Australian Government
Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency

ASBESTOS SAFETY

Phase 3 Asbestos National Strategic Plan 2024–30

First Progress Report: 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2025

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Australian Government
Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency

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Contents

List of acronyms

Term	Definition
AAAG	Across Agency Asbestos Group (WA)
ABF	Australian Border Force
ACCC	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
ACM	asbestos-containing material
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ACV/GARDS	Asbestos Council of Victoria/Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support
ADP	Asbestos Disposal Points
ADDRI	Asbestos and Dust Diseases Research Institute
ADFA	Asbestos Disease Foundation of Australia
ADSA	Asbestos Diseases Society of Australia
AI	artificial intelligence
AMP	Asbestos Management Plan
AMR	Australian Mesothelioma Registry
ANSP	Asbestos National Strategic Plan
ANU	Australian National University
APHEDA	Australian People for Health, Education and Development Abroad
ASSEA	Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency
CALD	culturally and linguistically diverse
CITC	Construction Industry Training Council
Codes SEPP	*State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008*
COP	Conference of the Parties
DAA	Digital Atlas of Australia
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
DETSI	Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (Qld)
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Term	Definition
DIT	Department for Infrastructure and Transport (SA)
DIY	do-it-yourself
DoE	Department of Education (Qld)
DPHI	Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure (NSW)
DPLH	Department of Planning Lands and Heritage (WA)
EHO	Environmental Health Officers
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
ESS	Environmental and Social Safeguard
FAMANZ	Faculty of Asbestos Management in Australia and New Zealand
FY	financial year
GMA	Greater Metropolitan Area
IAG	Interagency Asbestos Group (Qld)
IWTS	Integrated Waste Tracking Solution
LGA	Local Government Area
LGNSW	Local Government NSW
MADDA	Mesothelioma and Dust Diseases Australia
NAAC	National Asbestos Awareness Campaign
NACC	NSW Asbestos Coordination Committee
NATA	National Association of Testing Authorities
NBN	National Broadband Network
NDD	non-destructive digging
NEPM	National Environment Protection Measures
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
NZ	New Zealand
OCSE	Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer
OIR	Office of Industrial Relations (Qld)
PCBU	person conducting a business or undertaking
Qld	Queensland

Term	Definition
RRP	Rapid Response Protocol
RSHQ	Resources Safety and Health Queensland
RTO	registered training organisation
SA	South Australia
SEM	Scanning Electron Microscopy
SL Act	*Sale of Land Act* (Victoria)
SV	Sustainability Victoria
SWA	Safe Work Australia
Tas	Tasmania
TASC	Telecommunications Asbestos Safety Compliance
TEM	Transmission Electron Microscopy
ToR	Terms of Reference
VAEA	Victorian Asbestos Eradication Agency
USA	United States of America
VAF	Victorian Asbestos Forum
VET	Vocational Education and Training
WA	Western Australia
WHO	World Health Organization
WHS	Work Health and Safety

Executive Summary

This is the first report outlining the collective efforts of the Australian, state and territory governments to implement the Asbestos National Strategic Plan (ANSP) 2024-30, which has been endorsed by the Australian Government and all state and territory governments.

Now in its third phase, the ANSP 2024–30 continues to promote the need for nationally consistent and coordinated actions to address Australia's deadly asbestos legacy. The ANSP 2024–30 is focused on strategies that facilitate safe, proactive removal and disposal of asbestos, including through enhanced regulatory frameworks and incentive programs.

This report covers actions taken by governments against the national priorities between 1 January 2024 and 30 June 2025, noting that many initiatives commenced in previous years and require sustained effort.

All jurisdictions report that they have either completed or are in the process of developing local action plans aligned with national priorities. The Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency (ASSEA) also established the Senior Implementation Forum which has facilitated collaboration and information sharing among government agencies.

Some initiatives are in early or preparatory stages, with full implementation expected to take several more years. As such, significant progress against the national actions and targets are not yet fully realised. A summary of progress against each of the 3 aims is provided below.

1. **Eliminating asbestos-related diseases in Australia by preventing exposure to asbestos fibres**

   ASSEA's 2024–25 National Asbestos Awareness Campaign performed strongly and the number of students completing asbestos-related training increased.

   Good progress has also been achieved developing guidance and tools for asbestos identification and risk assessment, such as the National Guide for Asbestos Surveys and the National Residential Asbestos Heatmap. Widespread use of these initiatives is now needed to support decisions on proactive removal of high-risk asbestos-containing materials (ACMs).

   There are still variations across jurisdictions in key areas such as training requirements, residential property asbestos disclosure and waste classification/reporting which can undermine the effectiveness of national progress.

Governments are now placing more importance on prioritising asbestos removal, using a risk-based approach. Closing regulatory gaps is critical for scaling up proactive asbestos removal, including in residential settings. Regulatory reviews (e.g. Safe Work Australia's Asbestos Work Health and Safety Framework Review) and reforms to public health/environmental laws are not yet complete.

2. Supporting people affected by asbestos-related diseases

Work has commenced to increase awareness and knowledge among medical and health professionals and to develop Clinical Guidelines for Mesothelioma.

A number of governments reported funding research programs and providing financial assistance to not-for-profit organisations across Australia who play a vital role in assisting asbestos-related disease sufferers and their families.

Sustainable funding and collaboration between government, advocacy groups, and research institutions to address gaps in support and care for those affected by asbestos exposure is needed.

3. Promoting a worldwide ban on the production and trade of asbestos

Australia, through ASSEA and partners like Union Aid Abroad–APHEDA, continued sharing expertise and delivering targeted awareness and capacity building in South-East Asia, especially Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Lao PDR. Any progress in introducing asbestos bans in these countries is still challenged by industry efforts to protect remaining markets. Reforming the Rotterdam Convention and influencing other international agreements remain priorities for promoting Australia's position on asbestos bans.

In 2026, the outcomes of economic impact assessments for Cambodia and Lao PDR will be promoted to drive further government action and policy change.

ASSEA will continue to support its stakeholders in the implementation of the ANSP 2024–30, working together to eliminate asbestos-related diseases.

1 Introduction

This is the first report outlining the collective efforts of the Australian, state and territory governments to implement the Phase 3 Asbestos National Strategic Plan 2024–30. The report covers the period of 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2025.

1.1 The Asbestos National Strategic Plan

Exposure to asbestos fibres can cause several life-threatening diseases, known collectively as asbestos-related diseases. Since 2014, all governments across Australia have been working cooperatively towards the common national goal of eliminating asbestos-related diseases through the long-term, phased approach outlined in the Asbestos National Strategic Plan (ANSP).

Now in its third phase, the ANSP 2024–30 continues to promote the need for nationally consistent and coordinated actions to address Australia's deadly asbestos legacy.

The ANSP 2024–30 was developed by ASSEA in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, including all levels of government, unions, industry and asbestos disease support groups. Development was also informed by:

- findings and observations from previous ANSP progress reports and reviews
- a stocktake and analysis of the recommendations in the 2012 Asbestos Management Review Report[1] to identify the extent of their implementation,[2] and
- a socio-economic evaluation of asbestos management and removal options.[3]

The ANSP 2024–30 is focused on developing strategies that facilitate safe, proactive removal and disposal of asbestos, including through enhanced regulatory frameworks and incentive programs. It has 3 aims:

- to eliminate asbestos-related diseases in Australia,
- to support people affected by asbestos-related diseases, and
- to advocate for a worldwide ban on the production and trade of asbestos.

A national action plan supports each of these aims.

The Australian Government and all state and territory governments have endorsed the ANSP 2024–30, representing a commitment by all jurisdictions to continue the important work being undertaken nationally.

1 Asbestos management review report June 2012
2 Analysis of recommendations from 2012 Asbestos Management Review Report – 2023
3 Evaluation of asbestos management and removal options Nov 2023

1.2

The coordination function of the Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency

ASSEA ensures that national actions to eliminate asbestos-related diseases in Australia are coordinated across all levels of government, through:

- supporting and monitoring the implementation of the ANSP 2024–30 by the jurisdictions and other partners with lead actions
- fostering collaboration between relevant stakeholders in the asbestos safety system
- promoting consistent messages, policies and practices
- improving the state of asbestos safety knowledge and awareness of risks and controls
- conducting, commissioning, monitoring and promoting research about asbestos safety and asbestos-related diseases, and
- collecting and analysing data required for measuring progress on preventing exposure to asbestos fibres, and for informing evidence-based policies and strategies.

To optimise collaboration in ANSP implementation, ASSEA established the Senior Implementation Forum, composed of senior government officials representing agencies and departments responsible for leading strategic actions. Biannual meetings facilitate sharing of information, coordination of activities and leveraging opportunities. The first meeting of the Forum was held on the 20 June 2025.

1.3

Measuring progress

The Australian Government and all state and territory governments (the implementers) are responsible for implementing the ANSP 2024–30 and for reporting progress against its priorities and actions to ASSEA. Although many non-government groups and individuals (the partners) play an important role in facilitating, supporting and influencing the ANSP actions, their individual activities are not included in the progress reports. However, the collective efforts of implementers and partners in the asbestos safety system are measured against a set of national targets.

In compiling this report, ASSEA relied on information provided by the jurisdictions, supplemented by ASSEA's own data. ASSEA has worked closely with the jurisdictions to address any gaps and used all reasonable endeavours to ensure this report is an accurate reflection of actions taken to implement the ANSP 2024–30. There may be gaps for reasons including unavailability of relevant data, and/or differing interpretations of reporting requirements taken by the jurisdictions. Each year, ASSEA conducts a post-data collection review and implements enhanced data capture and governance processes to continually improve the quality of future reports.

While this report is focused on activities undertaken between 1 January 2024 and 30 June 2025, some initiatives within ANSP 2024–30 commenced in previous years, therefore this report should be considered alongside previous ANSP progress reports.

1.4

Implementation by jurisdictions

Effective implementation of the ANSP is dependent on each jurisdiction establishing an interagency coordination group and using the ANSP to guide the development of a jurisdictional action plan. Departments and agencies within jurisdictions may also develop their own action plans. Table 1 summarises jurisdictional progress in relation to interagency coordination and developing local action plans.

Table 1: Status of jurisdictional coordination and action plans (as at November 2025)

Jurisdiction	Interagency coordination group	Action plan
Safe Work Australia	Safe Work Australia is the national policy body responsible for developing and administering Australia's model WHS laws. Safe Work Australia is a tripartite body comprising representatives from all jurisdictions, unions and employer groups.	Safe Work Australia Members agreed to proceed with the Asbestos Framework Review to address the actions assigned to Safe Work Australia in the ANSP. Safe Work Australia will report on the progress of these actions and the outcome of the review to its members and WHS Ministers.
Australian Government	The Australian Government, via the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, convenes the Asbestos Interdepartmental Committee (IDC) for coordinating implementation of the ANSP. This group consists of government agencies or departments with lead actions in the ANSP and other asbestos-related obligations.	The Australian Government is developing an action plan to include initiatives already underway by ASSEA and Safe Work Australia. A number of ASSEA's lead actions are also reflected in the ASSEA Operational Plan 2025–26[4]. Safe Work Australia will report separately to its members and WHS Ministers.

4 ASSEA Operational Plan 2025–26

Jurisdiction	Interagency coordination group	Action plan
ACT	The ACT's implementation of the ANSP is overseen by the Work Safety Group in the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate in the ACT government. While a formal inter-departmental committee has not been established in the ACT, implementation of the ANSP led by the Work Safety Group is coordinated across the ACT government directorates and agencies through established networks.	The ACT government is developing an action plan aligned with the ANSP. Asbestos management is also one of the priority hazards identified in WorkSafe ACT's Strategic Plan 2025–29[5].
NSW	The NSW Asbestos Coordination Committee (NACC) is made up of an independent Chair and up to 18 member agencies plus observers that include representatives from NSW government and non-government agencies with a role in asbestos management in NSW. The NACC is established under s29 of the *Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991* by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA). The NACC has a working group to assist in coordinating all aspects of asbestos information and awareness, assistance, major incident response, compliance and enforcement.	The NSW government continued working on priorities under the *Asbestos in NSW: Next Horizon*[6] strategic agenda, published in December 2022. The NACC also developed the NSW Asbestos Delivery Plan during 2024, to continue meeting the strategic commitments and requirements of both Next Horizon plan and the ANSP 2024–30. After receiving ministerial endorsement, the NSW Asbestos Delivery Plan 2024–30[7] was published in July 2025. It includes specific targets and implementation timeframes for identified actions, as well as lead and partner agencies responsible for delivery and expected outcomes.

5 WorkSafe ACT Strategic Plan 2025–29 | Notifiable instruments
6 Asbestos in NSW: Next Horizon | Asbestos
7 NSW Asbestos Delivery Plan 2024–30

Jurisdiction	Interagency coordination group	Action plan
NT	The NT government has established the Interagency Asbestos and Silica Project Team to support the implementation of both the asbestos and silica national strategic plans.	The NT government is developing a jurisdictional action plan to align with the ANSP, expected to be finalised in 2026. The draft plan outlines key principles and actions tailored to address the specific needs of the NT and will focus on improving asbestos awareness and management, and removal of barriers to make asbestos waste disposal easier and cheaper.
Queensland	An Interagency Asbestos Group (IAG) brings together the key agencies with regulatory responsibility for asbestos, to facilitate a cooperative, coordinated and systematic approach to the management of asbestos in Queensland. The IAG is chaired by a senior representative from the Office of Industrial Relations (OIR).	Queensland continues to implement initiatives under the Statewide Strategic Plan for the Safe Management of Asbestos in Queensland 2022–25[8]. The development of an action plan aligned with ANSP 2024–30 is currently under consideration.
SA	The SA government has formed the Asbestos and Silica Strategic Group, with an Asbestos Working Group coordinating agreed ANSP actions. Both groups consist of across-government representatives.	A South Australian Asbestos Action Plan 2024–30 has been prepared and will be published on the asbestos.sa.gov.au website during 2026.
Tasmania	The Tasmanian Coordination Group is currently made up of State Service Entities, including the EPA, and local government representation. Membership may change as the work of the action plan evolves and potentially expands over time.	Tasmania is developing an action plan led by WorkSafe Tasmania, with oversight from a Project Steering Committee and collaboration with the Coordination Group. It is expected to be approved for commencement in early 2026.

8 Queensland government strategies | Asbestos

Jurisdiction	Interagency coordination group	Action plan
Victoria	The Victorian Asbestos Forum (VAF) was established to promote a whole-of-government approach for addressing asbestos issues and to lead Victoria's implementation of and reporting on the ANSP. The VAF is chaired by the Victorian Asbestos Eradication Agency (VAEA). The VAF brings together key departments and agencies responsible for the management of asbestos in the Victorian government.	The VAF developed the Victorian government's Asbestos Action Plan 2025–27 which received ministerial approval on 5 May 2025. The Asbestos Action Plan 2025–27 is designed to align the ANSP with Victoria's current asbestos priorities and builds on previous initiatives. It is intended to be staged, with the first stage covering 2025–27, and the second 2028–30. The VAF Secretariat will undertake an evaluation towards the end of the first stage in 2027, to review progress and incorporate any additions, with some actions likely to carry over into the second stage. The VAF Secretariat developed an implementation plan to 2027, with implementation starting from July 2025.
WA	The Across Agency Asbestos Group (AAAG) represents key government agencies with significant asbestos management responsibilities. The AAAG provides a multi-agency forum to discuss individual agency actions and to enable across agency collaboration. It does not have a remit to implement or obtain funding for the actions – these remain the responsibility of individual agencies. The WorkSafe Group of the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety provides in-kind support for the whole-of-government implementation of the ANSP 2024–30 and administration of the AAAG.	A draft WA Asbestos Jurisdictional Action Plan (WAAJAP) has been prepared for WA Cabinet endorsement expected in early 2026. It includes a measure and timeframe for each action. WA has commenced several actions that align with the ANSP.

