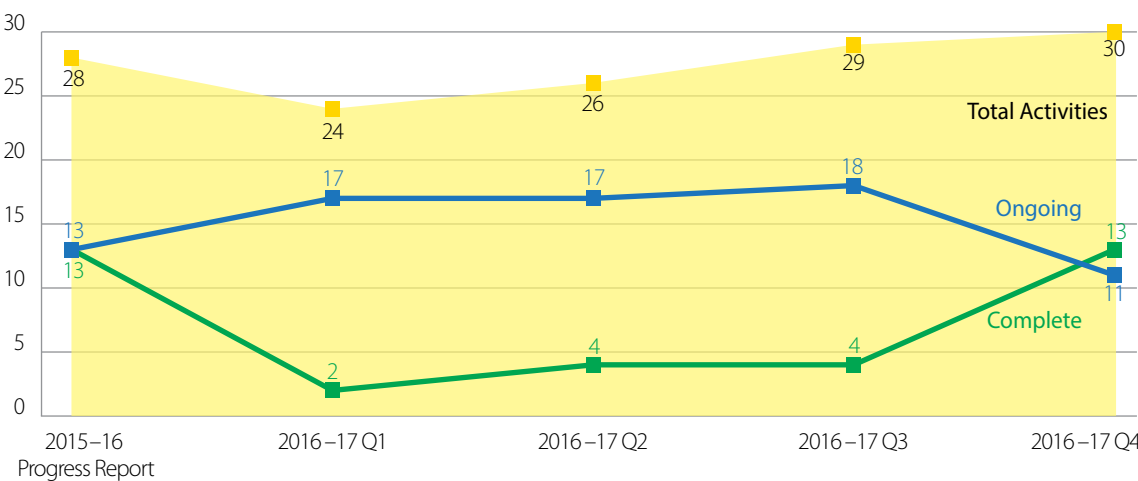
Ongoing activities

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.

Figure 5: Trend analysis by quarter over 2016-17 for activities reported under the identification strategy of the plan



NSP 3 – IDENTIFICATION

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

Deliverable			Assessment
D3.1 Review current practices with the aim of developing: ➤ 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			Significant progress underway
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
ASEA	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
ACT	Asbestos Removal Taskforce collaboration with industry for asbestos management: asbestos management plans for ACT Mr Fluffy residences	In progress	
ASEA	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	



Deliverable			Assessment
D3.2 Review building and infrastructure data to estimate likely presence of ACMs			Significant progress underway
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
VIC	<b>Victorian Asbestos Eradication Agency:</b> established Victorian government agency to target and prioritise removal of asbestos across government buildings	Complete	O3.4 Estimated total presence of ACMs in the built environment is available
VIC	<b>Data Collection:</b> 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	<b>Asbestos management projects:</b> Defence asbestos surveys delivered to inform remaining ACM in Department of Defence estate	Ongoing	
Deliverable			Assessment
D3.3 Pilot residential ACM identification tools and strategies with local government partners			Significant progress underway
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
ASEA	<b>Asbestos content reports:</b> reviewed the use of asbestos content reports in various jurisdictions to identify consumer understanding in the residential sector	Complete	O3.5 Improved practice in the residential sector to identify and minimise the risk of exposure, in particular for DIY home renovators
NSW	<b>Householders' Asbestos Disposal Scheme:</b> delivered NSW disposal scheme to make it easier to dispose of household ACM waste - ongoing subject to evaluation	Complete	
WA	<b>Workshops to local government:</b> Local Government Area workshops delivered to support local government ACM management	Ongoing	
WA	<b>Identification app:</b> 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.			Significant progress underway
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
All jurisdictions	<b>HWSA Imported Materials with Asbestos Working Group</b>	Ongoing	O3.6 Effective coordinated response when ACMs in imported materials are identified
Commonwealth	<b>Factsheets for importers:</b> to raise awareness and explain the border requirements for assurance that goods do not contain asbestos - Department of Immigration and Border Protection	Complete	
Commonwealth	<b>Targeted outreach of international suppliers and governments:</b> raise awareness of Australia's prohibition on the importation of asbestos - Department of Immigration and Border Protection	Ongoing	
Commonwealth	<b>Asbestos Importation Review:</b> independent (and internal) review of DIBP's management of Australia's asbestos border control	Complete	
Commonwealth	<b>Enhanced risk profiling:</b> to better target goods at risk of containing asbestos - Department of Immigration and Border Protection	Ongoing	
ASEA	<b>Identification and promotion of strategies to reduce the risk of imported material containing asbestos:</b> Industry engagement and evaluation to raise awareness of import risks	Ongoing	
Commonwealth	<b>Asbestos Interdepartmental Committee (IDC):</b> 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	<b>Intelligence led and targeted testing of consumer products that may cause injury or illness because they contain asbestos:</b> Australian Competition & Consumer Commission consumer product safety	Ongoing	

## NSP 3 – SUPPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

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

# REMOVAL STRATEGY

Status: Significant progress underway

## Progress made in 2016-17

### Total activities

2015-16: 25  
2016-17: 32  
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

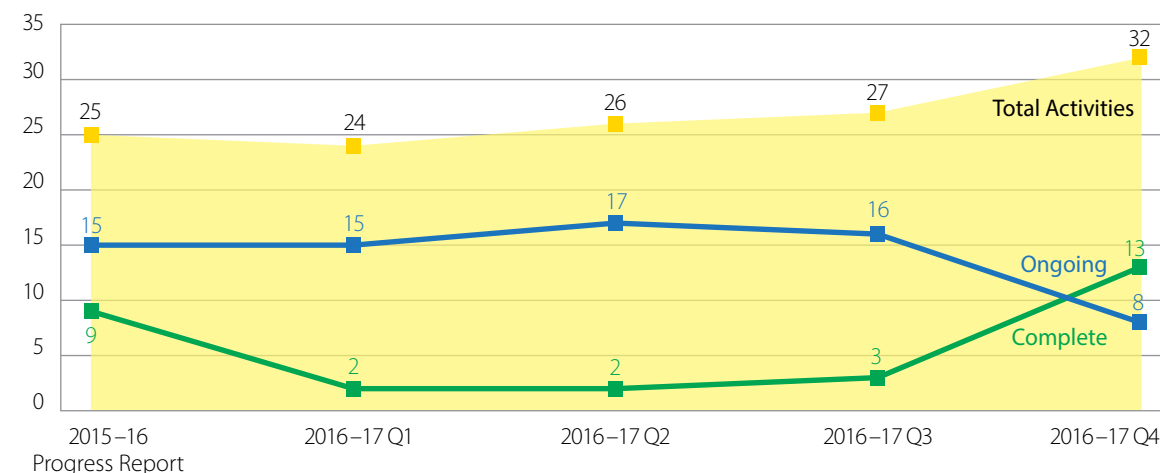
2015-16: 15  
2016-17: 13  
Stable



Fifty-nine per cent of all current removal activities will continue in to 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 safe removal in 2017-18.

Figure 6: Trend analysis by quarter over 2016-17 for activities reported under the removal strategy of the plan



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

Deliverable			Assessment
<b>D4.3</b> Conduct a review into asbestos removal infrastructure (transport, storage and disposal facilities) across Australia focusing on capacity and future risks			In progress
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
ASEA	<b>Annual review of waste disposal facilities accepting waste in Australia:</b> 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	Complete	<b>O4.3</b> Asbestos removal infrastructure can meet the future needs and demands of ageing ACMs without creating increased risk
Commonwealth	<b>Hazardous waste data and reporting:</b> 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	In progress	
Deliverable			Assessment
<b>D4.4</b> 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	Activity status	Outcome
ASEA	<b>Behavioural research to identify the choices, barriers and motivations for industry and homeowners to safely manage asbestos risks:</b> may influence positive choices that support the safe management and disposal of asbestos	Complete	<b>O4.4</b> 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
ASEA	<b>Asbestos risk management practices in remote Indigenous communities:</b> consultation and evidence coordination of asbestos risk management practices in remote Indigenous communities	Complete	
ASEA	<b>Local government consultation and research:</b> on promoting effective community asbestos management, removal and disposal	Complete	
ASEA	<b>Asbestos in water pipes identification, removal and management:</b> research management, remediation and replacement options for asbestos in water pipes infrastructure	Complete	
ASEA	<b>Age of remaining ACMs and what is its useful product life:</b> literature review to inform policies, and business and homeowner removal decisions	Complete	
ACT	<b>Buy back of houses of entirely bonded asbestos sheeting:</b> buy back scheme for properties of bonded asbestos	Complete	
QLD	<b>Pilot scheme on disposal options for homeowners needing to dispose of small quantities of asbestos waste:</b> improved access to asbestos waste disposal facilities and reducing illegal dumping	In progress	
WA	<b>WA Health Roofs strategy:</b> 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	In progress	

Deliverable			Assessment
<b>D4.5</b> 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	Activity status	Outcome
ASEA	<b>Consultation to inform research on the future of work and implications for asbestos related industries:</b> research agenda includes a review of the risks and benefits of a prioritised removal program	In progress	<b>O4.4</b> 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
Commonwealth	<b>Department of Environment:</b> project on waste levy harmonisation including the development of a case study on asbestos to examine pooled funding from a potential asbestos waste level to fund removal, management and safe disposal of ACMs to be completed in 2017-18	In progress	
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	In progress	
ASEA	Commissioning research to better understand the economic impact of asbestos-related diseases in Australia	Complete	

## NSP 4 – SUPPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

Outcome		
<b>O4.1</b> Priority actions identified support removal of ACMs in poor condition		
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status
SA	<b>Construction initiatives:</b> deliver proactive initiatives on major construction projects to reduce ACM risks, and presented information to construction companies on compliance with demolition/refurbishment asbestos surveys during National Safe Work Month 2016	Complete
Outcome		
<b>O4.4</b> 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	Activity	Activity status
WA	<b>Improved identification of ACM pre-demolition:</b> asbestos surveys required pre-demolition	Ongoing

Status: Significant progress underway

Progress made in 2016-17

Total activities

2015-16: 13  
2016-17: 12  
Decrease of 1, stable



Activities completed

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

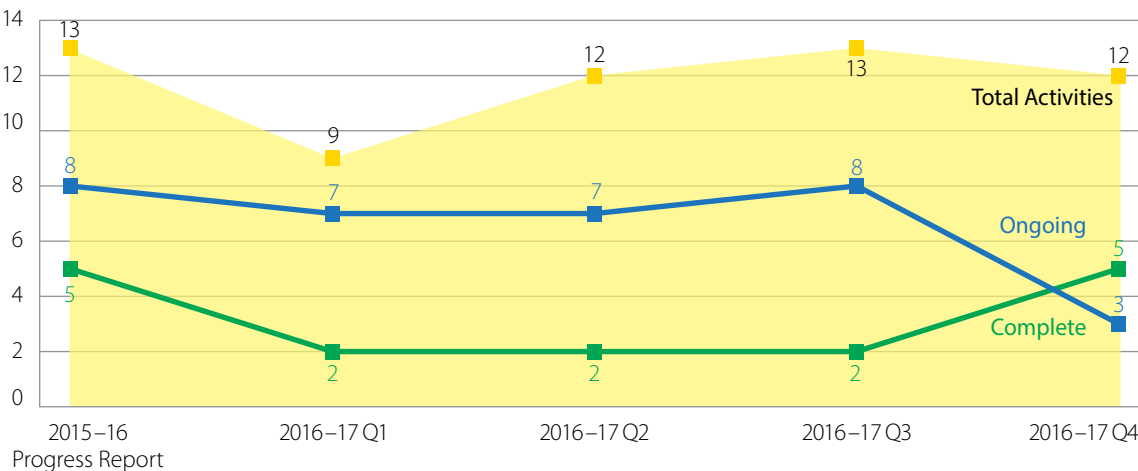
Ongoing activities

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			Assessment
D5.1 Identify key national and international research and reports to enable better sharing of information to inform policy and best practice			Complete
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
ASEA	<b>National Asbestos Profile:</b> provide a point in time measure of the amount and impact of asbestos in Australia	Complete	O5.1 Coordination of key research supports evidence informed policy and practice
NSW	<b>Research - hazard issues:</b> improve knowledge of emerging asbestos hazard issues, exposure levels and recommend practical controls	Complete	
NSW	<b>Research - future risks:</b> 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	<b>Research on exposure risk:</b> disseminated research on sources of exposure risk in the Australian community (remote communities, illegal dumping, grey literature, and fibre release)	In progress	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	<b>Evaluation of the effective approaches to raise asbestos awareness in trade training students:</b> to improve skills and knowledge of at risk occupational cohorts through new workers	Complete	
ASEA	<b>Reviewing sustainable approaches to community support for victims of asbestos-related disease:</b> research about how to provide effective support services	Complete	
ACT	<b>Research - long term effects of loose-fill asbestos:</b> research on impact living within a Mr Fluffy property	Complete	
Commonwealth	<b>Australia Mesothelioma Registry (AMR):</b> management of the contract for the Australian Mesothelioma Registry	Ongoing	
NSW	<b>Research - provide epidemiological/research studies:</b> commissioned research studies and report on trends and risk profiles	Complete	
WA	<b>Department of Health:</b> research commissioned on high risk groups for mesothelioma	In progress	