1.5

Report structure

Table 2 shows how this report's chapters align with the aims and national priorities of the ANSP 2024–30. The link to the relevant national targets is also referenced.

Table 2: Alignment of progress report chapters with ANSP 2024–30

Report chapter		ANSP 2024–30 aim and priorities	ANSP 2024–30 targets
1	**Introduction**	Overview	–
2	**Asbestos-related diseases in Australia**	Aim 1	National Targets 1, 2 and 3
2.1	Asbestos awareness	Priority 1, 2, 3	
2.2	Asbestos training	Priority 1, 2	
2.3	Accurate identification and consistent assessment	Priority 1	
2.4	Risk control and prioritised removal	Priority 2	
2.5	Safe and effective transport and disposal	Priority 3	
2.6	Compliance and enforcement of asbestos-related laws	Priority 2, 3	
3	**Support for those affected by asbestos-related diseases**	Aim 2	National Targets 4 and 5
3.1	Early diagnosis of asbestos-related diseases	Priority 4	
3.2	Accessing and navigating the care and support system	Priority 5	
3.3	Continued improvements in treatment methods	Priority 6	
4	**International leadership**	Aim 3	National Targets 6 and 7
4.1	Capacity building in South-East Asia	Priority 7	
4.2	Promoting the Australian Government's position on asbestos bans	Priority 8	
4.3	Preventing and responding to illegal asbestos importation	Priority 9	
5	**National Targets – Baseline Data**	–	All
	Appendices	Aim 1 and Aim 3 Priorities 1, 2, 3 and 9	National Targets 2, 3 and 7

2

Eliminating asbestos-related diseases in Australia

Aim 1 of ANSP 2024–30 is to prevent exposure to airborne asbestos fibres at each stage of the asbestos lifecycle to eliminate asbestos-related diseases in Australia.

Aim 1 has three priorities:

- Accurate identification and consistent assessment
- Risk control and prioritised removal
- Safe and effective transport and disposal

2.1

Asbestos awareness

Raising asbestos awareness is a key enabler for each priority under Aim 1, as it can contribute to eliminating asbestos-related diseases by helping people in our community understand how to prevent exposure to airborne asbestos fibres. Governments and stakeholders in the asbestos safety system work collaboratively to raise and maintain asbestos awareness by providing trusted, practical, easily understood and consistent information about asbestos risk in homes, workplaces and the environment.

The National Asbestos Awareness Campaign

The ANSP 2024–30 includes the delivery of a National Asbestos Awareness Campaign by ASSEA, relevant to each priority:

Priority 1

Accurate identification and consistent assessment, targeting:

- Do-it-yourself (DIY) and trades
- Indigenous Australians
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD)
- Remote and regional communities
- Buyers and sellers of residential property
- Renters and landlords of residential property
- School communities

Priority 2

Risk control and prioritised removal, targeting:

- DIY and trades
- Indigenous Australians
- Remote and regional communities
- Property owners/managers to promote the benefits of proactive removal
- Duty holders regarding duties under WHS laws

Priority 3

Safe and effective transport and disposal, targeting:

- illegal disposal
- responding to a disaster event

ASSEA has conducted a National Asbestos Awareness Campaign (NAAC) through paid advertising since 2021. The 2024–25 NAAC targeted Australians aged 18 to 55, with a focus on DIY/renovators, tradespersons and CALD audiences. The 5 channel, video-led campaign reminded Australians that 'Asbestos Can Kill' and provided practical, memorable information about how to stay safe. The campaign assets built on the success of the previous 'Think Twice about Asbestos' awareness campaigns with expanded messaging highlighting the dangers of deteriorating and ageing asbestos materials (Figure 1).

The NAAC consisted of two bursts of advertising. The first burst was delivered from November to December 2024 to coincide with National Asbestos Awareness Week, and the second burst was delivered in April to May 2025, scheduled to coincide with the peak DIY period across Easter, however, this burst was slightly delayed and truncated by caretaker conventions preceding the federal election.

The media performance report and evaluation survey results suggest that the NAAC drove high engagement amongst the target audiences of DIY home improvers and tradespeople. The campaign exceeded Australian Government advertising benchmarks across both bursts.

The campaign utilised digital video, social media, translated digital display, paid search and Bunnings magazine. The digital video channel served the NAAC animated ads 15.6 million times, with more than 70% of these played to completion. The social media component (Facebook, Instagram and Pinterest) served over 24 million impressions of both static and video advertising. Paid search was highly efficient at driving clicks through to ASSEA's website, with this channel yielding some 13,200 visits to ASSEA webpages most relevant to the searched topic. Surprisingly, digital display in-language for culturally and linguistically diverse audiences underperformed against planned KPI, with a higher 'cost per click' than anticipated across all languages.

Figure 1: 2024-25 National Asbestos Awareness Campaign assets

A national survey of 1,001 people conducted at the end of the campaign found that one in six people recalled seeing the campaign, and nine out of ten people agreed that the messages were believable and easy to understand.

ASSEA provided a range of campaign materials (social media tiles, email banners, videos, press ads and print assets) for stakeholders to use, supporting consistent messaging and a wider reach. Organisations that reported using and sharing these materials included SafeWork NSW, WorkSafe Tasmania, SafeWork SA, EPA Victoria and government departments in the NT and WA. Industry (employers and unions), as well as support groups, were also encouraged to use the same campaign materials.

National Asbestos Disclosure Campaign

ASSEA conducted a successful advertising campaign to increase awareness about the legal requirements for disclosing the presence of asbestos when buying, selling, renting or leasing a property. The campaign call to action was to 'find out more' by clicking through to relevant resources on ASSEA's website for further information.

This highly targeted campaign utilised social media, video and static display advertising, and was in market in September and October 2024 to coincide with the spring uplift in property sales. It is estimated that the campaign reached around 4 million people who were actively viewing or searching for information relating to property transaction.

Digital video ads were viewed in full more than 8 million times. Static display ads delivered more than 7 million impressions, resulting in more than 9,000 clicks through to the website. Social media advertising (both as video and static executions) was served across Meta platforms and LinkedIn, delivering around 7 million impressions and resulting in nearly 35,000 clicks through to ASSEA's website.

The campaign exceeded all Government benchmarks against the Key Performance Indicators set by master media agency Universal McCann.

Jurisdictional asbestos awareness activities

Various government departments and agencies reported leveraging ASSEA's collateral during National Asbestos

Awareness Week held from 25 November to 1 December 2024 and delivering awareness raising events. For example, the Qld OIR and the Qld Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI) hosted a webinar[9] aimed at tradespeople, homeowners and home renovators, providing information on the safe removal and disposal of up to 10m² of non-friable asbestos. More than 639 viewers watched the session, and the event was supported by a social media campaign and eSafe newsletter articles.

Some jurisdictions conducted local awareness campaigns on specific issues, e.g. incidents relating to asbestos-contaminated mulch, high pressure cleaning of asbestos cement roofs and illegal dumping of asbestos waste. Further information on these activities is in Appendix A.

Asbestos awareness – Key observations

- The NAAC, its awareness messaging and delivery channels continue to evolve based on the evaluation of campaign performance and awareness levels amongst target audiences.
- Although awareness that asbestos is common in Australian buildings is increasing, homeowners and occupiers are not a homogenous group and show differing levels of awareness across different segments.

Future focus

ASSEA will conduct a national awareness survey in 2025–26 to inform future campaigns, targeting additional at-risk groups such as Indigenous Australians, remote and regional communities, as well as property owners/managers to promote the benefits of proactive removal.

2.2

Asbestos training

Improving knowledge, skills and workforce capacity is another key driver to achieve change under the ANSP 2024–30. The adequacy of training across the asbestos lifecycle is an area of focus, given ASSEA's previous research on asbestos safety training[10] and a decision by WHS Ministers to examine the issues identified in the 2018 review of the model WHS laws relating to competent persons for asbestos work[11].

Under the ANSP 2024–30 all governments are responsible for:

- implementing asbestos awareness training for certain workers, and
- improving asbestos-related training for workers including apprentices, waste and transport workers, asbestos surveyors, building inspectors and certifiers, environmental health officers, real estate agents and property managers.

9 Know your asbestos: identification and safe removal for small projects | Asbestos
10 Outcomes of Asbestos Awareness Training Consultation: Report
11 Implementation of WHS Ministers' agreed response to the Review of the model WHS laws | Safe Work Australia

Table 3 shows the number of students completing Vocational Education and Training (VET) units of competency required under WHS laws for asbestos-related work, as well as nationally accredited customised or enterprise-specific asbestos awareness courses.

Table 3: Numbers of students completing nationally accredited VET courses on asbestos

Subject	2022	2023	2024
CPCCDE3014 – Remove non-friable asbestos (mandatory for Class B asbestos removal license)	4,950	6,285	5,785
CPCCDE3015 – Remove friable asbestos (mandatory for Class A asbestos removal license)	1,100	1,550	1,480
CPCCDE4008 – Supervise asbestos removal (mandatory for supervising asbestos removal work)	1,200	1,675	1,320
CPCCDE5001 – Conduct air monitoring and clearance inspections for asbestos removal work (mandatory for asbestos assessor license)	145	170	250
CPCCPD3036 – Work safely to encapsulate non-friable asbestos in the painting industry	2,245	3,350	3,920
NAT11084001 – Identify and report asbestos containing materials (mandatory in ACT)	1,085	9,655	10,125
NAT10852001 – Working Safely with Asbestos Containing Materials (mandatory in ACT)	985	960	1,005
NAT11004001 – Identify asbestos containing materials and follow safety and reporting procedures	1,300	1,945	1,895
ASBAWA201 – Practice asbestos awareness in the construction industry (WA specific course)	2,365	2,285	2,570
Total	**15,375**	**27,875**	**28,350**

(source: National Centre for Vocational Education Research) Asbestos awareness training

Asbestos awareness training

Currently, the ACT is the only jurisdiction that has implemented mandatory nationally accredited training for asbestos awareness. NSW has introduced an online Asbestos Awareness and Safety Course. Further information on these courses is provided below.

Some organisations offered presentations to students to raise awareness of asbestos as part of their training, e.g. WorkSafe Tasmania's Advisory Service delivered presentations to students at the Tasmanian TAFE brick/tile laying school. In Victoria, the not-for-profit Asbestos Council of Victoria/ Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support (ACV/GARDS) group (supported with funding by the Victorian government) conducted 18 speaking engagements at various Victorian TAFEs and universities during FY 2024–25.

A number of government departments, agencies and local councils provide tailored asbestos awareness training for their staff and contractors – see Appendix B for examples.

ACT asbestos awareness training

The ACT's WHS laws require that all workers who are likely to be exposed to or work with asbestos or ACM, including workers engaged in certain occupations such as plumbing and electrical work, are trained. This covers the nationally accredited VET course for asbestos awareness (11084NAT Course in Asbestos Awareness[12]), for workers likely to be exposed to asbestos or ACMs; and working safely with asbestos (11348NAT Course in Working Safely with Asbestos Containing Materials[13]) for those at a greater risk of exposure in undertaking minor modifications involving ACMs which do not require an asbestos removalist licence. Combined, this allows tradespeople who are likely to encounter asbestos or ACM in the course of their work to be trained in asbestos identification, safe handling and suitable control measures.

WorkSafe ACT is the copyright holder for the nationally accredited VET course, which is delivered by external registered training organisations (RTOs) and administered by the Construction Industry Training Council (CITC). CITC handle general enquiries related to the course and provide initial and annual audit reports regarding the RTOs course content to WorkSafe ACT. WorkSafe ACT maintains responsibility for approving providers, publishing the approved provider list on its website, and monitoring compliance. The CITC has not identified any necessary modifications to the course content delivered by any approved RTOs.

In 2024, the National Centre for Vocational Education Research indicates that 965 candidates residing in the ACT completed the 11084NAT training course and 65 candidates residing in the ACT completed the 10852NAT training course. Course delivery data and headcount of external completions are held by approved providers.

During the reporting period, WorkSafe ACT also facilitated internal technical training on asbestos awareness for 25 WorkSafe ACT staff as part of their professional development program.

12 National Training Register – 11084NAT Course in Asbestos Awareness

13 National Training Register – 11348NAT Course in Working Safely with Asbestos Containing Materials

Asbestos awareness was a targeted training program for the ACT Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority's 2025 Training Program[14]. Funding for the cost of training was provided in the form of rebates paid to eligible works on completion of training delivered by an RTO.

NSW Asbestos Awareness and Safety Course

The SafeWork NSW Asbestos Awareness and Safety Course[15] is delivered online and is self-paced over a 6-month duration from the enrolment date. This course is aimed at all NSW construction tradespeople, demolition workers, renovators, and anyone who is likely to encounter asbestos on the job. Completion of this approximately 2.5 hour course ensures employers of these workers meet their legal obligation to provide asbestos awareness training and assists workers to gain the skills they need to stay safe when working with asbestos. The course is not limited to workers but is publicly available for the broader community. It normally costs $175 to undertake but was made free for a period of 3 months to increase accessibility when asbestos was identified in mulch. During the reporting period, there were 11,165 completions, with an average pass mark of 88% (there is an 80% minimum required pass mark) and a course feedback rating of 4.3 out of 5 stars.

To support asbestos safety in Indigenous and CALD communities, the course has been promoted through Aboriginal networks, including via Aboriginal Affairs NSW and direct email to relevant Aboriginal businesses. Work also commenced on translating the course into Mandarin.

Asbestos-related training

NSW

In September 2024, SafeWork NSW implemented a robust verification program for Registered Training Organisations who have been approved to deliver asbestos assessor and removal training. This training is required to undertake licensed asbestos work. The program includes the audit and verification of the venues, learning materials and face-to-face training.

In April 2024, NSW EPA released 4 asbestos-related training courses for registered building certifiers, including regulatory staff from state government agencies and local government[16]. These are:

- *Registered Certifier: Asbestos Waste* – This module explores the legal requirements relating to the asbestos waste journey from asbestos identification as well as how to remove it, transport it and dispose of lawfully. There have been 162 completions up to the end of the reporting period.
- *Registered Certifier: Asbestos Waste Case Studies* – These 8 case studies demonstrate some of the differences between the waste and Contaminated Land Management frameworks, to facilitate the provision of accurate, lawful and practical advice.
- *Registered Certifier: Regulating Waste Disposal from Construction and Demolition Projects* – This module explores the legal requirements when managing asbestos waste in the construction and demolition setting. There have been 112 completions up to the end of the reporting period.

14 2025 Training Plan ACT Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority.pdf
15 Asbestos awareness and safety – store.training.tafensw.edu.au
16 Training for building certifiers | NSW EPA

- *Registered Certifier: Understanding Contaminated Land for Building Certifiers* – This module explores how contaminated land is regulated within NSW, with a focus on the planning aspects relevant to accredited certifiers and certifying authorities. There have been 129 completions up to the end of the reporting period.

Queensland

In 2024, the training program delivered to Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) by Qld OIR and Qld Health underwent a redesign to improve its effectiveness. Key components were transitioned to eLearning modules, enabling face-to-face sessions to focus on practical incident response scenarios. A refresher course was also introduced to support experienced personnel in maintaining and updating their competencies. To complement the program, the asbestos training management system continues to offer EHOs a centralised platform for accessing eLearning modules, completing online assessments, and managing certification.

Victoria

The Victorian government supports asbestos-related training through its Skills First funding program[17] where the following asbestos-related units of competency are delivered:

- CPCCDE 3015 Remove Friable Asbestos
- CPCCDE 3014 Remove Non-Friable Asbestos

For apprentices in the building industry, Skills First funds training for a number apprenticeship qualifications. This includes the Certificate III in Carpentry and the Certificate III in Plumbing. The compulsory induction unit in these qualifications includes a section on asbestos awareness. The Certificate III in Electrotechnology – Electrician, includes a similar unit which refers to awareness of hazards on site, including asbestos.

There are 51 RTOs recognised in Victoria to deliver CPCCDE 3014 Remove non-friable asbestos, and 27 RTOs recognised to deliver CPCCDE 3015 Remove friable asbestos, including Chisholm TAFE.

Asbestos training – Key observations

- Asbestos training is delivered across Australia in various forms, including through nationally accredited VET training, non-accredited courses and tailored in-house training programs.

Future focus

Under the ANSP 2024–30, Safe Work Australia is responsible for reviewing the effectiveness of VET courses for licensing asbestos removalists (in collaboration with ASSEA) and for reviewing asbestos training requirements under the model WHS Regulations. This work will commence in 2026.

17 Skills First | vic.gov.au

2.3

Accurate identification and consistent assessment

Accurately identifying the presence of asbestos and assessing the risk of fibre release is the first step for taking effective action to prevent exposure. Progress has been achieved relevant to the following national actions under Priority 1 of the ANSP:

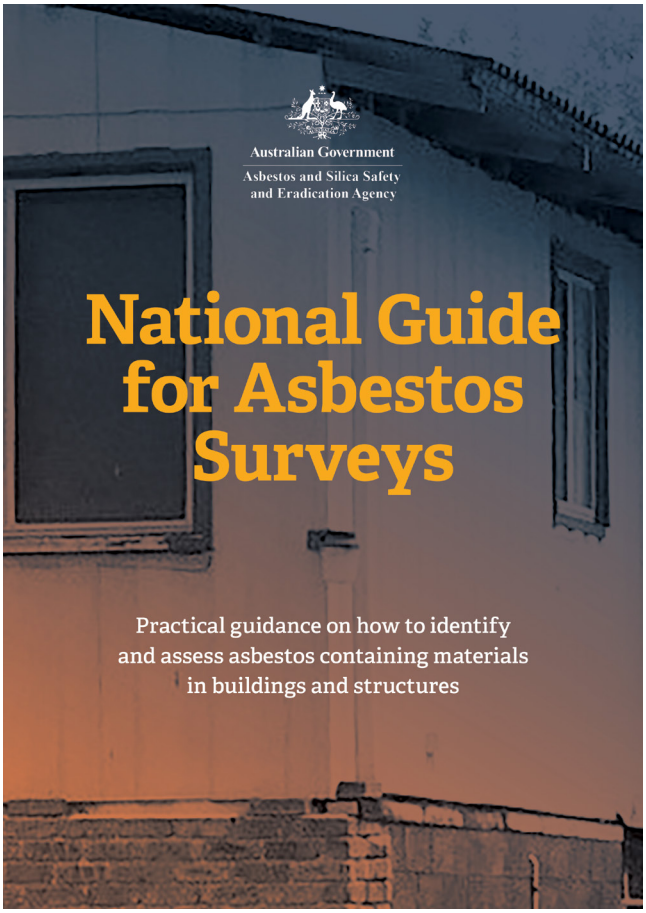
- Developing national guidance for conducting asbestos surveys
- Promoting technology to achieve a consistent ACM risk assessment approach
- Implementing identification and disclosure of asbestos in residential properties
- Improving asbestos detection technologies

National Guide for Asbestos Surveys

ASSEA developed the National Guide for Asbestos Surveys[18] in consultation with asbestos professionals, industry associations, regulatory authorities and worker representatives. It was published on ASSEA's website in January 2025. The guide aims to provide a robust and standardised process for conducting asbestos surveys (also known as asbestos inspections or audits) in buildings and structures across Australia, so that effective actions can be taken to prevent exposure to airborne asbestos fibres. It incorporates an ACM risk assessment model developed by the VAEA.

The VAEA developed an online calculator[19] to automate and simplify the risk assessment process.

While the National Guide for Asbestos Surveys is mainly designed to be a practical resource for surveyors, it also provides important information for their clients and anyone with responsibilities for managing in-situ asbestos, including in residential premises.



Following its publication, ASSEA engaged with asbestos professionals and government stakeholders to promote adoption of the guide, including through industry workshops, presentations at events and meetings.

18 National Guide for Asbestos Surveys 2025
19 VAEA ACM Risk Calculator

Some departments and local governments in WA reported adopting the ACM risk assessment model, while other governments promoted the National Guide for Asbestos Surveys within their jurisdictions. For example, the Queensland OIR reported promoting the guide through LinkedIn reaching more than 1900 people and distributing two newsletter articles with information about the guide to 40,742 subscribers.

Asbestos management system software providers also started adopting the ACM risk assessment model into their systems.

Accreditation for asbestos professionals

The National Guide for Asbestos Surveys notes that industry accreditation can provide additional confirmation of surveyor competency. Supporting expansion of accreditation systems for asbestos professionals is an action under Priority 1 of the ANSP 2024–30. The Faculty of Asbestos Management in Australia and New Zealand (FAMANZ) adopted the guide in the new IP402 International Proficiency Qualification *Surveying and Sampling Strategies for Asbestos in Buildings in Australia & New Zealand*. ASSEA continues to collaborate with associations such as FAMANZ and the Australian Institute of Occupational Hygiene to promote industry accreditation for asbestos professionals.

Asbestos Product Guide

To complement the National Guide for Asbestos Surveys, ASSEA developed and launched the web-based Asbestos Product Guide[20] which provides images and descriptions of various types of asbestos materials that were manufactured and/or marketed and used in Australia. ASSEA used several opportunities and channels to promote the Asbestos Product Guide, including in-person, live demonstrations at Bunnings Trade shows, and via the NAAC advertising. This popular resource continues to be updated with additional images and information.

Asbestos disclosure in residential properties

Improving asbestos disclosure in residential properties at the point of sale or lease can prevent exposure occurring due to damage or disturbance of ACM and may also encourage asbestos removal. ASSEA updated its fact sheets on the different disclosure requirements across Australia.[21]

ACT

In the ACT, it is a legislated requirement that an asbestos advice factsheet about the likely location of asbestos in homes built before 1990[22] is provided for educative purposes as part of any residential property sales. The factsheet is based on ASSEA's residential asbestos disclosure research.

Further, loose-fill asbestos insulation ('Mr Fluffy') properties are listed on the ACT Affected Residential Premises Register[23]. Pursuant to the Dangerous Substances (General) Regulation 2004, homeowners of privately-owned affected properties are required to have an Asbestos Management Plan (AMP) prepared and lodged with WorkSafe ACT. Owners/occupiers must display the AMP at the

20 Home – Asbestos Product Guide

21 Disclosure of asbestos in residential property – Information for renters and landlords; Disclosure of asbestos in residential property – Information for buyers and sellers

22 ACT Asbestos Advice Notice

23 Affected Residential Premises Register – Loose-Fill Asbestos Coordination

main entrance and place warning stickers on the meter box and switchboard. A licensed asbestos removalist then undertakes the recommended actions in the AMP, which could involve cleaning, sealing, locking and/or labelling. When selling an affected property, the seller must disclose that the premises appears on the Affected Residential Premises Register and contains loose-fill asbestos. An occupancy prohibition applies after a transfer of ownership (and upon expiry of any current rental/sub-letting agreement), unless an approved occupant exemption applies.

Queensland

Work on the statutory seller disclosure scheme for the sale of land in Queensland progressed during the reporting period, with the making of the Property Law Regulation 2024. Schedule 1, section 4(2) prescribes the warning that must be included in the disclosure statement under section 99(3) of the Property Law Act 2023, as follows:

> *'The seller does not warrant whether asbestos is present within buildings or improvements on the property. Buildings or improvements built before 1990 may contain asbestos. Asbestos containing materials (ACM) may have been used up until the early 2000s. Asbestos or ACM may become dangerous when damaged, disturbed, or deteriorating. Information about asbestos is available at the Queensland government Asbestos Website (asbestos.qld.gov.au) including common locations of asbestos and other practical guidance for homeowners'.*

Queensland's seller disclosure scheme for property transactions, along with the Property Law Regulation, were set to commence on 1 August 2025. The warning statement used in the Property Law Regulation 2024 incorporates the key elements identified as optimal for disclosure in ASSEA's research on Asbestos Disclosure Requirements for Residential Properties[24].

South Australia

A seller or agent must supply prospective buyers with a Buyers Information Notice, also known as Form R3[25]. It provides advice about finding out if there are features of the property, such as asbestos, that may affect the value of the property, or the buyer's enjoyment or safety. SA government guidance also recommends adding a condition to the contract making the sale subject to a satisfactory building inspection report and that the presence of asbestos in the property should be evaluated by a suitably qualified building consultant.

Victoria

Prospective purchasers of residential property in Victoria may be alerted to information about asbestos via the following:

- material fact disclosure requirements
- Consumer Affairs Victoria due diligence checklist

Material fact disclosure requirements exist under section 12(d) of the *Sale of Land Act* (SL Act), where it is an offence for any person who, with the intention of inducing any person to buy land…knowingly conceals any material facts or recklessly makes any statement or forecast which

24 Asbestos disclosure requirements for residential properties report
25 SA buyers-information-notice

is misleading or deceptive. The maximum penalty for knowingly concealing a material fact when selling land is a fine of over $19,000 or up to 12 months imprisonment.

The SL Act authorises the Director, Consumer Affairs Victoria to make guidelines to assist vendors to understand what a material fact is likely to be for the purposes of s12(d). The Material Fact Guidelines[26] provide examples of material facts about land which are known to the vendor or agent, but which may not be obvious to a potential purchaser. This includes circumstances where prior tests or investigations have revealed (or the vendor or agent otherwise knows of) asbestos (including loose-fill asbestos insulation).

Section 33B of the SL Act requires a vendor offering land for sale to ensure a due diligence checklist[27] is available to every prospective purchaser. The checklist includes a high-level statement on building safety and advises prospective purchasers that professional building inspections can help a purchaser to assess the property for various safety risks, including asbestos.

Regarding leasing in Victoria, a residential rental provider (or their agent) must not induce a person to enter into a residential rental agreement by engaging in conduct that is misleading or deceptive or that is likely to mislead or deceive. Further, a residential rental provider must disclose certain information to a renter before entering into a rental agreement, in accordance with section 30D of the Residential Tenancies Act 1997.

This includes, inter alia, the matters prescribed in Regulation 16(2) of the Residential Tenancies Regulations 2021, specifically, if the rental provider knows that rented premises has friable or non-friable asbestos, based on an inspection by a suitably qualified person (Regulation 16(2)(g)(ii)). Failure to comply with the disclosure requirements can result in penalties for the rental provider.

Asbestos detection technology

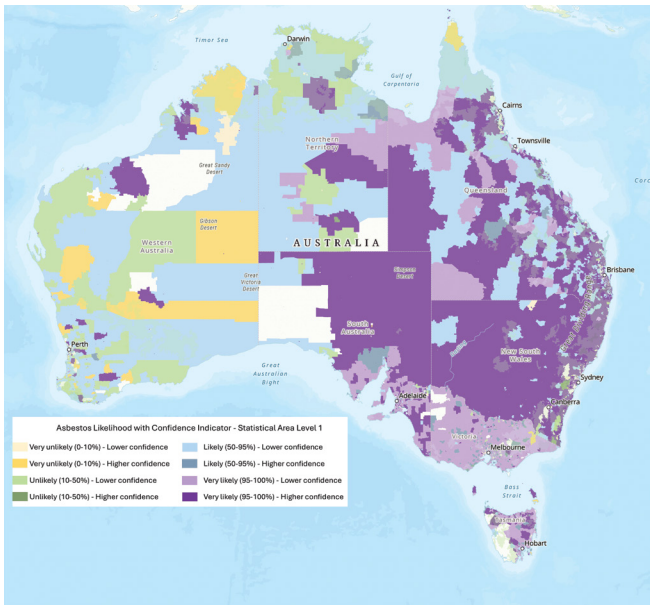
Real-time detection devices

From late 2023 to late 2024, ASSEA continued to oversee the progress of two teams in the 'proof-of-concept' phase of the Australian Government's Business Research and Innovation Initiative (BRII) 'RegTech' Round. The teams, Flawless Photonics and the Predictive Analytics Group, continued developing their real-time asbestos detection technologies based on the characteristics of asbestos fibres when exposed to infrared light and microwaves, respectively. While the BRII projects finished late in 2024, ASSEA continues to monitor both the ongoing work of the two teams and the development and commercialisation of other asbestos detection devices.

26 Preparing to sell your property - Consumer Affairs Victoria

27 Due diligence checklist – for home and residential property buyers – Consumer Affairs Victoria

The National Residential Asbestos Heatmap



The National Residential Asbestos Heatmap[28] brings together a range of datasets on residential buildings in Australia, to estimate the probability of ACMs in the community. ASSEA enhanced the capabilities of the Heatmap by transferring it to the Digital Atlas of Australia (DAA) for government, supported by Geoscience Australia. The migration to the DAA has provided, in addition to a secure and integrated platform for the Heatmap, access to a large number of data sets across the government. The integration of these data sets can support planning for asbestos removal, as well as first responder and community safety in preparation for or in response to disaster events.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) research to identify asbestos cement roofing in the commercial sector

The NSW EPA engaged a consultant to undertake an investigation to better understand the scale of industrial/commercial super six asbestos cement roofing across the Greater Metropolitan Area (GMA) and high-density regional areas of NSW. The project, a jointly funded collaboration between NSW EPA and ASSEA, commenced in February 2024 and was completed in early 2025. It leveraged previous ASSEA research, which established the methodology and proof-of-concept of the approach in the Australian context[29].

The project identified and quantified super six asbestos cement roofing within industrial, commercial and mixed-use areas in the GMA and the ten most populous cities in regional NSW from high resolution aerial imagery using AI. It also identified which sites present a potentially higher risk of asbestos exposure to the community, through the development of a novel exposure risk assessment framework[30].

The outcomes of this project are intended to provide an evidence-base to inform management approaches for the identified properties, that address the asbestos risk in a prioritised and effective manner.

28 National Residential Asbestos Heatmap
29 Artificial Intelligence for the Detection of Asbestos Cement Roofing: An Investigation of Multi-Spectral Satellite Imagery and High-Resolution Aerial Imagery
30 Urban community exposure risk assessment for industrial asbestos cement roofing: Coupled GIS and computer vision-based approach ScienceDirect

Expanding analytical techniques for identifying all types of asbestos fibres

ASSEA participated in the Standards Australia technical committee to develop the Australian Standard (AS) 5370:2024 – Sampling and qualitative identification of asbestos in bulk materials (adopts ISO 22262 with Australian modifications) which was published in June 2024. The new Standard expands testing methodologies to incorporate Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM) and Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) as optional methods to help confirm ambiguous results, particularly in complex or fine-grained samples. AS 5370:2024 also introduces guidelines for testing asbestos in soils and naturally occurring asbestos. The number of National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) accredited laboratories with TEM or SEM capabilities in Australia is still limited, and it will take some time for laboratories to become accredited to AS 5370:2024.