NSP 5 – SUPPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

Outcome		
O5.1 Coordination of key research supports evidence informed policy and practice		
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status
All jurisdictions	<b>Australian Mesothelioma Register review:</b> working group led by Safework Australia focusing on the collection and evaluation of the usefulness of asbestos exposure information	In progress
ASEA	<b>National Asbestos Exposure Register:</b> manage and promote the National Asbestos Exposure Register (NAER) and publish first report on the NAER report analysis	Ongoing
Outcome		
O5.2 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	<b>Defence Asbestos Evaluation Exposure Scheme (DAEES):</b> assisting people who have been exposed to asbestos	Ongoing



# > INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP STRATEGY

Status: Significant progress underway

## Progress made in 2016-17

### Total activities

2015-16: 5  
2016-17: 6  
Increase of 1, stable



### Activities completed

2015-16: 1  
2016-17: 2  
Increase of 1, stable



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

### Ongoing activities

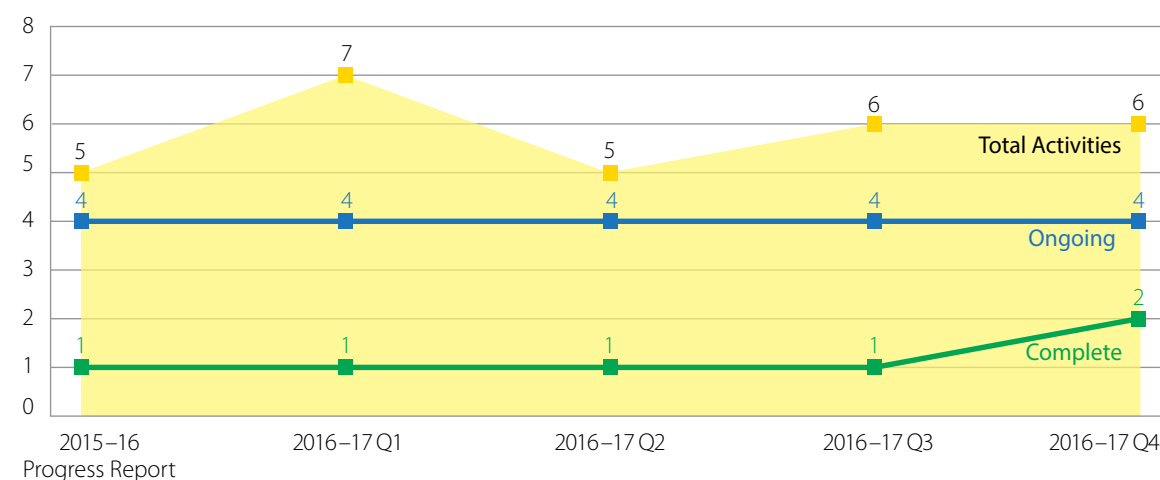
2015-16: 4  
2016-17: 4  
Stable



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.

Figure 8: Trend analysis by quarter over 2016-17 for activities reported under the international leadership strategy of the plan



## 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			Assessment
D6.1 Pursue opportunities for improvements in international arrangements for asbestos awareness, management and a global ban on asbestos mining and manufacturing			Significant progress underway
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
Commonwealth	<b>Support of the listing of chrysotile in the Rotterdam Convention:</b> 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	<b>Supporting international asbestos bans:</b> 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			Assessment
D6.2 Proactively share knowledge, tools and information on best practice with other countries and relevant international organisations			Significant progress underway
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
TAS	<b>International participation:</b> 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	<b>Internationally share knowledge and information:</b> proactively share knowledge, tools and information on best practice with other countries and relevant international organisations	Ongoing	O6.3 Best practice for awareness, management and eradication of asbestos is shared internationally
ASEA	<b>International Conference:</b> planning and delivering 2016 Conference - planning for 2017 conference Note: SA Government sponsored the 3rd International Conference in November 2016	Complete	
Commonwealth	<b>Australian Aid Program:</b> 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.asbestossafety.gov.au/benchmark-survey-asbestos-awareness>

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

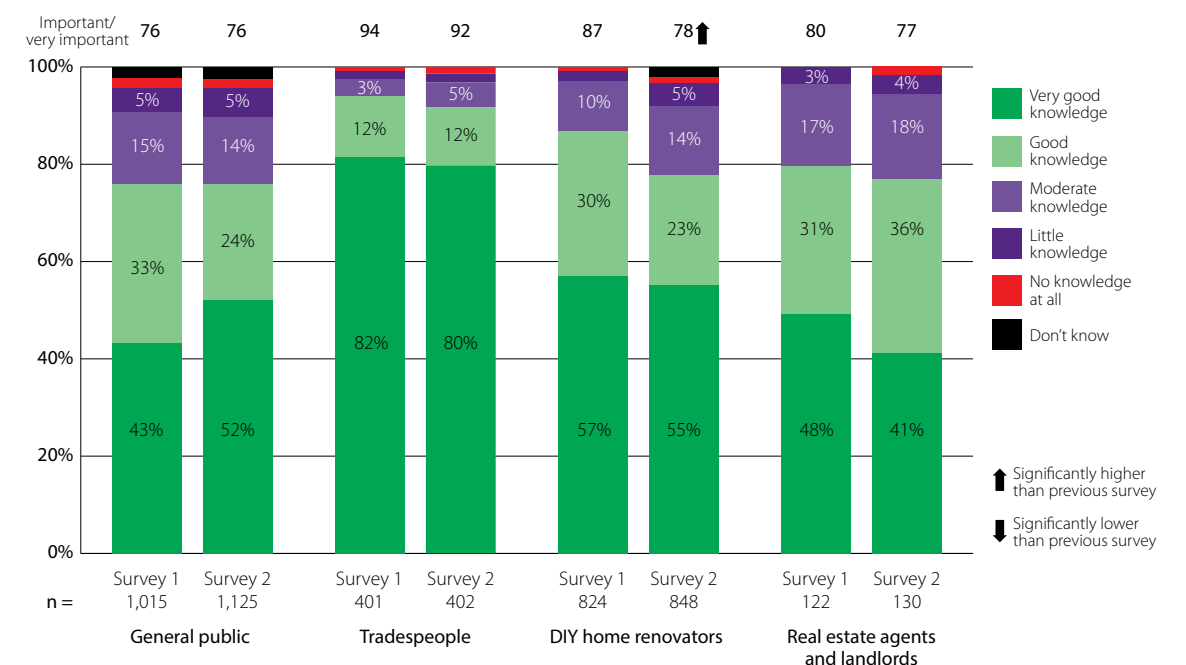
The four groups engaged in Survey 1 and Survey 2 were:

- 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 (%)

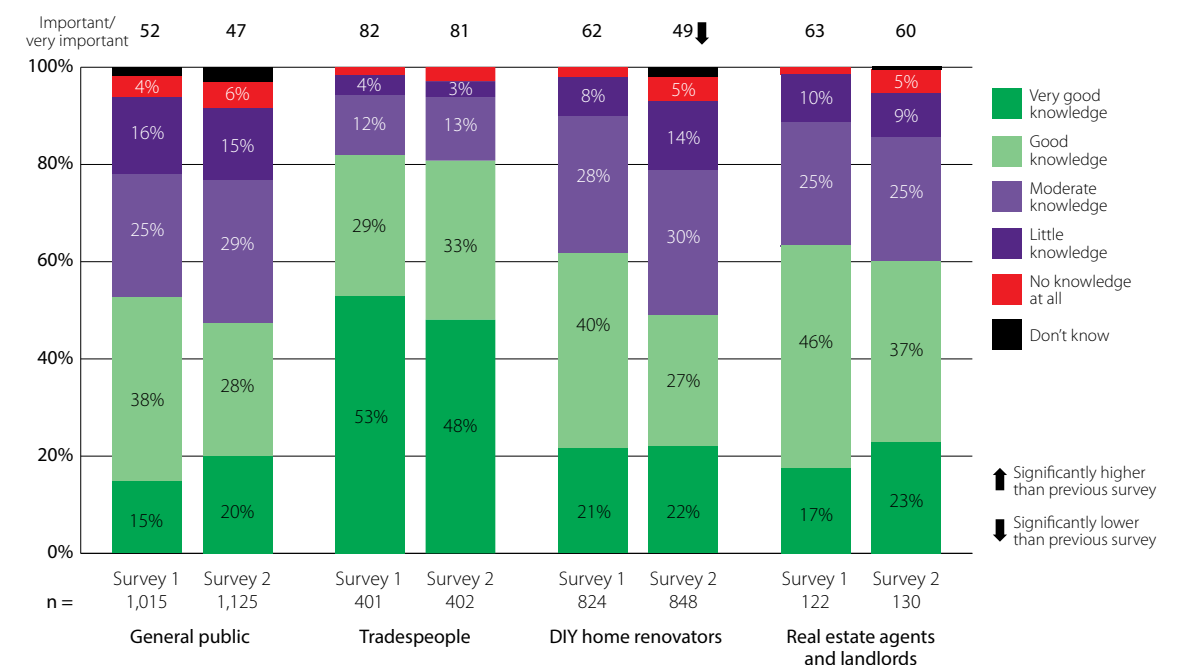


Base: All respondents see chart for segment base

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?

The perception of being informed about asbestos has softened slightly since Survey 1, see Chart 2. Fifty-two per cent in Survey 1 said they felt informed versus forty-seven per cent responding they felt informed in Survey 2.

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



Base: All respondents see chart for segment base

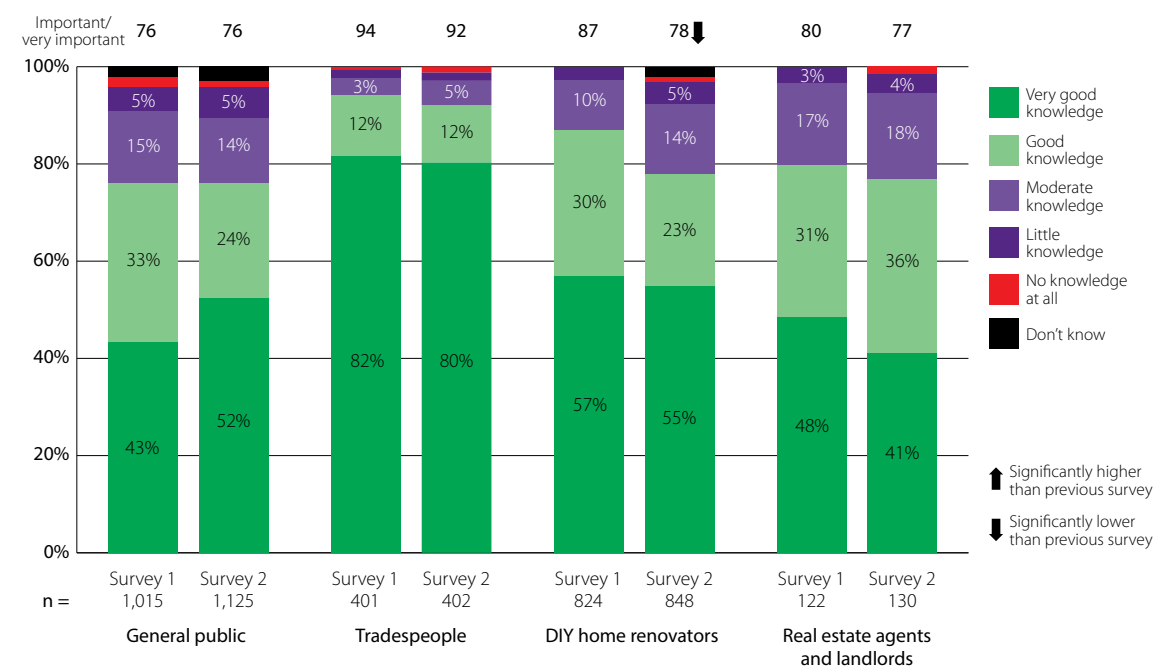
Q1. On a scale of 1-5, where 1 is not informed at all and 5 is very informed, how informed do you feel about asbestos and its related dangers?

Include don't know option. 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.

## 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

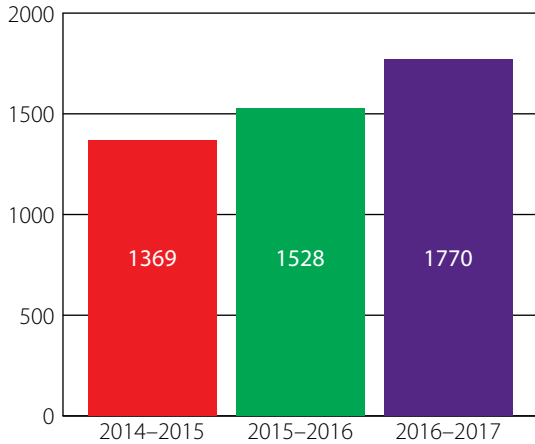
## National Asbestos Exposure Register

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

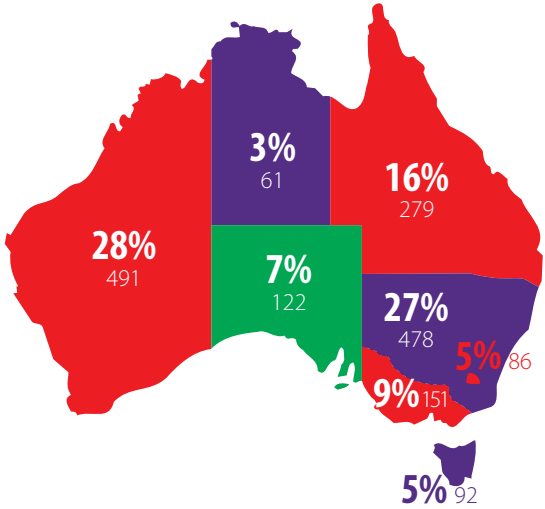
The number of people registering their details on the NAER continues to increase each year of operation, with the total number of registrations reaching 5776 from June 2013 to 30 June 2017. This may support an increasing awareness of potential asbestos exposure in the Australian community.