Accurate identification and consistent assessment – Key observations

- Good progress has been achieved developing guidance and tools for asbestos identification and consistent risk assessment which now need to be used. The National Guide for Asbestos Surveys and the Asbestos Product Guide are proving to be useful resources. Widespread adoption should improve the quality asbestos registers and management plans.
- Asbestos disclosure in residential properties at the point of sale or lease remains inconsistent across Australia.

Future focus

- Adoption of tools such as the National Residential Asbestos Heatmap, especially in the DAA platform for government with additional resourcing from Geoscience Australia, and use of technology to identify ageing and deteriorating asbestos cement roofs will support decisions on proactive removal of high-risk ACMs.
- ASSEA will develop guidance on the use of real-time detection devices. Their use will also be considered as part of Safe Work Australia's Asbestos WHS Framework Review.
- Incentives for the identification of ACMs in residential properties are also needed.

2.4

Risk control and prioritised removal

Asbestos products in Australian buildings are now anywhere between 30–100 years old. They have reached end of product life and are degrading, increasing the risk of exposure to airborne asbestos fibres. A shift from in situ management to an increased rate of proactive removal is now required to deal with Australia's asbestos legacy.

Progress has been achieved relevant to the following national actions under Priority 2 of the ANSP:

- developing best practice approaches for government-funded asbestos removal programs
- progressing a review and revision of the model WHS Regulations, codes of practice and guidance
- strengthening requirements for safe asbestos removal and disposal in situations where WHS laws do not apply
- developing risk-based, prioritised ACM removal programs for publicly owned and controlled properties
- supporting local government to administer devolved responsibilities
- researching low level exposures in the workplace and non-workplace environment, including in water and soil.

Government-funded incentives for asbestos removal

In January 2025, ASSEA published a report on *Options for government supported incentives*[31] to encourage the safe removal of ACMs from residential and commercial properties. The report examines various types of incentive schemes used in Australia and overseas, their advantages and disadvantages, and how they could be used to encourage proactive asbestos removal. To further support the design and implementation of incentive schemes, ASSEA partnered with the Behavioural Economics Team of the Australian Government (BETA) to explore which financial incentives and amounts would encourage homeowners to proactively remove asbestos from their properties.[32]

One type of incentive is the voluntary buy-back, demolition and sales program implemented in the ACT to eliminate exposure risks from loose-fill asbestos insulation ('Mr Fluffy') in homes. The ACT government continues to fund the Loose-Fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme.[33] The Loose-Fill Asbestos Coordination team provides advice as part of the development application process for demolition on any loose-fill affected property, as well as the deregistration process from the Affected Residential Premises Register following remediation – a required step to allow for any future development onsite. For the reporting period, the ACT government organised the demolition and remediation of two properties, with one removed from the Affected Residential Premises Register and sold.

31 Options for government-supported incentives for asbestos removal – ASSEA Report – January 2025
32 Testing incentives to encourage asbestos removal | PM&C
33 Loose-Fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme – Loose-Fill Asbestos Coordination ACT government

Work in other jurisdictions is at the early stages of exploring incentives. For example, the SA Department of Treasury and Finance will investigate implementing financial support mechanisms, such as a no-interest loan scheme for low- and medium-income households to proactively identify and remove ACMs from residential properties. Additionally, SA EPA will work with the Department of Treasury and Finance to consider the issue of lawful transport and disposal requirements as part of asbestos removal from residential properties.

Review of the model WHS laws relating to asbestos

In 2025, Safe Work Australia (SWA) Members agreed to proceed with the Asbestos WHS Framework Review to address the actions assigned to SWA in the ANSP 2024–30. SWA intends to review how asbestos risks are managed and how ACMs are safely removed. The review will look at possible changes to the model WHS Regulations for asbestos, as well as related model codes of practice and guidance materials.

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Asbestos WHS Framework Review specify the related ANSP actions, scope and timing[34]; these ToR have been endorsed by SWA Members and a Reference Group has been established to support the review.

Strengthening requirements where WHS laws do not apply

In situations where WHS laws do not apply, e.g. homeowners removing asbestos themselves, there is a need to strengthen requirements for safe asbestos removal and disposal.

In WA, the Health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992 address this issue, by setting out requirements for the management, handling and removal of ACM for residential sites. The Department of Health administers these regulations, which are enforced by local governments and authorised officers.

In Queensland, the Public Health Regulation 2018 permits homeowners to remove less than 10m² of bonded ACM under certain conditions ('10m² rule'), and to remove more than 10m² only if they complete an approved training course[35]. The review of this rule is currently awaiting Ministerial consideration.

EPA Victoria is working with WorkSafe Victoria to set and communicate clearer expectations for managing asbestos-contaminated waste. This includes developing updated guidance and undertaking cross-jurisdictional analysis to help clarify what may be considered 'reasonably practicable' for removal and disposal from an environmental and public health perspective. EPA Victoria is also reviewing and updating guidance associated with the transport and disposal of asbestos waste, to clarify waste tracking and vehicle permits for loads under 50 litres transported for no fee or reward.

34 Asbestos WHS Framework Review – Safe Work Australia

35 Homeowner's certificate to remove asbestos | Asbestos

The ACT is the only jurisdiction where ACMs cannot be removed from residential or commercial premises by anyone other than a licensed asbestos removalist unless it is minor modification work. For commercial premises that are workplaces, identification, risk assessment, air monitoring and clearance inspections must be undertaken by a licenced asbestos assessor. More specifically, the *Dangerous Substances Act 2004* applies to ACM removal at residential premises where this is outside the application of WHS laws and deals with removal of ACMs at premises affected by loose-fill asbestos. As part of this broader framework, the Loose-Fill Asbestos Coordination team is part of the internal review process for any development applications received for privately arranged demolitions of any loose-fill affected property.

In NSW, changes to the management of asbestos during exempt development are underway. Exempt development refers to development not requiring planning approval and that may be undertaken by homeowners.

The NSW Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) introduced changes to the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008* (Codes SEPP) in November 2024 to introduce safe asbestos removal requirements. These changes established that, for exempt development that involves the removal of any amount of friable asbestos or more than 10m² of bonded non-friable asbestos, a suitably licensed person must undertake the removal. The changes also updated references to asbestos guidance in *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021*. DPHI published a fact sheet[36] explaining these new requirements.

DPHI also commenced consultation on a proposal to strengthen the requirements for safe asbestos management in the circumstances where minor building alterations are currently exempt from requiring approval. Clauses 2.52 and 2.54 of the Codes SEPP allow for minor building alterations as exempt development. These clauses are currently silent on ACM and stakeholders have raised concerns that developers or DIY renovators may cover over ACM as part of exempt development. This could pose a risk where future renovations unknowingly disturb the asbestos that has been concealed by the covering or cladding, for example by drilling through. DPHI is proposing to insert a restriction into the development standards for minor building alterations (internal) and minor building alterations (external) to ensure that development must not involve the covering or cladding over of ACM to meet the requirements for exempt development.

Risk-based, prioritised asbestos removal

Victoria is currently the only jurisdiction with a coordinated, whole-of-government plan for the ongoing removal of asbestos from its buildings. The VAEA manages a consolidated database of identified ACMs across 13,000 government-owned assets, which are risk assessed based on condition, friability, disturbance potential, and building use. This database informs risk-based prioritised asbestos removal.

36 Asbestos removal – exempt and complying development

Homes Victoria will retire 44 public housing towers over the long term, all with a likelihood of containing asbestos. The Elgin Towers built in 1968, mark the first phase. Demolition commenced in February 2025. Prior to structural demolition, specialist contractors surveyed for and removed hazardous materials, including asbestos, with a qualified hygienist on site to verify contractor compliance. These works advance Victoria's prioritised asbestos removal from public buildings.

In FY 2024–25, funding continued for the Victorian Asbestos Eradication Agency's operations[37], including advice to Victorian government departments and agencies on the prioritised removal of asbestos.

The SA government funded 'Asbestos Removal Fund' continues to support removal of asbestos in government buildings. To assist with prioritisation, SA government agencies are applying a structured risk assessment matrix considering friability, condition and accessibility to all identified ACMs in government owned properties, with results integrated into site-specific asbestos registers within the SA government Strategic Asset Management System (SAMIS).

For other jurisdictions, where asbestos removal for publicly owned and controlled properties is decentralised, a number of departments and local governments provided examples of specific programs, including asbestos in schools and in Aboriginal communities – see Appendix C.

Support for local government

Councils are on the frontline of asbestos management and safety. The ANSP 2024–30 recognises that state and territory governments need to support local governments with resources for administering devolved responsibilities.

NSW

During the reporting period, NSW EPA continued to fund a full time Project Manager – Asbestos Policy within Local Government NSW (LGNSW) to support councils improve their management and regulation of asbestos within their local government area (LGA) and to fund related asbestos activities carried out by LGNSW. Additionally, the role assists with advice on the preparation of council policies and works with councils to improve systems and processes. This included the publication of the *Containment Storage and Transport of Asbestos Waste in the Council Workplace*[38] guide in September 2024.

The Office of Local Government worked with members of the NACC to update the Model Asbestos Policy and related guidelines. The current Model Asbestos Policy, issued under Section 23A of the *Local Government Act 1993*, provides guidance to councils in developing their own asbestos management policies by outlining key roles, responsibilities, and compliance requirements.

37 2024–25 Service Delivery | dtf.vic.gov.au, p84

38 Asbestos Resources | LGNSW

Queensland

The Qld OIR continues to deliver Authorised Person Asbestos Training, supporting local government EHOs and others who require indemnity under Qld's public health legislation to perform asbestos-related duties as prescribed persons. In 2024, training was delivered to 113 participants (45 for new EHO training and 70 for refresher training) over 8 sessions. During the first half of 2025, training sessions were held in Brisbane, Gympie and Port Douglas, with a total of 36 participants. The asbestos training management system continues to offer EHOs a centralised platform for accessing eLearning modules, completing online assessments, and managing certification.

Queensland Health also manages a dedicated Local Government Environmental Health Resources website (a secure site) with access to valuable asbestos-related resources for local government to undertake their responsibilities when investigating non-workplace asbestos incidents.

Tasmania

WorkSafe Tasmania provides guidance and support to the local government sector, as a priority industry, for compliance and education. The Local Government Association of Tasmania also provides support to the sector.

Victoria

EPA Victoria supports councils by clarifying expectations for the safe removal and disposal of asbestos when managing clean-up activities on their sites. By improving and updating guidance materials, EPA Victoria ensures that local governments have access to clear, practical information on lawful removal and disposal processes. This helps councils confidently undertake remediation works, comply with regulatory requirements, and protect community health.

The EPA also previously published the Regulating litter and other waste toolkit[39] to help councils exercise their powers relating to litter and illegal dumping, including for asbestos.

Western Australia

The WA Department of Health provides support to local government EHOs administering the Health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992. WorkSafe WA works also works with EHOs in relation to all workplace issues.

Some larger local governments support smaller authorities. For example, annual EHO inspections for the Shire of Koorda are conducted by the City of Wanneroo, assisted by the Local Government Insurance Scheme Regional Risk Manager.

Research to improve asbestos risk control

Research low level exposures in the workplace and non-workplace environment, including in water and soil

ASSEA completed an initial investigation into asbestos fibres in water.[40] Australia has approximately 40,000 km of asbestos water pipes, accounting for nearly 20% of the total length of water mains in Australia. The aim of the project was to determine the levels of asbestos fibres in drinking water supplied through asbestos

39 Regulating litter and other waste | epa.vic.gov.au
40 Asbestos fibres in water investigation

cement pipes, while concurrently gathering data and information on factors that may influence the levels of asbestos fibres in water. The project was also designed to develop a robust and standardised water sampling procedure for determining the concentrations of asbestos fibres in drinking water distribution systems in Australia.

ASSEA commissioned researchers from Deakin University to collaborate on the study. Sixty-four water samples were gathered from the Goulburn Valley Water region (sampling from 10 water quality sampling points, 6 hydrants, and a water treatment plant). Concentrations of asbestos fibres were analysed in a NATA-accredited laboratory using energy dispersive X-ray/ transmission electron microscopy (EDX-TEM). Despite the age of the asbestos cement pipes, asbestos fibres were not detected in any of the water samples. The water chemistry of the samples was in-line with that previously measured by the water authority over the last decade and did not show substantial differences between summer and winter.

ASSEA also investigated low-level exposure to asbestos fibres in non-occupational settings with an initial review of published literature to assess whether low-level exposures are associated with an increased risk of developing mesothelioma or lung cancer, with a particular focus on informing future risk communications. Thirty-four reports, representing 19 unique studies from a range of countries, were identified and included in the review.

The review found consistent evidence of an association between low-level, non-occupational asbestos exposure and increased mesothelioma risk. Evidence for an association with lung cancer was less consistent and drawn from fewer studies. In addition to findings, the review also identified key gaps in the existing literature, particularly in the standardisation of exposure assessment, and the need for further studies quantifying dose-response relationships.

Management of asbestos in recovered fines

Recovered fines are the residue remaining after all recyclable construction waste material has been removed from skip bins and other recovered materials. The Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer (OCSE) completed research to advise the NSW government on appropriate management of asbestos in recovered fines. The advice will support the NSW EPA in reviewing its approach to managing asbestos in the context of resource recovery to support a circular economy and to explore options for greater consistency between jurisdictions. An evidence base was sought on the risk tolerance, health and environmental impacts, technologies and cost-effective methods to inform future improvements in relation to the safe and effective management of asbestos in recovered fines, as well as other recovered materials and waste intended to be beneficially reused.

A discussion paper[41] was released by the OCSE in June 2024. A total of 30 submissions were received and considered, along with 3 expert papers commissioned by the OCSE[42], to prepare the final report. The OCSE delivered the final report[43] to the Minister for Environment, the Hon. Penny Sharpe MLC, on 11 December 2024. It made 9 recommendations for consideration by the NSW government, reflecting a need to address the asbestos in recovered materials from construction and demolition waste with a through-chain risk-based approach. NSW EPA is coordinating the NSW government's response to the final report, following the agreement to 6 of the recommendations, with the remaining accepted in-principle[44].

Non-destructive digging on asbestos contaminated soil

In December 2022, SafeWork NSW commenced research to determine whether non-destructive digging (NDD) using high-pressure water spray on asbestos contaminated soil was safe. The cost for the research project was $574,493 and the research report and NDD guidelines are now in the final stages of review.

Risk control and prioritised removal – Key observations

- Governments are placing more importance on prioritising asbestos removal, using a risk-based approach, although this is still largely undertaken opportunistically.

Future focus

To support increasing the rate of asbestos removal, work will need to commence on actions that set the legal framework, capability and incentives, specifically:

- Safe Work Australia's Asbestos WHS Framework Review (commencing in 2026)
- assessing industry capacity to remove ACMs
- developing incentives to encourage the safe removal of ACMs from residential and commercial properties, including housing of Indigenous Australians, and
- expanding corporate reporting obligations to include asbestos liabilities.
- supporting local government is an ongoing action for state and territory governments, especially considering the impact of disaster events; and will become more important if the rate of proactive asbestos removal in communities increases.
- ASSEA will continue researching the effects of low-level asbestos exposures.

41 Discussion Paper | Chief Scientist
42 Expert Papers | Chief Scientist
43 Final Report | Chief Scientist
44 Management of asbestos in recovered fines and recovered materials for beneficial reuse in NSW | EPA

2.5

Safe and effective transport and disposal

Illegal asbestos disposal harms both human health and the environment and results in significant clean-up costs to the community. Furthermore, Australia's ageing asbestos legacy is a significant waste management challenge, especially as the only current lawful option is disposal in landfill, of which available space is becoming an increasingly pressing issue.

ASSEA is monitoring alternative asbestos waste disposal technologies, which is an action under the ANSP 2024–30.

Tracking asbestos waste

One of the key actions in ANSP 2024–30 is for all governments is to develop a nationally consistent asbestos waste tracking system, which integrates with asbestos removal notifications. This will enable tracking along the asbestos waste journey from identification to disposal and further improve data collection and accuracy. This in turn would also increase the ability of enforcement agencies to investigate the fate of asbestos waste that does not find its way to a licenced asbestos waste facility.

Aligned with this key action, NSW EPA delivered a new Integrated Waste Tracking Solution (IWTS) in 2024. The IWTS is a digital tool that enables waste consignors, transporters and receivers to track and report on the transport of hazardous and regulated waste, including asbestos. On 28 February 2024, NSW EPA implemented the IWTS for the movement of asbestos waste within NSW. Furthermore, the NSW EPA's 2024–25 targeted compliance program had a focus on ensuring asbestos waste generators and transporters were registered and using the IWTS. SafeWork NSW has been in discussions with NSW EPA relating to information sharing of licensed asbestos removal notifications and exploring options to integrate systems for asbestos notification and asbestos waste transportation.

WorkSafe Tasmania commenced mapping its asbestos removals notification processes, to investigate whether this information can be aligned with what is potentially available from disposal sites and reporting to the EPA. This would enable tracking asbestos waste from removal to disposal in Tasmania.

This contrasts with WA, where asbestos is listed in Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004* as a controlled waste but is specifically excluded under the regulations from the requirements relating to transportation by a licensed controlled waste carrier or tracking via a controlled waste tracking form. Asbestos waste is only tracked in WA if coming from interstate. However, some WA councils have local procedures to manage asbestos waste. For example, asbestos waste disposal at the Red Hill Waste Management Facility is recorded and tracked through the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council's facility management system. Transport of asbestos waste requires appropriate documentation including controlled waste consignment notes.

EPA Victoria is reviewing and updating guidance associated with transport and disposal of asbestos waste, to clarify waste tracking and vehicle permit requirements for loads under 50 litres

transported for no fee or reward. EPA Victoria conducts monthly reviews of its reportable priority waste tracking system (Waste Tracker) data related to the transportation of asbestos, to monitor industry compliance and consider an escalated compliance and enforcement action where required. EPA Victoria may cross-reference Victorian WorkSafe asbestos removal notification data to ensure that waste transporters are accurately creating waste records in Waste Tracker for each asbestos movement. In addition to compliance monitoring, EPA Victoria continues to engage with the asbestos transport industry. This includes delivering Waste Tracker presentations at industry events and conferences to promote behavioural change.

Encouraging responsible asbestos waste disposal

Northern Territory

In the NT, 4 waste management facilities are licenced under the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998* to dispose of asbestos – located in Darwin, Katherine, Alice Springs and Nhulunbuy. Another facility in Nhulunbuy is seeking licencing following construction approval. Across the NT, there are 48 transporters with licences for asbestos transport.

The Environment Regulation Division of the NT Department of Lands, Planning and Environment targeted transport and storage licencing across the NT in its 2024–25 Compliance Plan[45], as per the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act*. This resulted in NT EPA conducting an intelligence project aimed to identify unlicenced asbestos transporters. The project involved mapping the removal, transportation and disposal of asbestos and identified 13 operators transporting asbestos without a licence. Results of the project were communicated with the broader transport industry which resulted in greater compliance across the industry and in many new licences for asbestos transport.

Victoria

Sustainability Victoria (SV) administered the Asbestos Disposal Points (ADP) Grants program to increase access to waste facilities that support the safe disposal of non-friable asbestos waste. Targeted at local government and industry in priority areas, the program funded two organisations to establish 3 new asbestos disposal points, with sites to be operational by the end of 2025. Based at existing waste transfer stations the new sites will accept small quantities (under 10 square metres) of packaged, non-friable asbestos waste from domestic customers and commercial customers for a fee. Once delivered, the asbestos will be temporarily stored in a secure area equipped with a fit-for-purpose bin. When the bin reaches storage limits, the waste will be transported to an EPA Victoria licensed landfill for final disposal.

Grant recipients were supported by SV with guidance, communication and education resources. These materials were developed by technical specialists to assist site operators to meet regulations and provide the systems and information to support workers and customers to dispose of asbestos safely. The ADP Grants program, guidance and supporting resources were informed by a pilot program. The pilot successfully tested the

45 NT Environment Regulation Division Compliance Plan 2024

infrastructure, systems, standard operating procedures and communication resources needed to meet regulations and manage the safe disposal of asbestos.

EPA Victoria established and facilitated a working group to co-design an EPA-led compliance strategy that identified 15 actions for delivery by the government partners over the next two years. The involved partners were WorkSafe Victoria, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, the Building and Plumbing Commission, Sustainability Victoria, Parks Victoria, the Victorian Asbestos Eradication Agency, Recycling Victoria and Municipal Association of Victoria.

The 15 actions under this strategy address key barriers to safe and effective asbestos waste transport and disposal. These are grouped under the themes of improving:

- awareness and accountability from industry and community
- access and cost to lawful disposal sites
- collaboration to monitor compliance and enforce the law.

Implementation of the strategy has commenced and includes a range of measures, including enhanced waste tracking, updated guidance for waste producers and transporters, communications and engagement products and activities, and collaborative compliance operations.

Western Australia

The Shire of Carnarvon is a local government in the WA Gascoyne region, located about 900 kilometres north of Perth. Centred on the town of Carnarvon, it encompasses a diverse landscape ranging from coastal plains and river systems to pastoral and agricultural land, which includes Aboriginal communities.

The Shire of Carnarvon held two tip amnesty periods, allowing residents and local businesses to dispose of waste free of charge at the Browns Range landfill. The initiative successfully reduced the amount of asbestos-contaminated material entering the site after the amnesties and improved community awareness about proper asbestos wrapping, handling, and disposal requirements under relevant laws and licence conditions.

Mindarie Regional Council offers free asbestos disposal every Sunday for householders. The first 165 kg is free, and any additional amount is charged at the normal asbestos disposal rate. The 165 kg limit is consistent with the guidelines for safe disposal of asbestos without a licence, as set by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. Householders may make multiple visits up to a maximum of 5, after which the council reserves the right to refuse entry and/or charge.

Other local authorities in WA also offer regular ‘free drop off Sunday’ programs, as advertised on the relevant council website.

Asbestos waste data

The latest asbestos waste data in Australia arises from FY 2024–25 reporting. State and territory governments capture data on asbestos-contaminated waste from their tracking systems for hazardous wastes under the National Environment Protection Measures (NEPM) code N220 and/or reports from licensed landfill operators. Most asbestos waste comes from renovation and urban development and goes to landfill. The total quantity of all asbestos waste, including soil and rubble contaminated with asbestos, was about 1,670,000 tonnes (see Table 4).

Table 4: Summary of all asbestos waste by type and jurisdiction in FY 2024–25 (tonnes)

ASBESTOS WASTE TYPE	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA
Wrapped ACM only	6,100	189,500			25,200	11,600	101,600	54,300
Wrapped ACM + waste contaminated with friable ACM				186,800				
Wrapped ACM + waste contaminated with ACM			16,500	313,600				
Waste contaminated with ACM		790,200						
Waste contaminated with ACM only							158,000	

ASSEA encourages states and territories to report wrapped ACM separately from soil and rubble contaminated with ACM, to enable further progress towards harmonised national asbestos waste recording methods. Australia's states and territories continue to improve data collection on volumes of asbestos waste, with the best estimate of the quantity of asbestos waste being about 591,000 tonnes (see Table 5).

Table 5: Best estimate of asbestos waste volumes (i.e. data that includes wrapped ACM; tonnes)

FY 2024–25

ACT 6,100	**NSW** 189,500	**NT** 16,500	**Qld** 186,800
SA 25,200	**Tas** 11,600	**Vic** 101,600	**WA** 54,300
Australia 591,600			

Data quality also appears improved, particularly in Tasmania and Victoria. All jurisdictions, except NT and Qld, were able to report quantities of wrapped ACM (such as asbestos cement sheets) separately from waste contaminated with ACM (such as soil and rubble).

Some asbestos waste may be excluded from these records, including:

- waste from disaster events
- some domestic or smaller loads that do not need to be tracked in some jurisdictions
- asbestos in soils in most jurisdictions.

Overall, the volume of all asbestos waste disposed is increasing over time since records started to be kept in FY 2006–07, both in terms of the linear trend and the 5-year moving average trend. The volume of all asbestos waste disposed in FY 2024–25 is an increase of 30% on FY 2023–24 due mainly to increases in NSW and Victoria, noting that data quality is variable and will more likely lead to an under-estimation than an over-estimation due to data being incomplete.

Safe and effective transport and disposal – Key observations

- Developing strategies to dispose of asbestos safely and conveniently remains essential as asbestos waste volumes continue to increase. Illegal dumping of asbestos waste is an ongoing challenge for many councils and communities.

Future focus

More work is needed to implement the actions under Priority 3 of the ANSP 2024–30, including:

- assessing future waste capacity needs and exploring alternative asbestos waste disposal technologies
- reviewing the NEPM in relation to classification codes for asbestos waste and the management of asbestos-contaminated soils
- improving incentives to encourage responsible ACM disposal.

In 2026, ASSEA will complete a review of Australia's current asbestos waste system to identify improvements.

2.6

Compliance and enforcement of asbestos-related laws

Supporting and enforcing compliance with asbestos-related laws is another key enabler for each priority under Aim 1 of the ANSP 2024–30. Relevant regulators, including WHS and EPA, are responsible for the following actions:

- responding to and investigating asbestos related complaints and incidences
- developing annual campaigns to promote compliance with asbestos-related laws
- ensuring effective oversight of permit and licensing regimes
- raising awareness of penalties for non-compliance and publicising successful enforcement outcomes.

Regulatory actions to support compliance with asbestos-related laws were reported by each government and are outlined in Appendix D. Actions include conducting compliance audits and inspections, investigating incidents and complaints, issuing notices, suspending or cancelling licenses and prosecuting breaches.

3

Support for those affected by asbestos-related diseases

Aim 2 of ANSP 2024–30 is to improve the quality of life for workers and others with asbestos-related diseases, by improving their diagnosis, treatment and support.

Aim 2 has three priorities:

- Early diagnosis of asbestos-related diseases
- Easy navigation of care and support systems
- Improved diagnostic, therapeutic and other treatment methods

3.1

Early diagnosis of asbestos-related diseases

Early detection of asbestos-related diseases is essential to help prevent disease progression and increase survival rates. The ANSP 2024–30 actions include improving the knowledge and awareness of medical and health professionals in relation to diagnosing and caring for people with asbestos-related diseases.

Monitoring worker exposure

Data on worker exposure to asbestos fibres is limited.

Resources Safety & Health Queensland (RSHQ) published the Biannual Health Surveillance Report[46] in March 2024. The report presents an analysis of the health surveillance data collected and trends in occupational lung diseases, including asbestosis. RSHQ also commissioned a literature review on the potential health effects of exposure to cleavage fragments, short asbestos fibres and thin asbestos fibres arising from interaction with naturally occurring asbestos.

46 Biannual Health Surveillance Report – March 2024 | Resources Safety & Health Queensland

SafeWork NSW maintains the NSW Dust Disease Register which records occupational-related cases of mesothelioma and asbestosis notified to SafeWork NSW.[47]

On a national level, SWA commenced developing the Australian Worker Exposure Survey, which will provide updated data on workers' exposure to dangerous substances and psychosocial hazards. The survey covers a selection of priority exposures that include dust and airborne contaminants (including asbestos fibres and silica dust), welding fumes, diesel particulate matter, chemicals, dermal irritants, shift work and heat stress. The survey is expected to be completed in early 2026.

Increasing awareness amongst medical and health professionals

During 2024–25 ASSEA strengthened relationships with medical and health professionals and raised awareness of asbestos exposure risks, asbestos-related diseases and the role of the ANSP by participating in conferences and events.

WorkSafe WA also conducted a Registered Medical Practitioners Forum in June 2025, where asbestos health monitoring in target industries of demolition, assay labs and water utilities was detailed for the invited attendees.

3.2

Accessing and navigating the care and support systems

The following not-for-profit organisations around Australia play a vital role in advising and assisting asbestos-related disease sufferers, their families, friends and carers to make living with the disease easier.

- Asbestos Disease Foundation of Australia
- Asbestos Diseases Society of Australia
- Asbestos Diseases Society of South Australia (SA)
- Asbestos Victims Association South Australia (SA)
- Asbestosis and Mesothelioma Association of Australia (Qld)
- Asbestos Disease Support Society (Qld)
- Asbestos Council of Victoria/Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support Incorporated (Vic)
- Mesothelioma and Dust Diseases Australia Ltd (WA)
- The Asbestos Diseases Research Foundation (part of the Asbestos and Dust Diseases Research Institute or ADDRI)

While their role involves providing medical, emotional, and legal support, they also conduct advocacy, education and awareness raising activities in the broader community. ADDRI is the largest of these organisations as it also conducts medical and scientific research and is the only World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre dedicated to the elimination of asbestos-related diseases.

47 Dust Disease Register Annual Report 2024–25.pdf

Support group funding

The ANSP commits all governments to support the work of advocacy and support groups around Australia. These organisations rely on government and private sector grants, sponsorships, donations and bequests to carry out their important work. While funding from these sources in FY 2023–24 decreased from FY 2022–23 (ANSP national target baseline) for some organisations and increased for others according to their financial statements, overall there was a 17% decrease. This excludes ADDRI as their funding more than doubled in this period.

During FY 2024–25, ASSEA provided 8 support groups up to $10,000 each under a contract to conduct awareness raising and promotional activities using ASSEA's materials.

ACT

While the ACT does not have a local support group, the ACT government provides financial assistance to individuals who develop asbestos-related diseases through the Loose-Fill Asbestos Disease Support Scheme[48].

NSW

Through its role in the NSW asbestos awareness campaign, NSW EPA funded a sponsorship for the 2025 Asbestos Disease Foundation of Australia (ADFA) diary. The advertisement supported the publication of the ADFA diary and helped raise awareness.

In FY 2024–25, the NSW Dust Diseases Board had a budget of $1,200,000 towards funding advocacy and support groups who provide services for those impacted by icare's scheduled dust diseases.

Over $800,000 was granted for mesothelioma support services delivered through the ADFA and the ADDRI.

Queensland

Qld Health supports the Asbestos and Silicosis Support Program, of the Asbestos Disease Support Society Limited through the Community Services Funding Branch, Healthcare Purchasing and System Performance Division. Funding was granted for a 5-year period from 1 July 2024. The funding provided in this reporting period is $391,000.