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.asbestossafety.gov.au](http://www.asbestossafety.gov.au)



## Removal notifications and removal quantities

### Asbestos removal notifications provided to work health and safety regulators

Asbestos removal works are notified to Work Health and Safety (WHS) regulators five days prior to the activity with the estimated amount of ACM to be removed. The only exception is Western Australia who require friable removal works to be reported seven days prior to the activity.

Since 2013-14, there has been a steady increase in the number of asbestos removal notifications being reported nationally.

Figure 11: Notification of asbestos removal (to WHS regulators)

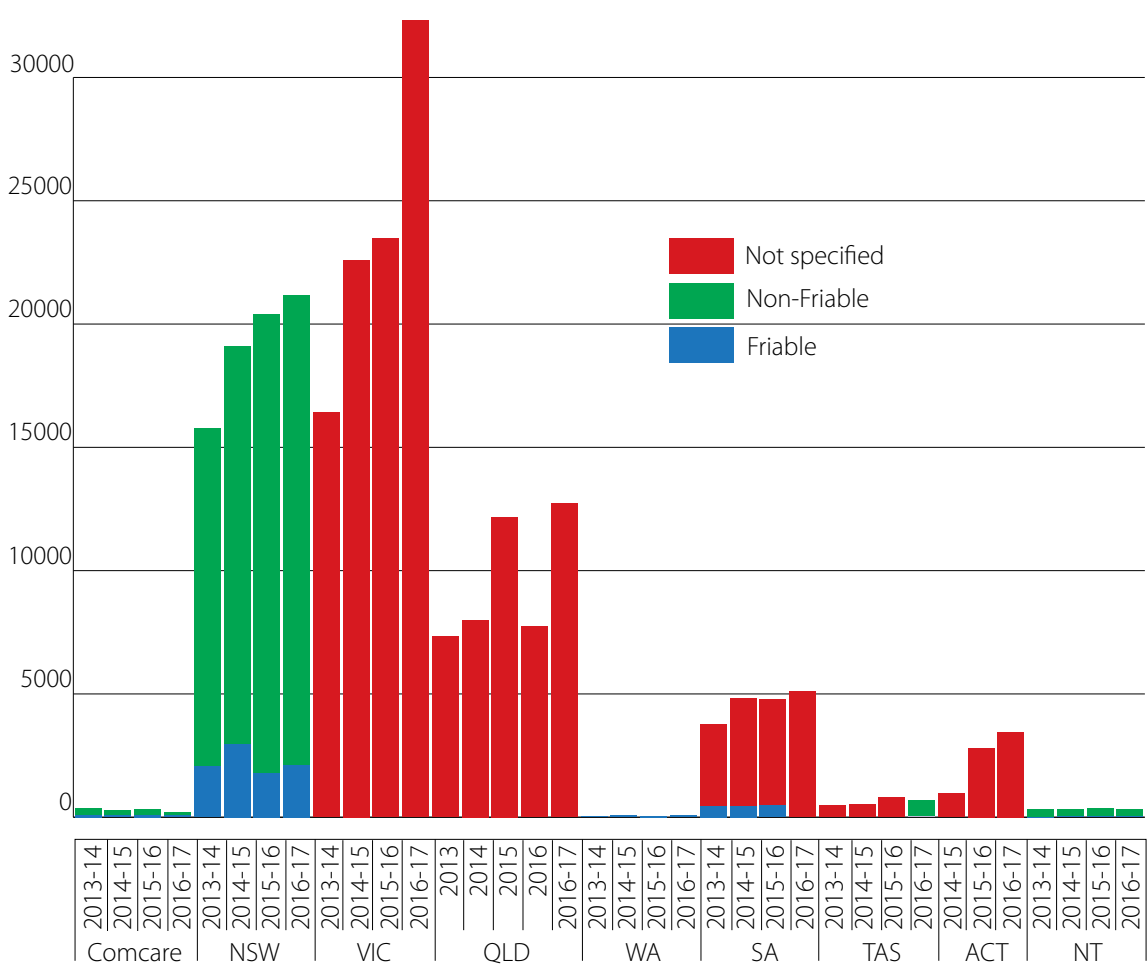


Table 1: Sum of licenced asbestos removal work notifications across all jurisdictions

This table outlines the number of notifications WHS regulators have received for asbestos removal works. Reviewing the data collected to date, there is a national trend towards increasing numbers of removal notifications.

This may reflect that the number of removal jobs is increasing or there is an improved understanding of reporting requirements by duty holders, or a combination of these factors.

Financial year, unless otherwise indicated	Number of notifications received by WHS regulators			
	Friable	Non-Friable	Not specified	Total
<b>Comcare</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>815</b>		<b>1,141</b>
2013-14	85	276		361
2014-15	66	205		271
2015-16	95	207		302
2016-17	80 (Class A)	127 (Class B)		207
<b>NSW</b>	<b>8,930</b>	<b>67,481</b>		<b>76,411</b>
2013-14	2,053	13,709		15,762
2014-15	2,963	16,124		19,087
2015-16	1,799	18,602		20,401
2016-17	2,115	19,046		21,161
<b>VIC</b>			<b>94,776</b>	<b>94,776</b>
2013-14			16,411	16,411
2014-15			22,606	22,606
2015-16			23,459	23,459
2016-17			32,300	32,300
<b>QLD</b>			<b>47,953</b>	<b>47,953</b>
2013			7,320	7,320
2014			8,002	8,002
2015			12,169	12,169
2016			7,734	7,734
2016-17			12,728	12,728
<b>WA</b>	<b>237</b>			<b>237</b>
2013-14	37			37
2014-15	63			63
2015-16	58			58
2016-17	79			79
<b>SA</b>	<b>1,389</b>	<b>11,981</b>	<b>5,093</b>	<b>18,463</b>
2013-14	464	3,305		3,769
2014-15	455	4,347		4,802
2015-16	470	4,329		4,799
2016-17			5,093	5,093
<b>TAS</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>1,781</b>	<b>2,474</b>
2013-14			465	465
2014-15			508	508
2015-16			808	808
2016-17	38 (Class A)	655 (Class B)		693
<b>ACT</b>			<b>7,231</b>	<b>7,231</b>
2014-15			961	961
2015-16			2,813	2,813
2016-17			3,457	3,457
<b>NT</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>1,207</b>		<b>1,303</b>
2013-14	13	288		301
<b>2014-15</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>287</b>		<b>315</b>
2015-16	30	338		368
2016-17	25	294		319
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,016</b>	<b>82,139</b>	<b>156,834</b>	<b>249,989</b>

**Table 2:** Quantity of asbestos removed (where available)

There are currently no uniform requirements on how asbestos removal notification data is provided across jurisdictions. Asbestos removalists provide information on the quantity of asbestos to be removed in a wide range of formats (including metres squared, cubic metres, tonnes, bags, skips) and amounts are generally estimated. The development of a more consistent process for collating and reporting removal notification data would improve the ability to monitor and analyse removal patterns and trends.

Data suggests the number of removal jobs are increasing, however the quantity is not necessarily increasing. More consistent guidance in this area would improve the possibility of analysis and understanding of removal trends in Australia.

\*WorkSafe ACT’s notification form requires the licensed asbestos removal company to provide an estimate of the square metreage of asbestos containing material to be removed. This information is not aggregated and serves only as an estimate. The amount of asbestos containing material removed in practice is not quantified by WorkSafe ACT.

\*\* As notified by duty holders – As duty holders have flexibility in how they specify the estimated quantity of asbestos being removed, there are other formats specified (for example bags, doors, gaskets, unspecified number of sheets). The figures estimated for 2015 do not include asbestos specified in other formats

\*\*\*Complete data not provided – estimate

Jurisdiction	Financial year, unless otherwise indicated	Type	Estimated quantity removed m <sup>2</sup>	Estimated quantity removed m <sup>3</sup>	Estimated quantity removed tonnes
Comcare	2013-14	Friable	112512		
	2014-15	Friable	450849		
	2015-16	Friable	234175		
	2016-17	Friable	Data not captured		
	2013-14	Non-friable	1401539		
	2014-15	Non-friable	200147		
	2015-16	Non-friable	122483		
NSW	2016-17	Non-friable	Data not captured		
	2013 (Oct-Dec)	Friable	58205		25647
	2014	Friable	269067		110978
	2015	Friable	354682		702878
	2016	Friable	269798		1164947
	2017 (Jan – Sep)	Friable	385405		2021497
	2013 (Oct-Dec)	Non-friable	497158		NA
	2014	Non-friable	2012713		NA
	2015	Non-friable	2206443		Plus 153 tonnes
VIC	2016	Non-friable	2663338		NA
	2017 (Jan – Sep)	Non-friable	2822598		NA
	2013-14	Friable		13810	
	2014-15	Friable		121580	
	2015-16	Friable		16571	
	2016-17	Friable		61663	
	2013-14	Non-friable	1076366		
	2014-15	Non-friable	1132570		
QLD	2015-16	Non-friable	1238793		
	2016-17	Non-friable	1176926		
	2015**	Not-specified	1138000	55800	177330
WA	2016***	Not-specified	1114000		
	2016-17	Not specified	1036759	6416	1127.54
SA	2016-17	NA			
	2013-14	Friable	19794		
	2014-15	Friable	35688		
	2015-16	Friable	28710		
	2016-17	Friable	34580		
	2013-14	Non-friable	387621		
	2014-15	Non-friable	464511		
	2015-16	Non-friable	421903		
TAS	2016-17	Non-friable	424,440		
	2016-17	Friable	9556		
	2016-17	Non-friable	66491		
ACT	2015	Friable & Non-friable			13.74
	2016	Friable & Non-friable			16.26
	2016-17	NA*			
NT	2016-17	Not specified			5889.33

Asbestos disposal data

- Waste disposal data indicates more asbestos waste has been reported in 2016-17 than any previous year that data has been collected in Australia.
- This supports the trend that our ageing asbestos legacy is now a waste stream challenge, with the levels of asbestos waste likely to continue rising.
- Some data limitations are noted and there is a need to ensure accurate and consistent reporting of waste data to support a nationally coordinated approach to asbestos.

Asbestos waste disposal data is tracked by environment protection authorities.State and territory governments capture data on asbestos contaminated waste from their tracking systems for hazardous wastes and/ or reports from licensed landfill operators. Data was provided by these governments, some directly and some from historical submissions to the Australian Government for inclusion in its annual report under *The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal*.

In considering the data, the following issues should be understood:

1. Hazardous waste tracking systems are maintained primarily to enable checking of transport certificates and operators in the event of suspected illicit activity. Many thousands of records are collected each year. They are infrequently collated, and gaps or even errors may not be readily recognised or followed up.<sup>3</sup>
2. The extent of contamination before waste is deemed ‘asbestos contaminated’ may differ between jurisdictions. NSW appears to take a particularly risk-averse position, which may partially explain its generation of high volumes of asbestos contaminated waste.
3. Some asbestos contaminated waste may be excluded from this record, including
  - domestic or smaller loads, which, in some jurisdictions, do not need to be tracked
  - soil contaminated with asbestos, which could potentially be reported as ‘contaminated soil’ rather than ‘asbestos contaminated waste’
  - waste from natural disasters.

4. Waste may be reported in volumetric units, requiring conversion to weight. *The Australian Hazardous Waste Data and Reporting Standard* applies an assumed average density of 0.8 tonnes per cubic metre<sup>5</sup>. Some states and territories may apply a different assumed density. Victoria, in particular, applies a uniform density assumption of 1 tonne per cubic metre to all prescribed wastes including asbestos.

Tonnages and trends

Quantities of asbestos contaminated waste generated in 2016-17 are presented by state and territory in Table 1. Longer term annual trend data is shown in tonnes in Figure 1 and in kilograms per capita in Figure 2. Almost invariably, the fate of waste asbestos is disposal in landfill.

Four of the six reporting jurisdictions produced more asbestos in 2016-17 than in any previous year for which data is available. Only in SA and the NT did quantities decline. Notably, the ACT produced over 200,000 tonnes of asbestos waste, equivalent to about half a tonne per person, from the demolition and disposal of ‘Mr Fluffy’ dwellings. NSW generated over 675,000 tonnes, the highest of any state in any year for which data is available. The collated quantity from the reporting jurisdictions exceeded a million tonnes for the first time.

Figures 1 and 2 show that quantities vary significantly between years and jurisdictions. Spikes are often associated with particular large development projects. NSW usually produces the most asbestos contaminated waste in total as well as per person. In the most recent year, the ACT generated by far the most asbestos contaminated waste per person. Overall, a rising trend is apparent.