South Australia

During the FY 2024–25 (and the previous two financial years), the SA government (through SafeWork SA) provided funding to the following organisations regarding asbestos:

- Asbestos Diseases Society of South Australia Inc., to assist with delivering asbestos awareness training, workshops, and seminars
- Asbestos Victims Association (SA) Inc., to assist with raising awareness of the dangers of asbestos and to support people with asbestos-related illnesses.

In the last FY, funding of $52,531 (ex-GST) was provided to each of the above organisations, totalling $105,062 (ex-GST).

Tasmania

While there are currently no advocacy or support groups operating in Tasmania, the Asbestos-Related Diseases (Occupational Exposure) Compensation Act 2011 provides a statutory compensation framework for workers suffering from asbestos-related diseases attributable to exposure to asbestos at work in Tasmania.

48 Payments to support people with diseases caused by loose-fill asbestos ACT government

The Asbestos Compensation Scheme (through WorkSafe Tasmania) administers compensation benefits including lump sum compensation, weekly payments, payment of medical and other expenses, and funeral costs. The scheme is non-adversarial and provides no-fault and timely compensation to eligible workers and certain family members of deceased workers. To be eligible for compensation, a person must be or have been a worker in connection with the state, as defined by the legislation, at the time of exposure to asbestos.

A person who has retired from work may still be eligible for compensation. Workers, and family members of deceased workers, who have been diagnosed with an asbestos-related disease may lodge an application with the Asbestos Compensation Commissioner, accompanied by the medical and occupational evidence necessary to facilitate a determination of their claim.

On 5 September 2024, the Tasmanian government implemented recommendations from the most recent 5-yearly review of the Asbestos Compensation Scheme (completed and tabled in November 2022). The amendments include covering the costs of counselling services for claimants and family members, reimbursement of medical costs directly related to a successful claim, covering legal costs following an error of law being made by a medical panel; and to avoid a party being required to repay the Commissioner an amount of compensation which was incorrectly calculated. These amendments ensure Tasmania's scheme remains contemporary and improves support for injured workers and their families.

Asbestos compensation payments are paid out of the Asbestos Compensation Fund, which receives contributions as a percentage of the workers compensation premiums of licensed insurers, self-insurers, and State Service Agencies.

Victoria

Via funding to the VAEA, the Victorian State Budget (Department of Treasury and Finance) includes funding for the ACV/GARDS group to continue building awareness of asbestos risks and deliver support for individuals and their families affected by asbestos (and silica) related diseases.

Western Australia

The WA government provided the Asbestos Diseases Society of Australia (ADSA) an annual grant of $150,000 (plus GST). Funding for ADSA is through the WA Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety. It has been provided since 1 July 1985, to promote public awareness of the risks associated with asbestos exposure and provide support and assistance to its members.

The WA government also provided a one-off Special Grant of $30,000 (plus GST) in the reporting period to Mesothelioma and Dust Diseases Australia (MADDA), to expand their specialist support services and to subsidise an awareness campaign. The funding recognised the role that MADDA plays in supporting individuals and families affected by asbestos-related diseases, aligns with WorkSafe WA's strategic priorities and provides an opportunity to strengthen collaboration between government and community advocacy, an essential pillar of the ANSP.

3.3

Continued improvements in treatment methods

Developing clinical guidelines

ASSEA and icare NSW provided funding to support the ADDRI develop and promote Clinical Guidelines for Mesothelioma. Publication is anticipated in February 2026.

Supporting asbestos-related diseases research

SWA continued to fund the Australian Mesothelioma Registry (AMR) during the reporting period. The AMR is a national registry managed by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare that collects information on new cases of mesothelioma diagnosed in Australia from 1 July 2010, and links this with asbestos exposure information where available. The goals of the AMR are to:

- better understand the relationship between asbestos exposure and mesothelioma
- provide reliable information to policy makers and researchers.

The NSW Dust Diseases Board had a grant budget of $3M for FY 2024–25. Of this funding, $740,000 was specifically awarded for medical research into asbestos-related diseases. These grants included funding to develop an international database incorporating clinical, genomic and immunomic data from mesothelioma patients, to determine patterns and markers associated with treatment responses. A Fellowship was also awarded to develop clinically relevant models to improve patient quality of life by optimising personalised treatment.

In 2020, the ACT government established funding of a PhD scholarship for research or coursework related to Mr Fluffy. The Community Impact Research PhD Scholarship is a rolling program of funding, where one research grant and one PhD Scholarship can be awarded to PhD candidates at the Australian National University (ANU). The inaugural awardee, James Watson, completed his PhD program in July 2024. His thesis on Fibro Modernity: A Social History of Asbestos in Australia, 1878–2024[49] has been published on the ANU Open Research portal. A second PhD candidate scholarship has now been awarded, with an expected completion date of 30 June 2026.

The ACT government also funded the Asbestos Health Study, which commenced in 2015[50] and aimed to examine the health effects of living in a house with loose-fill asbestos insulation in the ACT. Overall, the study sought to provide information on domestic exposure to loose-fill asbestos in the ACT and on the health concerns of current and recent residents of Mr Fluffy houses. The second (and final instalment) of the study (ACT Asbestos Health Study II Report[51]) was released in September 2024. This final component is an update to the Data Linkage component of the ACT Asbestos Health Study initially conducted over 2015–2017. It sought to examine whether mesothelioma and other cancers potentially associated with asbestos exposure were more common among

49 Fibro Modernity: A Social History of Asbestos in Australia, 1878–2024

50 ACT Asbestos Health Study | ANU National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health

51 ACT Asbestos Health Study II: Linked Data Project | ANU National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health

people who had lived in a Mr Fluffy house than among people who had never lived in a Mr Fluffy house in the ACT.

Consistent with the results of the first study, the most recent data show that living in a house affected by loose-fill asbestos insulation results in an increased risk to health but that the risk of mesothelioma remains low. All remaining residents were contacted advising the release of the ACT Asbestos Health Study II Report, produced by ANU's National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health. The letter included contact details to several supports available to impacted households.

Support for those affected by asbestos-related diseases – Key observations

- Early work has commenced to increase awareness and knowledge among medical and health professionals and to monitor worker exposure to asbestos through national and state-level surveys and registers.
- Multiple not-for-profit organisations across Australia play a vital role in assisting asbestos-related disease sufferers and their families. A number of governments provided financial and other assistance to these groups and there are asbestos specific compensation schemes, ensuring support is accessible even in regions without dedicated advocacy groups.

Future focus

There is an ongoing need to implement actions under Aim 2, especially in:

- Raising awareness and providing guidance for medical and health professionals to support early diagnosis of asbestos-related diseases
- Supporting ongoing research into asbestos-related diseases and improving diagnostic and treatment methods.
- Ensuring sustainable funding and collaboration between government, advocacy groups, and research institutions to address gaps in support and care for those affected by asbestos exposure.

4

International leadership

Aim 3 of ANSP 2024–30 focuses on Australia's ongoing leadership to secure a worldwide ban on the production and trade of asbestos.

Aim 3 has three priorities:

- Capacity building in South-East Asia (including developing training programs on disease detection and commissioning research on the burden of asbestos-related diseases in target countries)
- Promoting the Australian Government's position on asbestos bans
- Preventing and responding effectively to illegal importation of products containing asbestos

4.1

Capacity building in South-East Asia

ASSEA continued its longstanding partnership with Union Aid Abroad–APHEDA during 2024–25 by supporting and funding awareness raising and capacity building initiatives that align with the international priorities in the ANSP 2024–30. This work focuses on South-East Asian countries with high asbestos use, specifically Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia and Lao PDR. Actions included the development of a Cambodian asbestos material product guide, the launch of the Lao National Asbestos Profile and the provision of basic lung function health checks for over 400 asbestos roof sheet workers and community members in Lao PDR.

In October 2024, ASSEA participated in the joint Malaysian Industrial Hygiene Association and the Asian Network of Occupational Hygiene conference in Kuala Lumpur to share Australia's experience with asbestos. Meetings were also held with government and non-government stakeholders to discuss asbestos management and phasing out the use of chrysotile asbestos in Malaysia. As with other countries in the region, a key issue is the lack of expertise to diagnose asbestos-related diseases which means that the true scale and cost of asbestos exposure is largely invisible.

In January 2025, ASSEA joined representatives from APHEDA in Cambodia to discuss the Cambodian government's plans to prohibit asbestos importation and use, which are continuously being challenged by the pro-asbestos industry. Proposed actions to progress asbestos bans included prohibiting the use of asbestos in non-residential buildings, mandating warning labels for asbestos products and adding chrysotile to a list of hazardous substances as a mechanism

to restrict importation.[52] Meetings involved the Director General of the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction, the Asian Development Bank, the WHO as well as the Australian Ambassador.

To further support Cambodia, the Australian Government is funding an economic impact assessment on introducing an asbestos ban in Cambodia, through the Cambodia Australia Partnership for Resilient Economic Development. ASSEA will partner with ADDRI and APHEDA to deliver training on diagnosing and treating asbestos-related diseases in Cambodia in August 2025.

In May 2025, in response to a request from the Lao PDR Ministry of Health, ASSEA commissioned an independent study on the health and economic effects of asbestos use in Lao PDR to help the government make decisions about potentially phasing out asbestos use.

Brunei remains the only country out of 11 in South-East Asia that has banned the use of all types of asbestos, although Singapore has banned the use of all types of raw asbestos.

4.2

Promoting the Australian Government's position on asbestos bans

International agreements

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) leads Australia's engagement in the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade.

Countries that ratify the Convention agree to implement the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure, which requires importing countries to decide whether to allow or restrict imports of hazardous chemicals and pesticides listed in Annex III. The Australian Government has actively supported the listing of chrysotile asbestos under the Rotterdam Convention since 2006.

At the Rotterdam Convention Conference of the Parties (COP) in May 2025, Parties again considered listing chrysotile asbestos in Annex III to the Convention. Listing in Annex III would subject chrysotile to the Rotterdam Convention's controls on hazardous chemicals, which would help reduce its global trade and use. Unfortunately, consensus to list chrysotile asbestos still could not be reached. Consideration was deferred to the next COP meeting in 2027.

The failure to include chrysotile asbestos in Annex III is being used by the chrysotile industry as evidence that chrysotile asbestos is not toxic and can be used safely.

DCCEEW is continuing its engagement with likeminded parties and stakeholders to explore improving the effectiveness of the Convention and help achieve the listing of chrysotile.

International aid programs

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) runs Australia's International Development Program. DFAT's overarching Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS)

52 The Phnom Penh Post | Construction ministry considering asbestos ban, regulations

Policy[53] prohibits its international aid program from using any ACMs in any new activities. The ESS Policy also requires programs to manage any asbestos-related risks within existing development activities to minimise any adverse effect on the environment and communities where the work is undertaken. This policy applies to all DFAT-administered Official Development Assistance funded activities, regardless of value, implementing partners or modality.

DFAT's additional ESS Policy in Asbestos Management and Guideline to Managing Asbestos Risk[54] complement the ESS Policy, providing practical advice on identifying and managing asbestos risks through early planning and mitigation measures in the aid management cycle. This occurs in coordination with implementing partners and governments overseas, in accordance with Australian Government and partner country legislation, to support aid policy implementation.

DFAT provides training (e-learning) for its development staff with a foundational level understanding of obligations under the ESS policies. During the reporting period, 133 staff completed this training.

4.3

Preventing and responding to illegal asbestos importation

Importing or exporting asbestos or goods containing asbestos is prohibited under Australian law, except in very limited circumstances where a lawful exception applies, or permission to import and/or export has been granted.

Three control measures are in place to prevent and/or effectively respond to illegal importation of products containing asbestos:

- ASSEA manages import and export permissions under the customs regulations (*Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 and Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations 1958*)
- the Australian Border Force (ABF) is responsible for enforcing Australia's asbestos import and export prohibitions
- the ABF, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) and WHS regulators work together to trace and commence remediation if prohibited asbestos imports make it into Australia.

Before the border

Importers and exporters are responsible for ensuring that their goods do not unlawfully contain asbestos before they are consigned to or from Australia.

Where a permit is required, ASSEA administers the process via a delegation of authority from the minister responsible for the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* to the CEO of ASSEA. Permission may only be granted for the purposes of:

- research, analysis or display
- waste transportation from an Australian External Territory to the mainland for disposal.

Permits can be granted for single use or multiple use, usually for two financial years, and up to 5 years for government. Permits can cover import and/or export.

Table 6 shows the permits issued by ASSEA during the reporting period (1 January 2024 to 30 June 2025).

53 Environmental and social safeguards | Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
54 Asbestos Management in the Aid Program | Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Table 6: Permits issued for import and/or export of goods containing asbestos

Period	Import only	Import and export	Export only
1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024	2	0	0
FY 2024–25	20	3	0

At the border

The ABF assesses asbestos risk in goods intended for import by considering:

- asbestos use in the countries of origin
- at-risk foreign manufacturing industries and suppliers
- prior border detections of asbestos.

If goods are suspected of containing asbestos at the border, the ABF will direct that the goods are sampled by an independent competent person and tested by a NATA accredited laboratory, at the expense of the goods owner. Goods found to unlawfully contain asbestos at the border are seized by the ABF as a prohibited import and forfeited for disposal. Penalties may also apply.

Appendix E shows the ABF asbestos-related compliance activities undertaken at the border during the reporting period. On average, there were approximately 160 positive risk assessment alerts for asbestos in imported goods per month and positive detections were low. It's mainly chrysotile asbestos that is detected in manufactured goods. This supports the Australian Government's efforts to have chrysotile asbestos listed in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention.

Responding when goods enter Australia unlawfully

The Rapid Response Protocol (RRP) is a coordinated response procedure by the Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities (HWSA) Imported Materials with Asbestos Working Group (IMAWG). The group includes the ABF, all WHS regulators for Australia and NZ and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. The RRP enables the relevant agencies to quickly and cooperatively manage cases where imported goods containing asbestos affect multiple jurisdictions.

The RRP has been initiated once in the last 4 years – in April 2025 the ABF notified the group of asbestos detected in fire rated boards imported into Victoria from China, intended for use as a fire-resistant core in the manufacture of fire safety doors.

When required, the ACCC publish recalls of consumer goods containing asbestos on their Product Safety website. ASSEA also publishes safety alerts and provides links to recalls on its website.

There were no asbestos-related recalls published by the ACCC during the reporting period. National Safety Alerts published in 2024–25:

- Redraft and publication of safety alert: *Asbestos in educational mineral sample kits and stones sold separately*
- Information sheet: *Asbestos in imported prefabricated building products*

The ACCC continues to administer a ban on the supply of gas masks with asbestos breathing devices[55], originally published in 1993. While the ACCC does not implement asbestos-specific compliance programs, it occasionally publishes guidance materials relevant to asbestos and consumer product safety on the Product Safety website.

International leadership – Key observations

- Global asbestos production is declining, but consumption persists in developing Asian countries. Any progress in transitioning to safer materials is continually being challenged by the asbestos industry aiming to protect its last major global market.
- Overall, while goods with asbestos sometimes enter Australia illegally, primarily from countries known to still use asbestos as a raw material, compliance with Australia's laws remains high. This allows for a continued focus on international activities to implement asbestos bans, as well as the domestic focus on the legacy asbestos remaining in Australia's built environment.

Future focus

- The Australian government and its partner organisations' ongoing work aims to reform international agreements, build detection and data capabilities in target countries, and counter industry misinformation.
- In 2026, the outcomes of two economic impact assessment studies for ending asbestos use in Cambodia and Lao PDR will be shared and promoted to influence government action in these countries.
- Ongoing vigilance to prevent and respond to illegal asbestos imports is also needed.

55 Gas masks with asbestos breathing devices ban | ACCC Product Safety

5

National Targets – Baseline data

National targets are set against the aims of the ANSP and measure the collective efforts of implementers and partners in the asbestos safety system.

Table 7 indicates preliminary progress against baseline data and also notes where data will be collected and reported in following years, given the first year of implementation may not provide meaningful results.

Table 7: 2024–25 measures against national targets

Aim	Performance measures	National Targets	Progress
Eliminating asbestos related diseases	**Awareness:** • Level of awareness amongst target groups • Performance against national awareness campaign benchmarks	• Awareness levels increase each year compared to the baseline year of 2024 • Campaign exceeds government performance benchmarks	• Baseline awareness level data to be provided in FY 2025–26 • 2024–25 NAAC exceeded government performance benchmarks (see Section 2.1)
	Workforce capability: • Workers completing asbestos-related training • Asbestos professionals licensed and/or accredited	• Number of workers completing asbestos-related training increases each year • Number of people licensed and/or accredited to carry out asbestos activities increases each year	• Number of students increased from VET training (Table 3) • Progress will be measured from baseline 2024 data.
	Rate of asbestos removal	Asbestos stocks decline more than the 2021 estimate of 10% per decade in line with the additional rates (extra 0.6-1.0% per annum) included in the socio-economic evaluation	Data to be provided in FY 2026–27

Aim	Performance measures	National Targets	Progress
Supporting workers and others who are affected by asbestos-related diseases	Funding for lung cancer and mesothelioma cancer research and programs	Increase in funding from $30.9 million reported by Cancer Australia in 2020	Total funding for lung cancer including mesothelioma in FY 2024–25 is $25.9 million
	Funding for advocacy and support groups	Increase from amounts reported in the groups 2022–23 Financial Statements	Reduced by 17% in FY 2023–24 (see Section 3.2)
International leadership	Asbestos consumption in SE Asia	50% decline in consumption by 2030 from baseline of 175,000 tonnes in 2022	Consumption data to be provided in FY 2025–26 report
	Detect imported products which contain asbestos and prevent repeat importations	100% of importation incidents detected are subject to regulatory action	See Appendix E

Appendices

Appendix A

Jurisdictional asbestos awareness activities

ACT

In February 2024, asbestos-contaminated mulch was discovered in the ACT. WorkSafe ACT, played a crucial role in protecting the community from the potential associated risks, adopting an approach of 'community safety via awareness' in response. WorkSafe ACT's initial media statement identified persons conducting a business or undertaking (PCBUs) who had purchased and potentially sold or distributed contaminated mulch, details of the product (a recycled mulch called Cottage Mulch), and the timeframe of concern. The statement invited PCBUs and members of the public to contact WorkSafe ACT. Ongoing updates and thorough communication activities were an important element of maintaining community awareness of the issue. WorkSafe ACT published 6 media statements over a 4-week period to keep the community updated on test results and actions being undertaken to reduce the risk of asbestos exposure. WorkSafe ACT also handled 16 media enquiries (including radio/TV interviews) relating to the asbestos exposure.

WorkSafe ACT has a Senior Education Officer who is responsible for implementing WHS education activities for workers in the ACT, with a focus on young and vulnerable workers. The role includes assisting duty holders comply with their obligations and providing information to workers and their employers on asbestos training requirements.

NSW

NSW EPA ran its NSW Asbestos Awareness advertising campaign targeting DIY enthusiasts, handypersons, and tradespeople. Creative development and testing for the campaign began in July 2024. Paid media activity was undertaken in November to December 2024 and February to June 2025. The latest iteration of the campaign significantly outperformed its predecessor across key marketing performance metrics, including increases in unprompted recall of the campaign message (+9%), believability and interest (+5%), informative (+11%) and elicited a notably strong response in emotional engagement (+26%), bringing the critical issue of asbestos management to the forefront of public consciousness. Campaign evaluation research found those who saw the campaign advertising had a 13% increase in confidence in knowing when to call an asbestos expert and after seeing the campaign, the intention to plan ahead for asbestos also increased by a 15% margin.

The NSW Asbestos Awareness Campaign Stakeholder Pack, featuring digital assets

and print materials, was distributed to partners and councils to promote on their own channels. It was also promoted through the EPA's sponsorship at the Australian Asbestos and Hazardous Materials Management Conference, held on 17–18 October 2024 in the Blue Mountains.

SafeWork NSW also conducted awareness campaigns targeting people who may encounter asbestos at work. As part of the response to the asbestos in mulch incident in early 2024, SafeWork NSW in partnership with the NSW Building Commission and TAFE NSW, made the online Asbestos Awareness and Safety Course[56] free for a period of 3 months (March to June 2024).

SafeWork NSW supported National Asbestos Awareness Week through a paid social media campaign to promote the online Asbestos Awareness and Safety Course and the SafeWork Respirator Fit-Testing[57] video. Articles were included in SafeWork Wrap, and through direct emails to asbestos and demolition licence holders. Banners were also placed on the SafeWork NSW website[58], with further promotion though industry stakeholders.

LGNSW promoted National Asbestos Awareness Week to all NSW councils via the asbestos network, the LGNSW weekly newsletter and direct email, resulting in councils posting messages on their social media and websites. LGNSW also engaged with Bunnings, using several of their stores to promote National Asbestos Awareness Week to the community. LGNSW has since commissioned an asbestos awareness-branded marquee, which will be used to road test face-to-face asbestos risk communication throughout the community.

Northern Territory

NT EPA conducted general awareness campaigns on illegal waste dumping across the NT in late 2024, particularly in the Alice Springs region via the 'Don't Be a Dumper' campaign[59]. A targeted awareness campaign was delivered across the NT to landfill operators, asbestos transporters, and waste transfer stations, focusing on legislative requirements for the safe and lawful transport of asbestos. This initiative followed an investigation into potential illegal asbestos transport activities (see Appendix D).

Queensland

During the reporting period, the OIR published 76 awareness-focused posts across social media and undertook a paid social media campaign on Facebook and LinkedIn. The content was compliance-focused to ensure duty holders understood their legal obligations and consequences of non-compliance, and included the dangers of water blasting asbestos, tips for identifying asbestos in homes, how to dispose of asbestos safely and how to manage asbestos risks, as well as the outcomes of prosecutions involving asbestos. In addition, communications were delivered to 121,712 business owners and operators (duty holders under Queensland's WHS legislation and with premises built before 1990) regarding the compliance campaign undertaken in August 2024, examining asbestos management.

56 Asbestos awareness and safety – store.training.tafensw.edu.au
57 Fit testing for your respirator
58 SafeWork NSW website | NSW government
59 Operation: Don't be a Dumper – Tackling waste crime in the Alice Springs region | Department of Lands, Planning and Environment

The Qld OIR's specialist asbestos advisory team attended 7 home show and home improvement expo events across Queensland (4 in Brisbane and one each in Maryborough, Cairns and Mackay). These events are aimed at home renovators and DIYers. At each event, advisers share asbestos safety information, distribute educational materials and showcase a newly introduced display case featuring samples of commonly encountered ACM.

The Qld OIR's specialist asbestos advisory team is leading Project Paint Shop, an initiative aimed at raising asbestos awareness within the roof restoration and painting industry. The project focuses on paint suppliers located in regions with a history of high-pressure water incidents involving asbestos roofs. To deliver its message, the project is using several pathways, including the distribution of consumer-focused asbestos safety publications at paint shop points of sale. These materials highlight the risks associated with using high-pressure water to clean asbestos roofs. Additionally, the team is developing warning labels for paint containers to reinforce the project's safety messaging.

In collaboration with ASSEA, OIR expanded the campaign's messaging nationally. ASSEA's website now features a centralised hub[60] linking to jurisdiction-specific information about the dangers of high-pressure water use on ACMs. As well as raising awareness within the roof restoration and painting industries, Project Paint Shop is helping to forge valuable industry partnerships with paint suppliers and professional associations.

QBuild (a commercialised business unit within the Qld government, operating under the Department of Housing and Public Works as the government's in-house construction and maintenance provider for public infrastructure) uses ASSEA's materials to increase asbestos awareness amongst its apprentices and field staff, condition assessors and project delivery staff.

60 The dangers of asbestos cement roofs | ASSEA

Victoria

EPA Victoria delivered direct mail outs, aligned social media campaigns, and public facing key messages and media releases that targeted businesses and individuals operating in the asbestos removal and construction and demolition industries, to raise awareness of asbestos management and disposal obligations. This included 33 social media posts on asbestos-related issues, with total impressions reaching 276,512 and an engagement rate of 9.6%.

EPA Victoria in collaboration with the Building and Plumbing Commission (at the time Victorian Building Authority) also delivered a direct mail out to over 20,000 contacts in the demolition sector that had not previously been directly engaged by EPA Victoria, regarding lawful disposal of asbestos and waste tracking duties.

Western Australia

WorkSafe WA attended the May 2024 Careers Expo and a Tradie Expo in June 2025, which included providing information on the safe handling of asbestos materials.

A number of local governments in WA reported raising awareness of asbestos risks through social media posts and newsletters.

Appendix B

Asbestos awareness training for employees and contractors

NSW

NSW EPA offers an Asbestos Awareness Education Program, updating an older course in late 2024. The target audience is NSW EPA staff and external regulators, and training is delivered by online self-paced e-learning. The course duration is approximately one hour, and there have been a total of 105 completions during the reporting period (62 completions up to November 2024 and 43 completions of the new release from December 2024).

NSW EPA also hosts the newly released LGNSW asbestos e-learning package for councils through its online learning portal. The fee-free *Roles and responsibilities of council for managing asbestos in the community* course[61] is 3 hours duration and the target audience is local council officers. Modules include waste management, development assessment, contaminated land, naturally occurring asbestos, emergencies and incidents. There were 45 completions during the reporting period.

LGNSW, together with SafeWork NSW and NSW EPA, supported two asbestos waste regulation and management workshops targeting EHOs, rangers, building compliance and waste officers at regional councils. The workshops reviewed asbestos waste regulation and management from a council perspective
to discuss illegal dumping, illegal landfilling, high pressure cleaning of asbestos roofs, DIY asbestos removal left on site, disaster waste, and asbestos left in kerbside bins, kerbside bulky waste collection, and at council waste facilities. The workshops were held in Kempsey in August 2024, attracting 25 staff from 7 councils and Moruya in September 2024, attracting over 30 attendees from 5 councils.

South Australia

The SA Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) developed training modules on legislative compliance and government process requirements for the safe identification, management and removal of asbestos. These will be made available on the DIT asbestos management website[62]. Respective SA government departments will make their staff and contractors aware of the availability of the resources once they are published. Communication of their availability will occur via members of the SA Asbestos and Silica Strategic Group.

Western Australia

Case Study –
WA Department of Education

Strengthening Asbestos Awareness Through Targeted Training

The WA Department of Education continues to make significant progress to improve asbestos awareness and compliance across its sites, and to ensure staff have the knowledge and confidence to manage asbestos safely. A key component of this success has been the implementation of a

61 Asbestos e-Learning for councils
62 Asbestos management | DIT SA

targeted asbestos training program, designed to reach staff with asbestos management responsibilities and extend awareness to all employees.

The WA Department of Education provides a range of asbestos awareness materials and training options tailored to different roles and levels of responsibility. Key initiatives include:

- online Asbestos Awareness Training, mandatory for staff with asbestos management duties and strongly encouraged for all others
- delivery through multiple accessible channels, including the Online Professional Learning Information System, site inductions, staff presentations, and the distribution of Asbestos Awareness Factsheets
- integration of asbestos information into operational updates and new school year communication packs, ensuring consistent messaging across all sites.

This multi-channel approach has ensured that asbestos safety remains visible, relevant, and easy for staff to engage with, regardless of their role or location.

Tracking progress and maintaining accountability

Awareness and compliance levels are measured through the Asbestos Compliance Certification Process, conducted twice yearly across all sites. These reviews assess adherence to the Asbestos Management Plan, confirm training completion, and provide an opportunity to address any identified gaps.

As at September 2025, the Asbestos Compliance Certification Process confirmed that 90% of staff required to complete the Online Asbestos Awareness Training had successfully done so. In addition, 97% of school-based staff (representing approximately 42,457 FTE) had been briefed on ACM and provided with an Asbestos Awareness Factsheet.

This structured review process has delivered measurable improvements:

- awareness levels increased from 81% in May 2021 to 93% in September 2025
- regular compliance reviews have strengthened accountability, with staff reminded directly when obligations are outstanding
- information updates provided to Principals and Managers of Corporate Services have reinforced leadership responsibility for maintaining safe and informed workplaces.

Case Study – WA local government training approaches

The WA City of Kalamunda (an outer metropolitan locality) actively engaged with industry via toolbox talks with local builders/roofers on permitting, waste transport and on-site controls for removal jobs. They shared WA Department of Health guidance and set expectations for work practices.

To support illegal dumping responses, they also introduced shared call out process, an evidence checklist and rapid clean-up trigger for asbestos dumping incidents. This has allowed for faster triaging, integrated record-keeping and an overall improved response by rangers.

More broadly, local governments in WA provide the following training for their workers:

- ongoing awareness training of EHOs and waste management attendants
- workers handling, or working near, asbestos undertake mandatory safety inductions and training
- workers identified as more likely to encounter asbestos attend face-to-face awareness training
- internal asbestos awareness workshops are held to promote staff understanding and safe practices
- some local authorities conducted 'Safe Disposal of Asbestos Month' with internal awareness including toolbox discussions.

Appendix C

Examples of risk-based asbestos removal programs

Asbestos removal in schools

ACT

The ACT Education Directorate, which holds responsibility for 71 sites with identified asbestos (and associated management), uses a risk-based approach for the prioritisation of hazardous materials removal in schools. This is largely directed by the risk rating applied within the qualified assessor's advice and reports; however the prioritisation methodology also considers maximising the benefits of undertaking certain types of works. For example, funding can be efficiently used by replacing a lead painted, single glazed window with asbestos containing glazing putty with new double glazed, thermally broken window units to remove multiple hazardous materials while contributing to carbon reduction targets and improved comfort conditions. A $15m fund was allocated by the ACT government over 4 years (commencing in FY 2021–22) for asbestos and other hazardous materials removal works.

Queensland

The Qld Department of Education (DoE) manages the largest volume of ACM within the Qld government, having identified 100,000 ACM items across its sites. As most ACM is in schools, removal projects must balance the department's low tolerance for asbestos risk with the need to keep schools operational. Most ACM removals are scheduled during school holidays to minimise impacts on students. However, larger projects are constrained by the short holiday windows, with the 6-week summer break further complicated by industry shutdowns and severe weather risks. Projects are therefore often staged into smaller, manageable works.

Where removal cannot occur immediately, ACM risks are managed in-situ through staff training, contractor inductions, incident reporting and regular audits, which prioritise removal based on condition, friability, access, incident history, and exposure to weather. The safety of students, staff and visitors remains the department's highest priority.

The Qld DoE Asbestos Management Plan prohibits persons other than service providers being at a facility during ACM removal works. As schools are occupied outside of normal hours, a risk-based approach is used to manage potential unsafe interactions with ACM removal works. This can be challenging where staff reside on school grounds in DoE-owned housing. In such cases, the department typically relocates staff to nearby accommodation for the duration of the works.