<sup>3</sup>In relation to Queensland’s 2014-15 data, in particular, *Hazardous Waste in Australia 2017*<sup>4</sup> observed that about 400,000 tonnes of the reported transactions were “recorded as greater than 50m³ each – which is not physically possible for a truck to carry”. Incorrect selection of units is likely in many of these cases. Subtracting this quantity would bring the figure down to about 130,000 tonnes, similar to the 2012-13 figure. No such subtraction has occurred in the figures presented below.

<sup>4</sup> See page 123. Document available from <http://www.environment.gov.au/protection/publications/hazardous-waste-australia-2017>

<sup>5</sup> See Appendix E. Document available from <http://www.environment.gov.au/protection/national-waste-policy/publications/australian-hazardous-waste-data-reporting-standard>

## SECTION 3 –CASE STUDIES

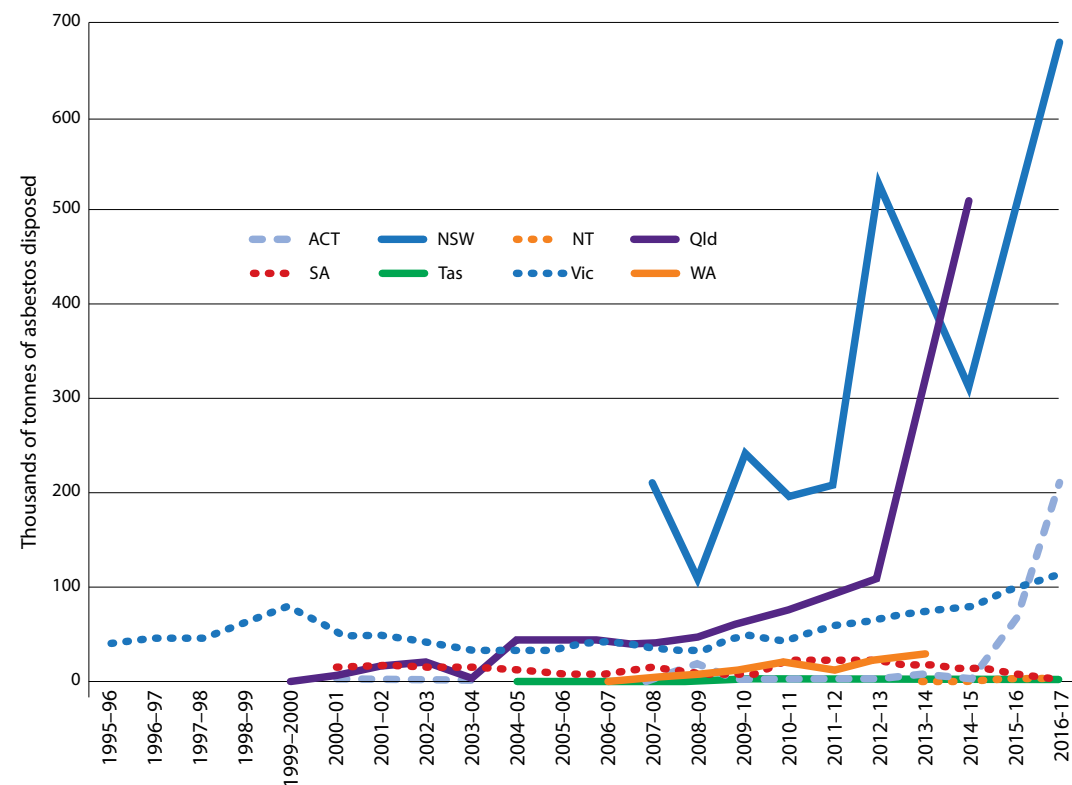
**Table 3:** Quantities of asbestos contaminated waste generated by jurisdiction, 2016-17 (tonnes)

ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA
208,474	675,396	5,913	No report <sup>6</sup>	4,383	15,228	118,626	No report <sup>7</sup>

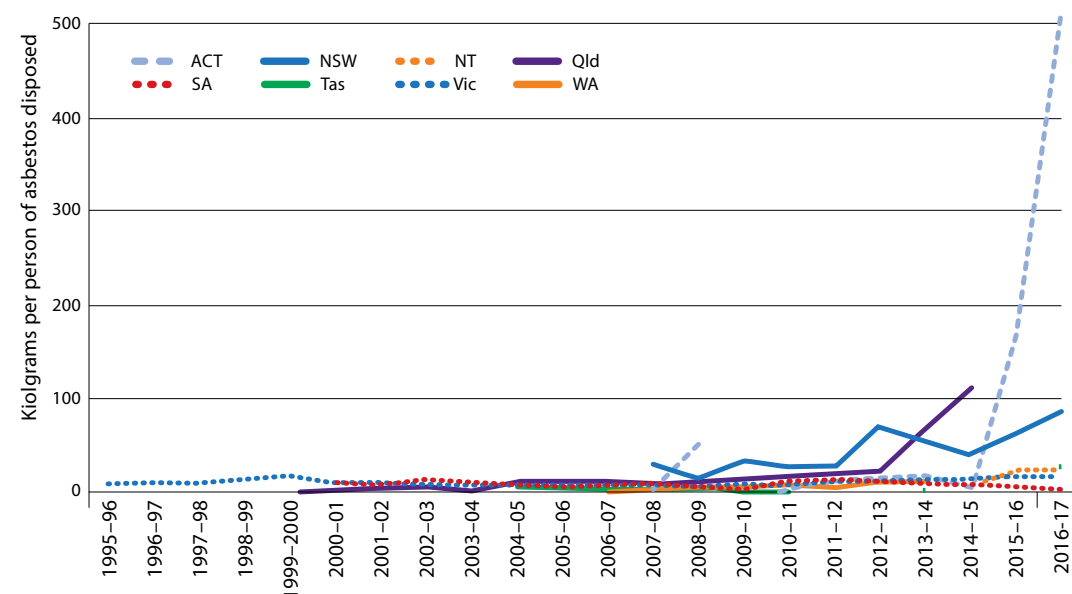
<sup>6</sup> A response was not received in time for inclusion in this data set.

<sup>7</sup> A response was not received due to concerns over the confidentiality provisions in the relevant WA legislation.

**Figure 13:** Quantities of asbestos contaminated waste generated by jurisdiction and year (kilograms per person)



**Figure 2:** Quantities of asbestos contaminated waste generated by jurisdiction and year (kilograms per person)



This chapter presents case studies for specific projects. These case studies have been developed showing a variety of approaches to asbestos management and awareness across Australia. This section shows the depth of work being undertaken by governments in Australia working towards the outcomes of the National Strategic Plan.

### STRATEGY

#### Australian Government

Cox Peninsula remediation **REMOVAL**

#### NSW Government

Protecting NSW residents and communities from loose-fill asbestos insulation **REMOVAL**

Betty – driving home the dangers of asbestos **AWARENESS**

#### Victorian Government

Victorian Government Building Asbestos Register **IDENTIFICATION**

#### Queensland Government

Implementation of a dedicated state-wide asbestos unit within WHSQ **BEST PRACTICE**

#### Western Australian Government

Development and validation of an asbestos identification app **IDENTIFICATION**

Asbestos Cement Roof Removal Strategy **REMOVAL**

Collection, treatment and disposal of asbestos and bituminous coated pipes **REMOVAL**

#### South Australian Government

Asbestos removal notification data moves online **BEST PRACTICE**

#### Tasmanian Government

Asbestos Awareness Campaign **AWARENESS**

#### ACT Government

ACT Asbestos Health Study **RESEARCH**

Loose-fill Asbestos Eradication Scheme update **REMOVAL**

## Cox Peninsula remediation

Link to the National Strategic Plan:

**Strategy:**  
Removal

**Deliverable:**  
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

**Outcome:**  
Options to remove asbestos in poor condition are practical, evidence-based and targeted towards sources of asbestos-related disease

**Location:**  
Northern Territory, Cox Peninsula

### The issue

The Australian Government owns several parcels of land on the Cox Peninsula that have been used for over 70 years for maritime, communications and defence purposes. A range of contaminants, including asbestos were present at the site and the Commonwealth committed to remediate the land and return the land to a similar condition, as best as possible, to that prior to its maritime use. This included removal of all buildings, communication towers and infrastructure, remediation of several tip sites across the land and protection of Indigenous and European heritage sites.

### Action taken

Initially, environmental consultants undertook extensive sampling on the contamination covering approximately 1,000 locations. All samples were analysed by NATA accredited laboratories with the overall site assessment works overseen by an independent Site Auditor. It was estimated that approximately 28,000 m<sup>3</sup> of contaminated material was present and a remediation plan was developed.

The remediation plan for the site involved several phases:

- the demolition and removal of existing structures, including recycling of waste where possible
- treatment of soils containing Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) and pesticides via a thermal desorption unit
- placement of ACMs and other inert wastes, including materials currently stored within shipping containers on site, into an engineered containment cell
- rehabilitation of the remediated areas and ongoing monitoring of the containment cell.

The majority of the areas will be remediated to an open space land environmental use standard, meaning the land will be returned to its natural state without any residual contaminants. The former Radio Australia Transmitter Station, where the containment cell is located, will be remediated to a commercial / industrial land environmental use standard.

The asbestos management program for the Cox Peninsula was undertaken over a 12-month period from March 2016 to March 2017. A permanent containment cell was constructed on the site to encapsulate the contaminated materials measuring approximately 100 metres by 100 metres in size, and to a depth of up to 8 metres. Before excavation works began, redundant underground cables, including some asbestos pipes, were excavated and removed. The area was excavated below ground and the base was lined with low permeability membranes. A collection system was installed to collect liquid that may leach out of the waste over time. Only inert materials were deposited in the cell, meaning very small quantities of leachate are likely to be generated. The containment cell was designed to mitigate leachate generation and to minimise leachate escaping. Once the containment cell was filled, a cap was constructed over the top of the cell to encapsulate the material. The cap consisted of a low permeability membrane and a clay layer. The cell was then covered with some of the clean soil that was initially excavated to construct the cell.

### Results

The decision to remediate the Cox Peninsula was driven by the need to protect the local community from potential exposure to hazardous materials and to meet the requirements of an Indigenous Land Claim requiring the Commonwealth to hand back the land in a condition that was suitable for use by the local indigenous communities and potential future development. There was strong community and political support to fund what was ultimately a large remediation project. The benefits to the community through reduced risk and the return of land to its traditional owners was deemed to justify the required investment in the project.

### Outcomes

The project presented a range of challenges, most notably the working conditions for contractors and meeting the expectations of stakeholders, including the traditional landowners who will progressively receive the land as localised areas of contamination are remediated. During the works, stringent measures

to monitor and protect the health of site workers and the local environment were adopted. Approximately 100,000 work hours were completed on the project, with no lost time injury recorded. In addition, the project was subject to several independent safety and environmental audits.

One major challenge experienced during the project was the high level of mixed contaminants within the soils excavated from some of the tip sites. The project plan was to treat this soil for PCB and pesticide contamination using a direct thermal desorption unit. However, this was not possible for some of the tip soils due to the high level of asbestos present that would have introduced exposure risks.

Equally, the levels of PCB and pesticide contamination meant that the soil was also not appropriate for encapsulation within the containment cell that had been constructed. The most suitable method of management for this material was disposal to the City of Darwin's Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility, which had appropriate containment facilities.

### Next steps

Site works at Cox Peninsula were completed ahead of schedule by March 2017. Following project completion, the Commonwealth (through the Department of Finance) will be responsible for the initial phase of site monitoring and groundwater testing to validate the remediation of the land and the performance of the containment cell. The land will be managed by the Commonwealth in accordance with the Site Management Plans throughout 2017-18.

Once Environmental Site Auditor approval has been obtained, the land will be ready for transfer to the Traditional Owners as part of the Kenbi land claim.



Figure 14: Concept diagram of containment cell liner and cap

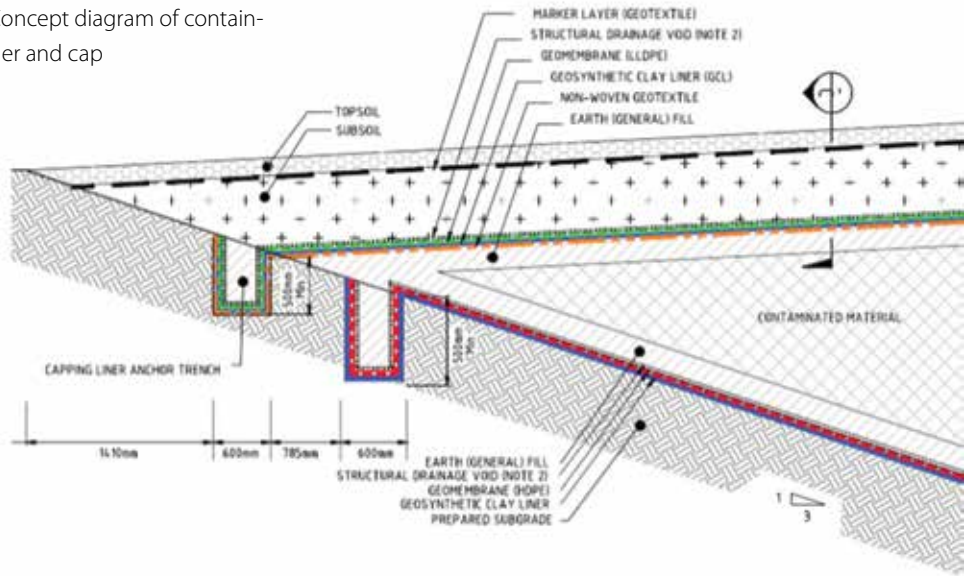


Figure 15: Original Communications Station



Figure 16: Removal of buried asbestos conduit

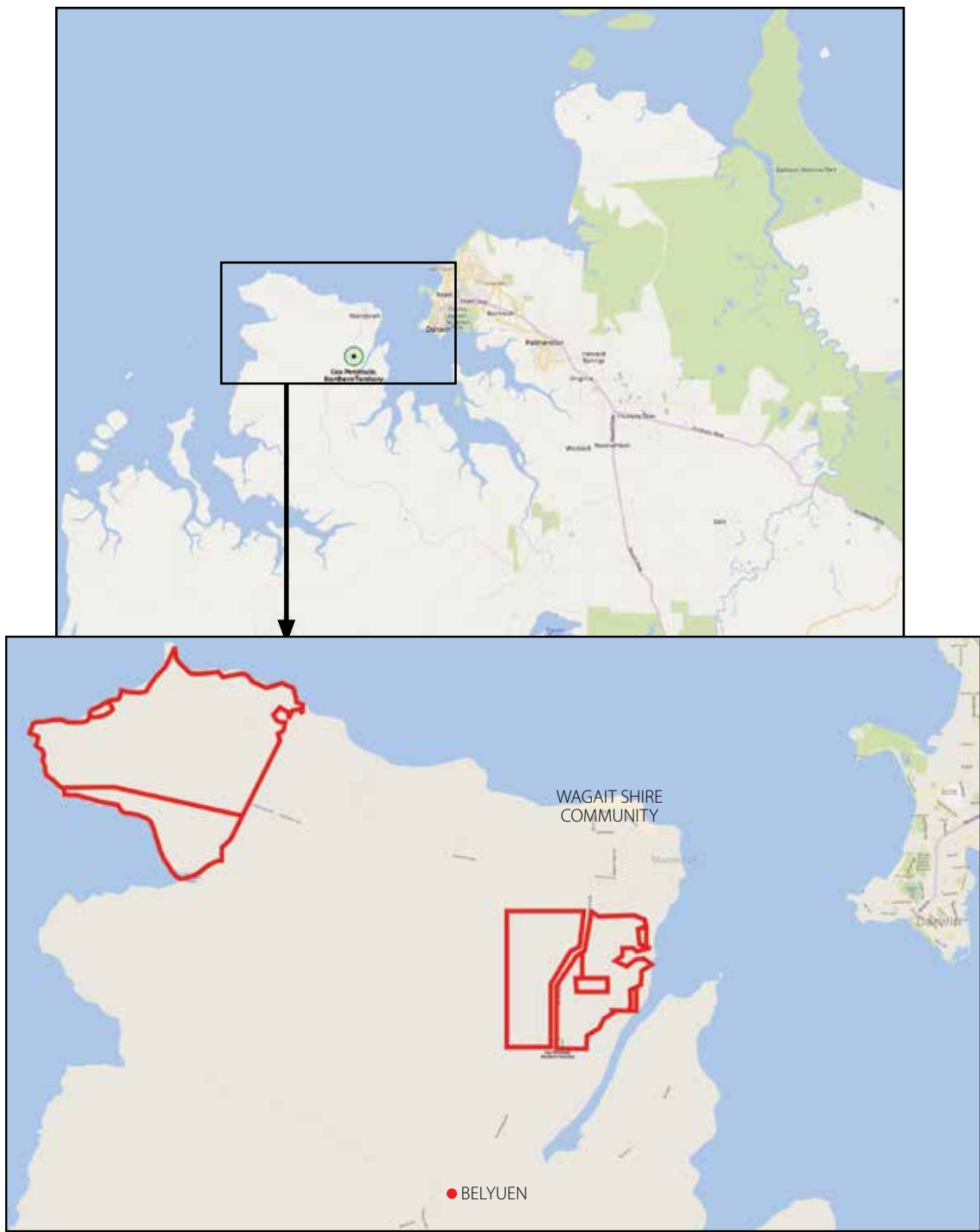


Figure 17: Commonwealth-owned areas of Cox Peninsula indicated in red

## Protecting NSW residents and communities from loose-fill asbestos insulation

Link to the National Strategic Plan:

**Strategy:**  
Removal

**Deliverable:**

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

**Outcome:**

Options to remove asbestos in poor condition are practical, evidence-based and targeted towards sources of asbestos-related disease

**Location:**

NSW, statewide

### The issue

In 2015, the NSW Government launched the Voluntary Purchase and Demolition Program to address the issue of loose-fill asbestos insulation in NSW residential homes. The program and its associated assistance package is designed to provide safety, certainty and support for NSW residents by locating and remediating properties affected by loose-fill asbestos insulation. The Loose-fill Asbestos Implementation Taskforce manages the program.

One of the key challenges of the Program is to raise community awareness sufficiently to fully engage with potentially affected homeowners in identified local government areas. Success also depends on gaining sufficient trust among affected homeowners for them to elect to have the government test their properties and, if found to be affected by loose-fill asbestos insulation, purchase their property at market value, demolish the premises and remediate the land.

The delivery of the program also relies on employing rigorous work, health and safety standards at each phase of work, particularly in the sample testing of properties, asbestos removal and demolition activities.

The NSW Government also introduced a number of new laws to identify properties affected by loose-fill asbestos insulation and to protect residents, workers and communities.

### Action taken

A key action for the first phase of the program was to drive homeowner registration for free sample testing through community awareness and engagement. This was achieved by implementing a comprehensive, targeted advertising campaign, complemented by direct marketing and local community engagement.

As registrations commenced, the program concurrently commenced sample testing of residential properties for loose-fill asbestos insulation. The sample testing inspections are being prioritised to focus on identified local government areas (LGAs) where the likelihood of properties containing loose-fill asbestos insulation is highest. Licenced asbestos assessors who are industry experts in the identification and assessment of friable loose-fill asbestos insulation carried out the testing.

As at 30 June 2017, 139 properties had been identified under the Voluntary Purchase and Demolition Program, where 85 owners elected to have the NSW Government purchase the premises and land, and 28 elected to have the NSW Government purchase the premises only.

Dedicated case managers work closely with homeowners and tenants, supporting them through the process of acquisition, demolition and remediation. In addition to the purchase of the affected premises at market value, financial assistance payments are extended to these homeowners to help ease their financial burden. The program also partnered with the Council of the Ageing (COTA) to provide additional support to affected homeowners who can explore housing options applicable to their personal situation.

In December 2016, the Program commenced the demolition phase in identified 'hot spot' LGAs, starting in Queanbeyan. Working jointly with Public Works

Advisory, a total of 14 affected residential premises across different LGAs were demolished and the sites successfully remediated by 30 June 2017.

Demolition of the properties allows these sites to be removed from the publicly available Loose-fill Asbestos Insulation Register. The register has also been promoted extensively to the wider community, particularly local councils, emergency services personnel, real estate professionals and licensed builders and tradespeople.

### Results

The taskforce is now delivering all stages of the program including registration, testing, acquisition, demolition and remediation.

As at 30 June 2017, the taskforce achieved the following milestones:

- over 90,000 registrations were received, of which 70,000 meet eligibility criteria
- 38,053 sample inspection tests had been conducted
- 139 properties were identified as containing loose-fill asbestos insulation
- 80 affected properties purchased were acquired by the NSW Government
- 368 financial assistance payments were made
- 14 properties have been successfully demolished and remediated.

### Outcomes

The program has successfully demolished and remediated 14 properties in two of the LGAs with the highest number of properties affected by loose-fill asbestos insulation. These properties have been removed from the Loose-fill Asbestos Insulation Public Register and safely handed back to the community.

### Next steps

- The program has reopened registrations for testing in some areas in response to feedback from homeowners who did not previously register. These homeowners were encouraged to register after hearing about the positive experience

affected homeowners had while participating in the program.

- Engagement with stakeholders, community and homeowners remain a priority for the program.
- Sample testing of properties is continuing across NSW, including those with identified roof access issues (for example no man-hole, flat or cathedral roof types).
- The acquisition, demolition and remediation of properties is also continuing, particularly in the most affected areas.
- The taskforce will maintain focus on ensuring the health and safety of all Program stakeholders.

### More information

Loose-fill Asbestos Implementation Taskforce:  
[www.loosefillasbestos.nsw.gov.au](http://www.loosefillasbestos.nsw.gov.au)

Figure 18: Encapsulated premises



Figure 19: Remediated site





## “Betty”- Driving home the dangers of asbestos: A portable model house displaying where asbestos can be found in the home

Link to the National Strategic Plan:

**Strategy:**  
Awareness

**Outcome:**  
Increased community awareness of the risks posed by asbestos and its impact on the health of the community

**Location:**  
NSW, statewide

### The issue

One in three Australian homes contains asbestos in some form or another. With the popularity of renovator lifestyle television programs spurring a boom in DIY and home renovations, together with a lack of community understanding of the types of ACMs that remain in homes, a strategic, practical education program aimed to address the need for practical asbestos education was required

### Action taken

The Heads of Asbestos Coordination Authorities (HACA) determined that an education resource was needed -that was big, portable, practical, safe, accurate and engaging - to advance awareness of asbestos. They aimed to achieve practical consumer learning, deliver potentially life-saving messages to communities and to drive traffic to [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au).

Extensive research and development was undertaken in the design and construction of a portable model house, ensuring it would be more than a moving billboard and become a world-first experiential communication tool. Purpose built, “Betty” the portable model house, demonstrates the many and various product types and locations where asbestos might be found in homes to educate homeowners about ACMs in homes, provide easily digestible information on safe practices, and engage stakeholders and media to drive traffic to the website.

Betty is driven, manned and maintained by dedicated, trained volunteers Geoff and Karen Wicks. Since Betty was launched in November 2012 she has toured extensively throughout NSW to deliver her vital message to thousands of homeowners in hundreds of communities and has appeared at Sydney’s Royal Easter Show twice and been the feature of industry, trade, life-style, community and local government events in multiple regions around the state.

During Betty’s tours of duty there is extensive media activity around her appearances. To date, Betty has travelled more than 50,000 kilometres and conducted extensive community and media engagement tours throughout NSW, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory.

### Results

- during Betty tours, daily website visits increase up to 193%
- Betty consistently drives over one-third of annual traffic to [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au)
- outside Asbestos Awareness Month, Betty is the primary resource driving website traffic
- Betty has exhibited at 207 health and community events, toured to 177 communities and conducted media events in the majority of these locations
- Betty has distributed more than 130,000 brochures and 50,000 magnets and branded tape measures
- • Betty has engaged with 144 Councils, over 7,000 renovation students and 4,000 conference delegates and appeared at 65 Bunnings stores engaging DIY renovators and trades people

As demand and booking requests increased, to address the issues of availability, the Betty virtual tour ‘Asbestos in Your Home’ was launched to deliver online global access to Betty’s message.

### Outcomes

In addition to engaging members of the community in a practical learning style, Betty effectively garners media coverage reaching into Australian homes and driving increased online education in every community she visits.

What makes Betty so effective is that she delivers serious, life-saving messages in an educational, creative,

non-threatening format that engages communities, stakeholders, media outlets, health, government and international asbestos awareness advocates.

Betty is a novel approach to a serious issue that has exceeded expectations in delivering practical learning experiences to hundreds-of-thousands of Australians, while leveraging stakeholders and media to increase traffic to [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au) and engage broader audiences in online education.

### Next steps

Betty is set to tour Western NSW and Tasmania during Asbestos Awareness Month in November 2017 and will continue her community awareness and education program throughout NSW in 2018.

### More information

[www.asbestosawareness.com.au](http://www.asbestosawareness.com.au)

Watch Betty in action: <https://vimeo.com/80178222>



Figure 20: Betty in Orange NSW

Figure 21: Betty



## Victorian Government Building Asbestos Register

Link to the National Strategic Plan:

**Strategy:**  
Identification

**Deliverable:**  
Review building and infrastructure data to estimate likely presence of ACMs

**Outcome:**  
Estimated total presence of ACMs in the built environment is available

**Location:**  
Victoria, statewide

### The issue

On 31 December 2016, the Victorian government established the Victorian Asbestos Eradication Agency (VAEA) to plan for the prioritised removal of asbestos from Victorian government-owned buildings.

VAEA's specific functions are to:

- develop the Victorian Government Building Asbestos Register to record the location and condition of asbestos in relevant buildings
- construct the Victorian Government Asbestos Risk Assessment Model to analyse the risk of exposure to identified asbestos
- produce the Schedule for the Prioritised Removal of Asbestos to plan for the removal of identified asbestos hazards
- report its recommendations to the Victorian Government.

The agency's first report is due in December 2018. Thereafter VAEA will report annually to the government on the progress of removal. The reporting cycle will ensure a consistent, risk-based approach across government to the assessment, removal and management of ACMs in Victorian Government buildings now and into the future.

### Action taken

In its first six months of operation, VAEA has established its governance and management systems, developed protocols to support its functions and operation, and worked collaboratively with over 400 government departments, agencies and public sector bodies to:

- provide stakeholders with clear advice and ongoing information about its work
- design the Victorian Government Building Asbestos Register

- standardise ACMs related terminology to ensure consistency in the data collected on the type, condition and location of ACMs
- tailor building data from state asset registers to each portfolio.

Having commenced data collection across the Victorian public sector, the agency is now developing its risk assessment methodology.

### Results

The Victorian Government Building Asbestos Register will improve how the government identifies and manages ACMs. By building upon information already contained in workplace asbestos registers, this centralised register will:

- furnish the government with a sector-wide understanding of the presence and condition of ACMs in government buildings
- inform the agency's risk-based approach to its analysis of building data
- underpin a plan for prioritised asbestos removal that will minimise asbestos risks by targeting hazardous asbestos.

### Outcomes

With the development of the Victorian Government Building Asbestos Register, the VAEA has devised the tools it needs to implement and deliver on phase one of its project.

### Next steps

For the remainder of 2017, the agency will continue collecting available data from public sector bodies and enter that data into the newly established Victorian Government Building Asbestos Register.

In 2018, VAEA will continue to provide input into the implementation of the National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness 2014–18 through its work on the Victorian Government Asbestos Risk Assessment Model and the Schedule for the Prioritised Removal of Asbestos.

The agency's removal schedule is aligned to the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency's strategic outcomes and deliverables as VAEA will:

- review the potential risks and benefits of a prioritised removal program to safely remove ACMs in government-owned buildings
- propose practical, evidence-based options to remove ACMs in poor condition
- consider how the asbestos removal infrastructure will be able to meet the requirements of prioritised removal and the future needs/demands of ageing ACMs without creating increased risk
- estimate the realistic capacity and achievable rate for the safe removal of ACMs.

By the time VAEA reports to the Minister for Finance in December 2018, it will have supported the Victorian government's commitment to the National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness 2014–18 by meeting five deliverables and six outcomes within two key strategies.





## Implementation of a dedicated state-wide asbestos unit within Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

Link to the National Strategic Plan:

**Strategy:**

Best practice

**Deliverable:**

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

**Outcome:**

Evidence-based best practice to minimise risks in targeted areas

**Location:**

Queensland, statewide

### Introduction

In 2010, Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) established a dedicated Asbestos Unit that was staffed with three asbestos technical experts. In 2017, staff levels in the unit were increased by five staff in order to, amongst other things, target investigation of poorly performing asbestos licence holders, to target selected asbestos regulatory prosecutions, to oversee high profile and high risk events such as the removal of asbestos debris arising from the use of high pressure water and to oversee the management and removal of imported asbestos containing materials. To ensure interventions by the unit are based upon rigorous occupational principles, the unit is led by the Chief Advisor Asbestos and Occupational Hygiene who has completed a PhD in the area of dusts, fibres and particles. The unit employs inspectors with technical expertise regarding asbestos and compliance processes.

### Action taken

The following are the key priorities of the Asbestos Unit:

#### 1. Assessment of work practices of current asbestos removal licence holders

The unit is undertaking a review of the compliance history of all Queensland licensed asbestos removalists.

#### 2. Rapid response following importation of materials containing asbestos

Imported materials containing asbestos continue to find their way into the Australian and Queensland supply chain. The Australian Government is reviewing border protection mechanisms to prevent such imports. In the interim, WHSQ is notified of imports of materials containing asbestos via the Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities (HWSA) Asbestos Importation Working Group. Such notification triggers the national Rapid Response Protocol and the operational aspects of this, such as assessment of the material and statutory direction in relation to risk management and removal. The unit coordinates these responses.

#### 3. Target high-risk asbestos related regulatory offences

To ensure that high-risk events associated with non-licensed asbestos work are comprehensively investigated and considered for either regulatory infringement or prosecution, the Principal Inspectors from the unit utilise a 'mobile' team approach. This involves a comprehensive investigation of high-risk events, including: where licensed quantities of asbestos were removed without the required licence; a building or structure was demolished without first removing asbestos; high-pressure water was used on asbestos containing material; and asbestos related waste has not been disposed of appropriately.

#### 4. Rapid intervention regarding high profile and risk events such as asbestos debris caused by high-pressure water

Each year in Queensland, there are approximately five events involving the use of high-pressure water to clean an asbestos roof occur, causing a high risk of exposure to the resultant asbestos debris. To ensure appropriately skilled and time-resourced staff are mobilised, staff from the unit carry out the oversight of the clean-up of asbestos debris caused by use of high-pressure water.

### Results and outcomes

A review of the compliance history of all Queensland licensed asbestos removalists has identified a number of licence holders who consistently demonstrate poor asbestos removal practices. These licence holders have been escalated for comprehensive audit by the unit. The comprehensive audit may recommend that operators need to 'show cause' as to why the licence should not be conditioned, suspended or cancelled.

The involvement of the unit in the HWSA Asbestos Importation Working Group has been working effectively. Information regarding imported asbestos containing materials has been shared between jurisdictions following the activation of the Rapid Response Protocol.

The initiatives and priorities of the dedicated unit are regularly reviewed and assessed to ensure they are effective and appropriately managing asbestos issues across Queensland.

### Next steps

The expansion of the dedicated unit within WHSQ has only recently occurred. The resourcing and work of the Asbestos Unit will be regularly assessed and reviewed to ensure it is meeting its objectives.

## Development and validation of an asbestos identification app

Link to the National Strategic Plan:

**Strategy:**  
Identification

**Deliverable:**  
Pilot residential ACM identification tools and strategies with local government partners

**Outcome:**  
Improved practice in the residential sector to identify and minimise the risk of exposure, in particular for DIY home renovators

**Location:**  
Western Australia, statewide

### The issue

There is generally a lack of knowledge and awareness in the community about asbestos identification and its safe management in residential settings. The amount and condition of in situ ACMs remaining in Western Australian housing stock is not known. Therefore, the Western Australia Department of Health aimed to develop and validate a mobile application ('app') that can be used by householders, tradespeople and environmental health officers to screen the home for the presence of in situ asbestos.

### Action taken

A mobile app, called 'ACM Check', was developed to identify and assess the condition of in situ ACMs located in residential settings. The app was first built on the iOS platform and tested on a sample of 40 pre-1990 homes located throughout the Perth metropolitan area. The results obtained from ACM Check were compared to onsite inspections conducted at each of the homes by an environmental consultant. The results of the inspection were used to validate the results obtained by ACM Check. Feedback regarding the app was collected from each of the 40 participants through an online questionnaire.

### Results

The app identifies potential ACMs through a questionnaire that asks the user simple questions about the age of the house, renovation history and key features of the building materials used. Based on the answers, the app determines if a material is unlikely, possible or likely to contain asbestos. Users rate the current condition and likelihood of disturbing materials that are determined to be possible or likely ACM via the app.

Overall, there was strong agreement between the app and environmental consultant when categorising a house as having in situ asbestos present on the property. The strength of agreement between the app and environmental consultant ranged from low to high when categorising specific materials as unlikely, possible or likely ACM. Based on the feedback, participants were either 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied' with the ease-of-use, look and feel, and time it took to complete the app.

### Outcomes

The iOS version of ACM Check app was updated based on participant feedback from the validation study before being replicated on Android. Both versions were released to the Australian public in June 2017 and are now available for free from the App Store and Google Play.

### Next steps

Data from completed ACM Check questionnaires is currently being collected from consenting users. The data will be analysed and used by Curtin University researchers to estimate the amount and condition of ACMs in Western Australian housing.

### More Information

Further information can be found at <http://healthsciences.curtin.edu.au/schools-and-departments/public-health/research/research-projects/acm-check-asbestos/>

The ACM Check app can be downloaded from the following:

App Store <https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/acm-check/id1124047076?mt=8>

Google Play <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=au.com.rhpi.acmcheck&hl=en>

## Asbestos Cement Roof Removal Strategy

Link to the National Strategic Plan:

**Strategy:**  
Removal

**Deliverable:**  
Investigate the barriers to the safe removal of ACM from Government, commercial and residential properties and develop policy options to support the removal of asbestos in poor condition

**Outcome:**  
Identification of the barriers and obstacles for timely and safe asbestos cement roof removal and disposal in the residential sector

**Location:**  
Western Australia, statewide

### The issue

Asbestos cement roofs were installed between the 1940's and 1980's throughout Western Australia. They are now increasingly deteriorating and coming to the end of their useful life. As asbestos cement roofs deteriorate they release asbestos fibres into the environment. As they age they become more brittle increasing the risk of falls and the complexity of intact sheet removal. Asbestos cement roofs can cause considerable contamination as a result of fires, non-compliant removal practices, and illegal dumping.

Until now, advice for asbestos cement products has been to maintain them if they are in good condition and remove them if they are starting to deteriorate. However, older roofs are increasingly difficult to maintain or restore to good condition and some roof maintenance, such as harsh cleaning of moss and lichen, may lead to further damage and the spread of contamination.

It is clear that many, and eventually all, asbestos cement roofs need to be removed. The Department of Health Western Australia is increasingly providing advice or direction to building owners recommending removal over maintenance of existing asbestos cement roofs.

However, there are a number of obstacles to the safe removal and replacement of asbestos cement roofs, relating mostly to cost and a poor understanding of the legislative removal and disposal processes. The aim of the asbestos roofs project is to identify the obstacles for the removal of these products in the residential environment and investigate strategies to overcome these.

### Action taken

Current and proposed activities by the Western Australia Department of Health under the asbestos cement removal strategy include:

- consultation with local governments and relevant regulatory agencies about the costs and management of asbestos disposal.
- a review of the total costs of removal, disposal and replacement of an existing asbestos cement roof, as compared with replacing other types of roofs
- the development of a discussion paper on possible incentives, education needs and possible regulatory requirements for the removal of asbestos roofs

### Outcomes/next steps

This project is currently being undertaken in Western Australia but it is expected the findings will be relevant to other jurisdictions.

### More information

<http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/~media/Files/Corporate/general%20documents/Asbestos/PDF/GuidanceNoteonAsbestosCementRoofs20162%201.ashx>



Figure 22: ACM corrugated roofing



Figure 23: Narrow corrugated AC roof cladding



## Collection, treatment and disposal of asbestos and bituminous coated pipes

Link to the National Strategic Plan:

**Strategy:**  
Removal

**Deliverable:**  
Pilot residential ACM identification tools and strategies with local government partners

**Outcome:**  
Improved practice in the residential sector to identify and minimise the risk of exposure, in particular for DIY home renovators

**Location:**  
Western Australia, statewide

### The issue

Water supply pipelines installed throughout Western Australia in the 1960s and 1970s were coated in a bituminous material containing asbestos and other contaminants.

In 2016, Western Australia Water Corporation launched a project to collect, treat and dispose of significant quantities of the asbestos coal tar coated pipes and manage impacts from the pipes that had been removed from the network and stored throughout the State.

Contractors were engaged to identify a treatment solution that safely removed the contaminant product from the mild steel cement lined (MSCL) pipes and diverted the pipe product from landfill to a centralised storage facility for processing.

A custom-made treatment facility was developed to remove personnel from the treatment process and uses high pressure water to remove and contain the contaminant product for further processing and disposal.

### Action taken

#### Pipe collection

More than 11 kilometres of pipe was collected from more than 60 locations state wide and stored at a dedicated facility. The collection included a comprehensive evaluation and classification program and regulator, community and stakeholder engagement.

#### Processing facility

A contractor was engaged to develop an innovative treatment solution resulting in:

- securing a suitable site to store the pipe and establish a customised pipe handling and stripping plant.
- storage and operating licences issued by the Department of Environmental Regulation
- development of an enclosed remotely operated pipe coating stripping plant utilising high-pressure water.
- monitoring processes including air sampling, acoustic surveys and controlled waste sampling and analysis.

- filtration of water used in processing for asbestos, Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) and Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) in the waste stream.

### Licensing and regulatory considerations

The licencing process considered not only the asbestos management but also other contaminants such as PAHs and PCBs that were detected in the asbestos pipe coating.

### Results

The project resulted in a custom built facility dedicated to the storage and processing of asbestos and bituminous-coated pipes, with potential application to other contaminant coated products.

It is expected the project will be completed in late 2017 with initial feedback indicating:

- safe stripping of pipes was achieved without personnel involvement and with minimal environmental impact
- diversion of pipe product from waste stream was achieved
- management of 60 sites across the State
- reduction of impacts associated with asbestos coal tar coated out of service pipes.

### Outcomes

Contaminated pipe was removed and recovered from more than 60 areas of Western Australia, including removal of asbestos impacts.

The project resulted in development and licensing of a new treatment plant and contaminant product was removed and verified for reuse/ diversion from landfill.

### Next steps

The processing and treatment program for identified pipes will be completed and consideration will be given to ongoing management of waste materials impacted by coating.



**Figure 24 and 25:** The redundant pipes were in varying states of degradation



**Figure 26:** The treatment plant removes personnel manual labour and utilises water pressure to remove the coating from the pipes, supporting pipe reuse or recycling and diverting waste from landfill.



## Asbestos removal notification data moves online

Link to the National Strategic Plan:

**Strategy:**

**Best Practice**

**Deliverable:**

Identify opportunities to share best practice for initiatives related to the safe management of asbestos such as licencing, education, training and home renovations where ACMs may be present

**Outcome:**

Evidence based best practice to minimise risks in targeted areas

**Location:**

South Australia, statewide

### The issue

SafeWork SA undertook an initiative to streamline the collection of asbestos removal notification data and other documents that were required to be provided to the work health and safety regulator.

An online portal was developed to eliminate the administrative burden and delays for asbestos removalists as a result of processing hard copy forms, including notification forms, clearance certificates and waste transport certification.

### Action taken

To launch the new online portal, SafeWork SA provided asbestos removalists with a unique user name, password and training. The online notification portal aims to make the notification process as streamlined and user-friendly as possible, and ensures all mandatory information is provided.

Asbestos removalists have the option to select an air monitoring company or a licensed asbestos assessor to comply with the regulatory requirement of air

monitoring (In South Australia, air monitoring is also required for class B asbestos removal work). This detail is also collected in the new online notification portal.

Once notification is completed via the portal, the removalist cannot amend the information provided. A dedicated asbestos removalist email address was created for correspondence with licence holders where they can notify of any changes to allow SafeWork SA to monitor amendments and ensure compliance. To further monitor compliance, the clearance certificate must be uploaded within five days and the waste transport certificate uploaded within 14 days of job completion. This process ensures asbestos waste is being disposed of correctly.

### Results

Moving the notification process to an online solution has allowed removalists to lodge an application at any time that is convenient to them. It also removes the costs of postage or the inconvenience of having to visit a Customer Service Centre during opening hours to lodge the paperwork.

The notifications portal allows licence conditions for asbestos removalists to be easily monitored and the data collected to be widely utilised. Proactive inspections by SafeWork SA inspectors can be targeted and inspectors can review information prior to attending an asbestos complaint. A greater understanding of where asbestos is located in the community is being developed and the quantities and types of asbestos removed can be more accurately recorded. Information is also being gathered on past removals in local council areas to inform future activities. The data is being shared with the Environment Protection Authority via a memorandum of understanding to assist its investigations and promote a collaborative effort to improve asbestos disposal practices in South Australia.

### Outcomes

The online notification portal has been positively received by licence holders in South Australia, with removalists advising they prefer the portal and dedicated email address to lodge notifications as it streamlines the process and minimises any delays in commencement of work. There is easy access to SafeWork SA's Help Centre when asbestos

removal concerns are raised by the community, minimising unnecessary inspector attendance and unnecessary job delays for the removalist.

The portal collects valuable data, including the quantities and types of asbestos removed in workplaces and residential areas, providing the ability to monitor trends and share information with other regulatory bodies.

Two class B asbestos removalists have had their licenses cancelled recently indicating the portal is a valuable tool to monitor compliance with licence conditions and regulations.

### Next steps

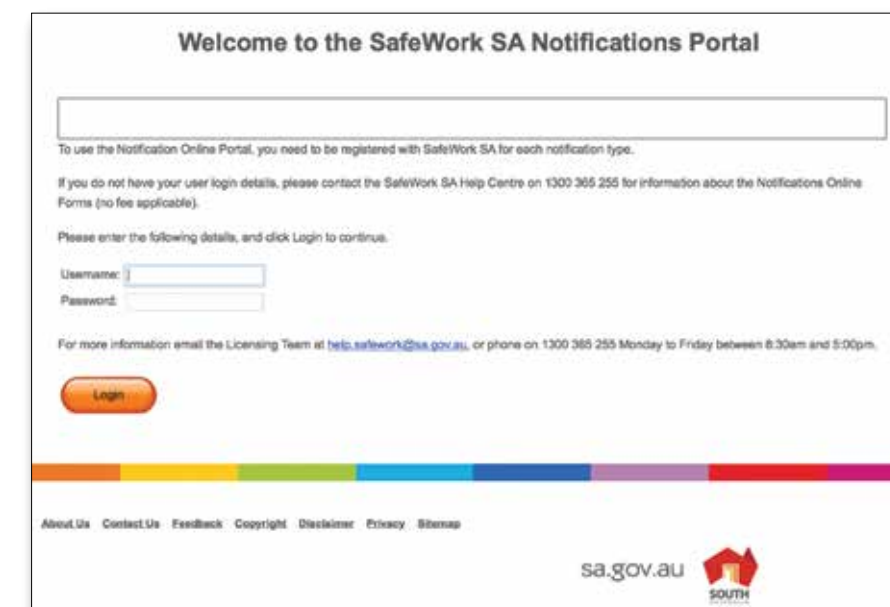
Currently the South Australian Government is developing and reviewing the state emergency plan and an issue was identified that no information was available on the location of asbestos in the suburbs. The data collected via SafeWork SA's notification portal will be used to assist identifying suburb hotspots by reviewing asbestos removal activities in the area. As more data is collected, the applications and uses of the portal will further benefit South Australia and improve disposal practices for ACMs across the state.

### More information

<https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/notif/home>



[https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/show\\_page.jsp?id=113141](https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/show_page.jsp?id=113141)



## Asbestos Awareness Campaign

Link to the National Strategic Plan:

**Strategy:**

Awareness

**Outcome:**

Increased community awareness of the risks posed by asbestos and its impact on the health of the community

**Location:**

Tasmania, statewide

### Introduction

Recent media attention has provided a distorted view of the risks of asbestos within the Tasmanian community. However it is acknowledged that raising awareness of the dangers of asbestos is still vitally significant. Exposure does not always lead to disease, but every time someone is exposed, the risk of future illness increases.

### Action taken

The WorkCover Tasmania Board through WorkSafe Tasmania and in conjunction with ASEA ran an integrated asbestos awareness campaign between 2 May and 30 June 2017.

ASEA's interest was to target the DIY home renovator audience. WorkSafe Tasmania's focus was on workplaces and tradespersons working in the home renovations space.

The campaign was developed as a pilot, to test the effectiveness of a mass media campaign to influence behaviour associated with asbestos and asbestos related products.

The broad aims of the asbestos safety campaign were to increase awareness of the dangers of asbestos, increase the adoption of safe DIY practice, and therefore reduce the chance of exposure to asbestos and subsequent health risks.

In more detail, the campaign aimed to educate targeted audiences about:

- the potential health dangers of exposure to asbestos
- the products asbestos can be found in
- knowing where asbestos is in any workplace or home being renovated
- consulting the workplace asbestos register
- getting an experienced asbestos assessor to undertake an asbestos survey
- using a licenced asbestos removalist.

Key audiences targeted were:

- tradespeople/businesses renovating residential premises
- DIY home renovators
- real estate agents
- landlords
- people under 30 years old

### Results

Deliverables of the Asbestos Awareness Campaign were paid advertisements including: broadcast, print and online media; and dedicated WorkSafe web pages ([www.worksafe.tas.gov.au/asbestos-safety](http://www.worksafe.tas.gov.au/asbestos-safety)), Facebook content ([www.facebook.com/worksafetasmania](http://www.facebook.com/worksafetasmania)) and Workplace Issues magazine feature in the June edition ([www.worksafe.tas.gov.au/resources/wpi-magazine](http://www.worksafe.tas.gov.au/resources/wpi-magazine))

### Outcomes

The campaign was successful on many fronts. Some of the key findings were:

- The campaign achieved a very high level of frequency (the number of times people saw the advertisements) across each TV network used for the advertisements. The reach across the three networks was around 60 per cent of the total available audience which is a very substantial result.

- DIY home renovators were more likely to take action than tradespeople. The main positive actions DIY home renovators took were to look for asbestos assessor/removalist (43 per cent) and access the WorkSafe website or Helpline (14 per cent equally). 'Increased awareness' was high in the DIY group.
- Tradespeople were more likely to recall the message 'the safest tool to use is your phone' than the DIY group.
- The DIY website page was clearly twice as popular as the trades people page. This shows the media campaign successfully targeted this audience, and got them to act on the key message which was to go to our website for information.
- Website searches were very high at the beginning of the work week, on Mondays and Tuesdays. This suggests people may have seen the ads on the weekend (the TV advertisements aired during shows on Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday nights) and looked up the website when back to work on Monday. This is a successful outcome for the campaign.
- Facebook page visits, likes and number of people engaged were consistently high during the campaign.
- Between 2 May and 30 June there were 54 asbestos related enquiries to our Helpline call centre. In comparison, between 2 April and 1 May, there were only 13 asbestos-related enquiries. Helpline numbers show that overwhelmingly, the campaign was successful at reaching the DIY target audience.

### Conclusions and implications for future work

This campaign has highlighted the success of running integrated simple messages about asbestos safety by combining workplace and DIY messages.

The central message of this campaign, the safest tool to use when dealing with asbestos (is your phone/tablet) was demonstrated to be effective in the recall

of tradespeople and the action taken by the DIY sector, showing the benefit for these target groups.

Interestingly, the DIY sector was the leading responder to helpline inquiries and the targeted DIY webpage was the second most popular web page in the campaign (after the main landing page), suggesting that there is strong appetite for greater access to information with clear and simple messages by this sector. As noted in the key findings, the DIY group were also more likely to take action following the campaign than tradespeople.

One of the targets for this campaign was to increase the use of residential asbestos surveys. Based on feedback from the asbestos professionals contacted in Tasmania, this does not appear to have had any direct impact within the evaluation time period.

This is not surprising as it is likely that it will take a longer period than the evaluation period for any changes to be identified by asbestos professionals. It may be beneficial for WorkSafe Tasmania to survey asbestos professionals in six months' time to see if any change has been identified.

The audience overview also highlights that the leading location for people accessing the web was Melbourne, with Sydney and Brisbane also featuring in the top five cities. This highlights that when people seek information about asbestos safety they do not restrict themselves to the jurisdiction of their work health and safety laws. In line with simple messaging that suits different user groups, it may also be more effective for jurisdictions to collaborate on a single campaign. This would create stronger awareness across jurisdictions, and likely be most cost effective to run.

### More information

[www.worksafe.tas.gov.au/asbestos-safety](http://www.worksafe.tas.gov.au/asbestos-safety)

## ACT Asbestos Health Study

Link to the National Strategic Plan:

**Strategy:**  
Research

**Deliverable:**  
Commission and promote research that reduces the risk of exposure to asbestos and minimises the impact of asbestos-related disease

**Outcome:**  
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

**Location:**  
ACT

### The issue

In 2015 the ACT Government responded to calls from community residents for detailed information about the potential health impacts associated with living in a property contaminated with loose fill asbestos insulation (Mr Fluffy).

Funded through the Asbestos Response Taskforce (the Taskforce) the ACT Government commissioned the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health (NCEPH) at the Australian National University (ANU) to undertake a two-year study to improve understanding of the health risks associated with Mr Fluffy loose fill asbestos insulation. The purpose of the study was to gain an additional understanding of the risk of developing mesothelioma from living in a house containing loose fill asbestos insulation.

On 21 June 2017 the NCEPH at the ANU released their final report of the ACT Asbestos Health Study.

### Action taken

The ACT Government provided funding of \$415,807 over two years to the ANU's NCEPH to support the study. Independent researchers from the NCEPH undertook the study in consultation with external cancer epidemiology experts from Sydney University and the Karolinska Institutet, Sweden. The research was overseen by a Steering Committee that included representation from ACT Health, the Taskforce, NCEPH, the NSW Chief Health Officer and other experts as required.

There were four separate stages to the study:

1. an analysis of mesothelioma rates and distribution in the ACT (September 2015)
2. focus groups held with current and recent residents of affected houses to discuss their health-related concerns (February 2016)
3. a survey looking at the likely exposure levels and health related concerns of current and recent residents (February 2017)
4. a study linking a number of data sets to estimate the risk of developing mesothelioma in current and former residents compared with the general population (June 2017).

The unique nature of asbestos exposure caused by loose fill asbestos meant that direct evidence was not available from scientific literature or from other countries about potential health risks. This study makes an important contribution to knowledge of the risks of low-level domestic exposure to loose fill asbestos.

### Results

Stage four of the study linked Medicare data, death registrations and the Australian Cancer Database to compare the incidence of mesothelioma in people who have lived in a Mr Fluffy house with the incidence in those who have not lived in a house with loose fill asbestos insulation.

The study covered the period from November 1983 to December 2013 and found around 17,000 people had lived in a Mr Fluffy house in Canberra, representing 1.7 per cent of the population.

In total, 285 current and former residents of the ACT were diagnosed with mesothelioma over the study period. Only seven of these residents had lived in a Mr Fluffy house before their mesothelioma was diagnosed.

The study found the risk of contracting mesothelioma was low, but the rate of mesothelioma in men living in Mr Fluffy homes was 2.5 times higher than in men not living in these houses. This corresponded to four extra cases of mesothelioma in male Mr Fluffy residents between 1984 and 2013 (that is, additional to the number expected to occur in this group, even if there had not been loose fill asbestos insulation installed in these houses).

There were no cases of mesothelioma in women who had lived in a Mr Fluffy affected property. On average in Australia at present, the rate of mesothelioma in females is about a fifth of that in males.

The study also found that the rate of colorectal cancer was 1.3 times higher in male Mr Fluffy residents and 1.7 times higher in female Mr Fluffy residents than the corresponding rates in residents who did not live in affected premises. These were higher than expected and might be due to unavoidable bias in the study's design.

Prostate cancer rates were also found to be 1.3 times higher in male residents of affected premises. This result was unexpected and it is uncertain whether or not it was due to asbestos exposure in the affected houses.

The elevated rates of colorectal and prostate cancers identified in the study for residents of loose fill asbestos insulation were somewhat unexpected. Other studies have found, at most, weak associations between asbestos exposure and these cancers. Study researchers suggested additional explanations for these associations should be considered, including other risk factors that were unable to be measured, such as smoking or diet, and particularly in the case of prostate cancer, people seeking screening for cancer.

Although the study found the rate of mesothelioma was higher in men who had lived in a loose fill asbestos insulation property than in men who had not, the risk of developing mesothelioma was very low even among Mr Fluffy residents.

The increased risk of mesothelioma in men living in affected properties may reflect higher exposure to loose fill asbestos through activities like entering roof spaces or doing renovations. These activities were reported more frequently by men than women in the cross sectional survey (Report 3 of the Asbestos Health Study).

Results from the study should be interpreted with care, as there was:

- no data prior to November 1983
- little information on other possible explanatory factors, such as occupational history of asbestos exposure
- statistical uncertainty due to small numbers of some cancers.

### Outcomes

The ACT Government noted the findings of the final report of the study indicating an increased risk of mesothelioma among men living in a Mr Fluffy property.

Following the release of the study, the taskforce distributed the report and advice from the Chief Health Officer on health implications to homeowners, residents and registered former residents. This correspondence advised that people concerned about their health should seek advice from a qualified medical practitioner who could provide an assessment of individual circumstances. Information on other support services available was also provided, including help for people experiencing psychological distress.

The results of the study also reinforced the need for people who continue to live in affected properties to have an asbestos management plan (AMP) prepared by a licensed asbestos assessor in place, and to make sure that any remediation work recommended in these plans is carried out. WorkSafe ACT continues to monitor compliance with AMPs in these properties.

The taskforce's personal support team continues to provide ongoing information and advice to assist homeowners experiencing psychological distress and health concerns, and to connect them with the free support services provided through community partners.

### Next steps

To enable future revisiting of the issue, the data sets are being preserved in keeping with the relevant ethics committee approval requirements.

Advice from the NCEPH and the ACT Chief Health Officer is that mesothelioma takes a long time to present, so whilst it might be useful to re-run the data linkage and analysis, this should not occur for several years.

### More information

<http://nceph.anu.edu.au/research/projects/act-asbestos-health-study>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PyLzM42e07Y&feature=youtu.be>



Figure 27: Loose fill asbestos insulation advertisement



## Loose-fill Asbestos Eradication Scheme

Link to the National Strategic Plan:

**Strategy:**  
Removal

**Deliverable:**  
Develop and conduct projects in various locations and conditions where ACMs are in poor condition or likely to cause risk to ensure removal approaches are effective

**Outcome:**  
Options to remove asbestos in poor condition are practical, evidence-based and targeted towards sources of asbestos related disease

**Location:**  
ACT

### The issue

The Asbestos Response Taskforce was established in June 2014 to deliver an enduring, coordinated, comprehensive and compassionate response to assist homeowners and their families directly affected by the legacy of loose fill asbestos insulation in the ACT. Loose fill asbestos insulation, commonly referred to as “Mr Fluffy”, was installed into approximately 1100 Canberra homes between 1968 and 1979 and comprised of pure, raw asbestos (mostly amosite but in some cases crocidolite) that was crushed and blown into the roof spaces as thermal insulation material.

The Taskforce is responsible for delivering the Loose Fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme which is the ACT Government’s commitment to eradicate the legacy of Mr Fluffy from 1,023 of Canberra’s residential homes. The taskforce engages with homeowners and tenants, neighbours, community, industry and other jurisdictions to efficiently, effectively and safely deliver the eradication scheme.

### Action taken

The ACT Government announced the formation of the taskforce, along with an emergency financial assistance package for resident owners and tenants of affected homes on 25 June 2014. The assistance comprised grants of \$10,000 per household (plus \$2,000 per dependant) for emergency accommodation and replacement of essential household items. Another key element of this emergency package was the facilitation of asbestos assessments of the properties by the Taskforce to manage market demand; ease financial costs to owners; and to ensure the Government had access to the resulting information on contamination quickly to assist policy and program design.

A key focus for the taskforce in these early stages was to support homeowners and tenants, particularly those with concerns about health, relocation and financial issues. A dedicated team was formed within the taskforce to provide personalised support and advice. The taskforce also engaged with the wider community to gather their views and inform them about Mr Fluffy Loose fill asbestos insulation, and the government’s response to the issue. A Community and Expert Reference Group made up of homeowners, industry groups and unions, and senior government officials including the Work Safety Commissioner and Chief Health Officer, was

formed to provide additional guidance and support to the taskforce. This period also saw activity from community-led groups advocating on behalf of affected owners.

In light of the Long Term Management of Loose Fill Asbestos Insulation in Canberra Homes report prepared by the Taskforce, the ACT Government reached the conclusion that demolition of all affected houses was the only enduring solution to the health risks posed to residents, visitors and workers by the continuing presence of loose fill asbestos insulation, and their attendant social, financial and practical consequences.

On 28 October 2014, the ACT Government announced the eradication scheme under which it offered to voluntarily acquire all houses affected by loose fill asbestos insulation in the ACT with the view to demolishing the affected homes and selling the remediated blocks. Delivery of the eradication scheme was supported by a \$1 billion loan to the ACT Government by the Australian Government.

The Eradication Scheme Voluntary Buyback Program commenced on 28 October 2014 and closed on 30 June 2015. On 1 July 2015, the definitive list of loose fill asbestos insulation affected homes was published for the first time and the Taskforce’s Pilot Demolition Program commenced the same week. The Indicative Demolition Schedule was first published at the end of August 2015 and has been updated and published for the fifth time on 7 July 2017. Arrangements for the sale of remediated blocks were released in September 2015 and sales of the first lot of remediated blocks occurred in April 2016.

### Results

As at 2 August 2017 – less than three years since the eradication scheme’s announcement:

- the owners of 995 of the 1,023 affected houses have agreed to participate in the eradication scheme
- 11 eligible impacted properties have been identified and all owners are participating in the Scheme
- 933 houses have been acquired (including eight of the 11 eligible impacted properties)

- 783 properties have been demolished, 764 of these through the ACT Government Demolition Program
- The ACT Government has sold 373 remediated blocks.

The last 12 months has seen a significant increase in the pace of demolitions. Demolition programming is currently indicating the bulk of the taskforce’s demolitions will be complete by the end of 2017, some six months ahead of previously revised programming. The significant progress in completion of demolition activity is primarily due to the strong working relationships established with industry, and the innovative, efficient and safe practices that have developed over time.

Safety remains the key consideration for the taskforce during asbestos removal and demolition works. To ensure the health and wellbeing of workers and the wider community, licensed asbestos removalists and assessors, demolition contractors, WorkSafe ACT inspectors and the taskforce work together with well practiced and implemented processes firmly in place.

After focussing on ensuring the safety of workers, neighbours and the wider community, demolition programming and delivery also considers efficiency and minimising disruptions to the community through the demolition process and transportation of demolition waste. Efficiencies in delivering the overall eradication scheme have been gained as its implementation has progressed, with particular savings being achieved through the demolition program, which will result in the eradication scheme being delivered ahead of schedule and under budget.

Throughout demolition program delivery the taskforce also maintained ongoing and regular engagement with former homeowners and tenants, neighbours, and the wider Canberra community about demolition timing and the sorts of activities people will see on site during works. Stakeholder engagement has been a key activity of the taskforce and has been a critical element to successful delivery of the scheme. Recognition that the personal impact for each homeowner as they progress through the scheme will vary for each individual, and each demolition is an individual experience for every neighbour, has underpinned the taskforce’s community engagement and communications approaches.



Homeowner, tenant and community engagement is continuously being reviewed to ensure its effectiveness and has taken a variety of forms, from formal correspondence, community meetings, eNewsletters, social media posts, on-site signage, face-to-face conversations. Communications and engagement review has encompassed:

- ongoing evaluations and refinement of the communications strategy and materials in response to emerging issues and maturation of the scheme
- identification and mapping of gaps in information and materials through various feedback mechanisms including community engagement activities, social media, phone calls, email and an ongoing online-survey
- attendance at community council meetings, community events and public forums
- door knocking and face-to-face engagement
- social media engagement.

Working collaboratively with all stakeholders has enabled the taskforce's delivery against the ACT Government's goal of providing an enduring solution to an issue that has affected Canberra and people living in Canberra for nearly 50 years. Stakeholders have engaged actively with the taskforce to support the safe delivery of the eradication scheme and have included representatives across:

- the ACT public service
- national public sector and academic asbestos experts
- property valuers
- contractors and regulators with regard to enhancing safe and efficient demolition practices
- experts in contaminated land for the provision of soil clearances against agreed requirements
- regulators and industry leaders in framing and codifying medium term asbestos management plan arrangements
- industry peak bodies and educational institutions in relation to training and workforce capacity needs and development opportunities

- community service organisations providing support to affected home owners
- health care providers specialising in psychological and social support.

## Outcomes

Delivery of the eradication scheme remains on budget and the demolition program continues to track ahead of schedule, with safety for workers and the broader community continuing to be the demolition program's key focus.

Planned performance audits of the taskforce's delivery of the scheme are currently not reflected in the ACT Auditor-General's forward work program. This may be in part due to the findings from the ACT Auditor-General's first performance audit of the taskforce's governance, financial management and risk management frameworks for delivery of the scheme reflecting "... better practice". In light of its commitment to ensure openness and transparency in delivery of the scheme, arrangements for independent auditors to evaluate the effectiveness of the taskforce's implementation and delivery of the eradication scheme are currently being made. The audit will evaluate taskforce performance across all four phases of the eradication scheme's delivery and focus on benefits realisation and measuring success in achieving the ACT Government's objectives of the scheme.

## Next steps

The taskforce will continue to pursue the demolition program with a focus on safety, and engage with contractors and regulators to share better practice along the way. The majority of houses acquired by the ACT Government are expected to be demolished by the end of 2017, six months ahead of the previously revised demolition schedule, with the balance of demolitions to occur through 2018 to after 30 June 2020 (at the end of the deferred settlement period).

Processes for formally closing affected homeowner case files where they have moved through the scheme completely and are no longer in need of and/or desiring contact or assistance from the taskforce has commenced and will continue as the final stages of the taskforce's work in delivering the eradication scheme are realised. Affected owners and their families who

require ongoing support in assisting their transition will continue to receive personalised support and referral to appropriate community service providers.

Resale of remediated blocks will become the more prevalent activity as the demolition program winds down. The sale of remediated blocks is an established part of the real estate market in Canberra, and rebuilding of new houses on the remediated blocks is becoming more prevalent, signalling the renewal and psychological regrowth that was intended in the design of the eradication scheme.

## More information

<http://www.asbestostaskforce.act.gov.au/>

Figure 28 and 29: Asbestos Response Taskforce Community Consultation Event



Figure 30 and 31: ASEC meeting at house demolition



# National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness

2014 – 18 Strategies and outcomes summary



Australian Government  
Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency

**AIM:** to prevent exposure to airborne asbestos fibres in order to eliminate asbestos-related disease in Australia.

GOALS

OUTCOMES

1. AWARENESS	2. BEST PRACTICE	3. IDENTIFICATION
Increase public awareness of the health risks posed by working with or being exposed to asbestos	Identify and share best practice in asbestos management, education, handling, storage and disposal	Improve the identification and grading of asbestos and sharing of information regarding the location of ACMs
1.1 Increased community awareness of the risks posed by asbestos and its impact on the health of the community. 1.2 Improved access to information for those who work and live with asbestos, including where and when to source information and advice. 1.3 Demonstrated cultural and behavioural change within the community as a result of improved understanding of both the health risks and exposure pathways of asbestos in both commercial and residential environments.	2.1 Evidence-based best practice to minimise risks in targeted areas. 2.2 Model training for workers likely to come into contact with ACMs to increase competency and decrease risk. 2.3 Australian communities are supported to manage asbestos risks during natural disasters or emergencies. 2.4 Improved transport, storage and disposal practices for ACM.	3.1 Evidence-based model for grading in-situ asbestos is developed. 3.2 Improved stabilisation and containment practices for ACMs in poor condition. 3.3 Improved identification and management of information regarding asbestos contaminated land. 3.4 Estimated total presence of ACMs in the built environment is available. 3.5 Improved practice in the residential sector to identify and minimise the risk of exposure, in particular for DIY home renovators. 3.6 Effective coordinated response when ACMs in imported material are identified.

## PRINCIPLES

- > precaution
- > evidence-based decision making
- > transparency
- > public participation
- > collaboration

4. REMOVAL	5. RESEARCH	6. INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP
Identify priority areas where ACMs present a risk, identify the barriers to the safe removal of asbestos and review management and removal infrastructure to estimate the capacity and rate for the safe removal of asbestos	Commission, monitor and promote research into the prevention of asbestos exposure and asbestos-related disease.	Australia continues to play a leadership role in a global campaign for a worldwide ban on asbestos mining and manufacturing
4.1 Priority actions identified support removal of ACMs in poor condition. 4.2 Options to remove asbestos in poor condition are practical, evidence-based and targeted towards sources of asbestos-related disease. 4.3 Asbestos removal infrastructure can meet the future needs and demands of ageing ACMs without creating increased risk. 4.4 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.	5.1 Coordination of key research supports evidence informed policy and practice. 5.2 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.	6.1 International issues relating to asbestos and asbestos-related disease are effectively coordinated. 6.2 Australia recognised as an international voice in the global campaign against asbestos hazards. 6.3 Best practice for awareness, management and eradication of asbestos is shared internationally.

## > RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