In a recent project on a remote island in Far North Queensland, ACM removal was scheduled in two school buildings over a holiday period. The school had 4 staff residential dwellings on-site, and the town lacked temporary accommodation. To manage this, removal works were conducted while families were off-site, with an occupational hygienist providing a daily clearance certificate to ensure the environment was safe to reoccupy. This approach ensured the works could proceed safely, and all relevant safety legislation and DoE policies were met.

NSW

Asbestos in NSW Aboriginal communities

Aboriginal communities are disproportionately affected from the past mining, manufacture and use of asbestos in Australia.

The NSW government provided Aboriginal Affairs NSW $9.2 million over 2 years from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2026 to engage a service provider (through a procurement process) to undertake assessments of infrastructure, housing, and contaminants (including asbestos), in the Discrete Aboriginal Communities of NSW. The outcomes of the assessment will inform the business case for future investment to address legacy issues created by past government policies, including rectifying asbestos contamination in these communities.

NSW EPA has been undertaking asbestos clean-up works in the Wallaga Lake Aboriginal Community. Groundwork was delivered in 3 stages, between December 2023 and June 2025, removing asbestos from homes, soil, and legacy dumping areas. The most recent stage, completed in June 2025, removed friable asbestos from 3 residential yards. Five community members were trained in asbestos removal as part of the project, and a Cultural Site Officer was employed for the duration of the staged works. The project has also included extensive engagement with community providing information about asbestos. These included community events like morning teas, BBQs, meetings, letters and flyers and other community specific communication. In response to health concerns raised by community members during a morning tea event, in January 2024 icare and NSW EPA conducted a joint visit to the Wallaga Lake Aboriginal Community with icare's lung bus and offered free lung screening to interested community members.

Western Australia

Case Study – WA Department of Planning Lands and Heritage – Government controlled assets

The Department of Planning Lands and Heritage (DPLH) manages a vast number of properties and land holdings across WA – from heritage sites and parks to regional offices and community facilities. Because of the age and variety of these assets, some still contain ACMs. DPLH is aiming to better understand, record and manage all asbestos across its portfolio. This work will form the foundation of a new Asbestos Management Program being developed alongside DPLH's Strategic Asset Plan.

Progress so far

Over the past year, inspections were conducted on a range of government sites, leading to the development of new or updated asbestos registers. Where asbestos was identified, DPLH acted promptly to reduce risks – commissioning qualified contractors to remove or remediate affected materials and, in some cases, demolish unsafe buildings.

This included work across Crown land sites, heritage facilities, and regional properties, as well as cleanup of surface asbestos where necessary. In addition to removal works,

hazardous material assessments were completed at several sites to inform future planning. Together, these activities have strengthened DPLH's understanding of where asbestos exists, how it is being managed, and what further work is required.

How asbestos is managed

DPLH's asbestos registers are stored electronically in the department's secure record-keeping system, and local copies are held on-site where needed, for example at Fremantle Prison and Whiteman Park.

Where a property or land parcel is leased or managed by another organisation, asbestos management responsibility passes to that party – supported by DPLH sharing any relevant information it holds.

DPLH engages qualified asbestos removalists and occupational hygienists to carry out any required work. All contractors must meet strict safety standards set out by WorkSafe WA, Department of Health, and Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. This ensures all asbestos is handled, removed and disposed of safely and responsibly.

Ongoing challenges and future improvements

DPLH manages a wide range of assets. Not all assets currently have registers, and older systems mean some risk ratings are not consistent across sites. To address this, DPLH is developing a centralised asbestos register and standardising its risk assessment methods in line with national best practice. This will make it easier to track asbestos management activities across the entire portfolio and prioritise future removal works.

DPLH is also aiming to improve how asbestos information is shared internally and with other land managers, tenants and community partners.

Working with communities

DPLH continues to support the Aboriginal Lands Trust by conducting building condition assessments that include asbestos identification. This work will help guide future management and removal activities in these areas.

Looking ahead

The next step for DPLH is to build a more coordinated and transparent approach to asbestos management, one that combines accurate asset data, consistent risk assessment, and strong safety standards. By improving how asbestos is tracked, managed and removed, DPLH is taking a proactive approach to protecting the health of staff, tenants and the wider community, while ensuring public assets are safe and responsibly maintained for the future.

City of Mandurah

The City of Mandurah's program establishes a systematic, prioritised approach to asbestos removal, ensuring resources are directed toward sites and materials posing the highest potential risk to health or safety. This approach integrates asbestos management within the building renewal program and long-term financial planning, supporting both fiscal responsibility and community protection.

Prioritisation Framework

The City of Mandurah's asbestos removal schedule is underpinned by a risk assessment matrix that considers material condition, likelihood of disturbance, and exposure potential. The program prioritises:

- high-risk ACMs located in older community halls, public facilities, and workplaces, with a dedicated annual budget allocation to address these sites
- sites with frequent maintenance activity or high public access, where the chance of asbestos disturbance is elevated
- integration with planned capital works, ensuring ACM removal occurs alongside building upgrades and renewal projects to maximise efficiency and minimise disruption.

The City of Mandurah has an established contract with a principal supplier who coordinates licensed asbestos removalists for all ACM works. This contract framework ensures:

- prompt response times for identified risks
- safe removal and disposal practices in full compliance with the WHS regulations
- independent verification through a licensed third-party contractor who conducts air monitoring, testing, and clearance certification before reoccupation
- all contractors engaged in asbestos removal are required to hold a current Class A or B asbestos removal licence as per legislation.

Safe work practices and governance

The City of Mandurah adheres to the WorkSafe WA suite of asbestos removal documentation to ensure best-practice safety standards are consistently applied. Asbestos safety is embedded across the City's operations, including:

- employee and contractor safety inductions
- procurement documentation requiring asbestos risk consideration
- development of a comprehensive Asbestos Management Procedure, which defines minimum standards for safe removal and community protection

- key elements of the removal process each asbestos removal project, incorporating the following safeguards and controls
  - pre-removal communication with affected facility users, tenants, and neighbouring properties
  - preparation of a site-specific Asbestos Removal Control Plan by the contractor
  - air monitoring during and following removal works
  - public signage and exclusion barriers established in line with WHS and environmental regulations
- verification of waste transport and disposal at approved and licensed landfill sites
- post-removal clearance certification, with records stored within the City's Asbestos Register and Asbestos Management System.

This risk-based approach enables the City of Mandurah to make informed, prioritised decisions on asbestos removal, reduce long-term exposure risks, and maintain compliance with national standards. Ongoing monitoring, contractor performance reviews, and integration with broader asset management initiatives ensure continuous improvement.

Other WA Councils

The City of Armadale is currently preparing a 10-year plan to progressively remove asbestos from its facilities. The removal works will be carried out alongside scheduled building upgrades, minor renewals, and smaller capital improvement projects rather than as a single large-scale program. This approach allows asbestos to be safely and efficiently removed as part of normal maintenance and improvement works, reducing risk over time while ensuring cost effectiveness. The plan will also help coordinate efforts between the Property, Operations, and Capital Works teams, to ensure asbestos management is consistently addressed across all City projects.

The City of South Perth removed ACM from 25 of its owned assets during the reporting period, with 7 remaining sites to be audited annually and prioritised for removal based on risk. The Shire of Esperance has budgeted for two buildings to be scheduled for asbestos removal and disposal in the FY 2025–26, while the City of Kalgoorlie Boulder continues to reduce asbestos within its assets, through demolition or systematic removal. Only 7 high-risk assets remain (all within heritage listed town halls), with the most recent review and update to all registers undertaken in March 2025.

Appendix D

Compliance and enforcement

Comcare

Comcare received 399 notifiable asbestos-related hazard notifications, consisting of:

- 234 asbestos removal notifications for non-friable asbestos over 10m² (Class B licence)
- 165 asbestos removal notifications for friable asbestos (Class A licence)

A total of 130 of the above asbestosremoval notifications involved 10m² or less of non-friable asbestos and Comcare undertook 21 inspections in response to these notifications.

Comcare also received 40 incident notifications that related to potential or actual exposure to asbestos; of these, 38 are currently assessed as notifiable. Nine Monitoring Compliance (MC) inspections were undertaken in response to these notifiable incidents.

Telecommunications Asbestos Safety Compliance program

Since 2016, Comcare has operated the Telecommunications Asbestos Safety Compliance (TASC) program to ensure regulatory oversight of asbestos and other work health and safety risks associated with the National Broadband Network (NBN) roll-out. It operates through a cooperative and proactive approach, for example, Comcare requires ACM removalists working on the NBN rollout to have a Class B asbestos removal licence even if the ACM removed is under 10m². This better practice approach was agreed at the inception of the TASC program to provide a higher level of assurance, above the minimum legislative requirements. During the reporting period, Comcare TASC inspectors conducted 584 activities, with proactive inspections constituting the bulk of TASC activities and involving inspectors observing the NBN rollout work being conducted.

ACT

As of 1 September 2025, there were 140 active asbestos related licence holders in the ACT, covering Class A asbestos removal, Class B asbestos removal, and asbestos assessors. WorkSafe ACT received 4,124 asbestos removal notifications during the reporting period.

During the reporting period, WorkSafe ACT ran an asbestos compliance campaign inspecting 49 workplaces. The visits resulted in 15 workplaces receiving at least one notice and 4 workplaces receiving at least one infringement notice. Overall, 20 notices were issued consisting of 14 prohibition notices, 5 improvement notices and one non-disturbance notice. Ten infringement notices were also issued.

WorkSafe ACT also played a crucial role in protecting the community during this period, following identification of asbestos contaminated mulch in other jurisdictions in January 2024, by identifying 42 potentially affected sites in ACT and issuing prohibition and non-disturbance notices to all sites. These notices were revoked once a negative testing result was received. Multiple media statements were issued, extensive contact tracing was conducted, and there was active engagement with stakeholders, visits, testing and participation in the ACT government taskforce that was set up to respond.

In March2025, WorkSafe ACT launched

a proactive Intelligence led campaign in the construction sector[63]. While the construction sector is exposed to a broad range of hazards and risks, the campaign included targeted questions around ensuring workers have completed the appropriate training, including asbestos awareness training.

WorkSafe ACT also continued compliance oversight of loose-fill asbestos ('Mr Fluffy') properties on the Affected Residential Premises Register, ensuring management in accordance with the *Dangerous Substances Act 2004 and WHS Act 2011*. These inspections focused on:

- confirming that relevant residential properties comply with AMP requirements
- preventing residents from unlawfully removing asbestos without a licensed removalist, protecting the community from being exposed to asbestos fibres and ensuring asbestos materials do not enter the waste and recycling system in the ACT
- confirming an inspection regime associated with the demolition of affected residential properties.

During the reporting period, WorkSafe ACT investigated 10 asbestos related cases. One of the 10 cases was successfully prosecuted resulting in a $400,000 fine[64], with the remaining 9 still under investigation. WorkSafe ACT has also issued communications highlighting non-compliance risks during renovations/ demolition, targeting householders and PCBUs involved in building activity[65].

NSW

SafeWork NSW:

- issued 713 Improvement Notices, 115 Penalty Notices and 242 Prohibition Notices in relation to asbestos
- issued 8 warning letters to asbestos removal licence holders, placed conditions on 11 asbestos removal licences, issued 1 notice to suspend an asbestos removal licence, cancelled/ suspended 1 asbestos removal licence, and prosecuted a licensed asbestos assessor for altering a document
- commenced an enforceable undertaking process with the NSW Department of Education, which is still underway
- completed 3 RTO Training Audits, with an additional audit still in progress

NSW EPA launched a major investigation in January 2024 in response to the discovery of asbestos in mulch in Rozelle Parklands. During the investigation over 300 sites were inspected, with 79 sites identified as having used contaminated mulch. The NSW government established an Asbestos Taskforce to coordinate government agencies to assist in prioritising sites considered of highest risk to the public. All 79 sites have now been cleaned up by owners. The matter is now before the Land and Environment Court[66].

NSW EPA conducted 4 priority compliance campaigns on recycled materials (recovered fines, recovered aggregate and processed organic materials), with a particular focus on asbestos. While these

63 Intelligence Led Campaign – Construction – WorkSafe ACT
64 Media Release: Court imposes $400,000 fine for asbestos violations at renovation site – WorkSafe ACT
65 Media Release: Concerning rates of non-compliance with asbestos legislation during renovations and demolition WorkSafe ACT
66 Asbestos in mulch investigation | NSW EPA

campaigns resulted in a range of regulatory actions, they also showed improving results on the presence of asbestos, over time, in these recycled materials.

From a business-as-usual perspective, NSW EPA also took a range of regulatory actions that involve or may include asbestos, including prevention notices, clean-up notices, preliminary investigation notices. Details of these can be found on the NSW EPA Protection of the Environment Operations Act Public Register[67].

Northern Territory

During the course of proactive investigations, thirteen asbestos transporters and two waste transfer stations were directly contacted and provided with detailed information about their legal responsibilities under the Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998. Of these, 3 transporters now hold or have applied for a licence to transport asbestos, and a Pollution Abatement Notice was issued to remediate an asbestos-impacted waste transfer station, ensuring compliance with regulatory standards.

In FY 2024–25, NT WorkSafe conducted an asbestos register campaign dealing with commercial property managers to ensure all properties managed and built before December 2003 have an asbestos register. A list of all commercial properties was requested and visited. A total of 227 businesses visited over 480 inspections. By the end of the campaign:

- all 227 businesses visited had an asbestos register and management plan
- 56 improvement notices were issued to commercial property managers for non-compliance – asbestos registers (noting the team started with information and advice, and if on the second visit no action had been taken, improvement notices were issued)
- five s155 directions were issued, relating to the regulator seeking to obtain information, documents or evidence
- three s171 directions issued, relating to an inspector's request to answer questions or produce a document without reasonable excuse.

In FY 2024–25, NT WorkSafe also audited asbestos removal compliance in 240 locations, either by desktop for remote locations or in person for local asbestos removals. All asbestos control plans and safe work method statements were audited to ensure compliance with NT legislation, with an emphasis on waste disposal by waste facility receipts, hygienist attendance on site, and correct set up of the asbestos removal area. As a result, 20 information sessions were conducted regarding asbestos awareness, and included promotion of the SafeWork NSW asbestos awareness course through the NT WorkSafe website or referral to key personnel and businesses. Two information sessions were to real estate managers and conveyancers through the Real Estate Institute of the NT and included guidance on WHS duties. A total of two prohibition notices and two improvement notices were issued for non-compliance.

67 Public registers | NSW EPA

Queensland

OIR

Compliance campaign: OIR completed the third annual asbestos register and management plan compliance campaign running from August to October 2024. The statewide campaign assessed Part 8.3 'Management of asbestos and associated risks' of the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011. During the campaign, 182 businesses were assessed, resulting in the following enforcement actions being taken:

- 51 improvement notices were issued
- 6 infringement notices were issued
- 23 immediate compliances (non-compliances identified and rectified immediately).

Prior to and during the campaign, information was provided to stakeholders, including through educational social media posts targeting businesses and asbestos removalist companies about correct safety procedures, an eSafe article notifying businesses about the audit and updates on notices issues, most common compliance issues that the inspectors noted, and internet advertisements.

Prosecution outcomes: In 2024, the Office of the Work Health and Safety Prosecutor finalised 9 asbestos related prosecutions, resulting in a combined penalty amount of $91,500.

Licensing sanctions: In 2024, OIR commenced a proactive campaign to audit the work of recalcitrant asbestos removal licence holders, with the aim of gathering evidence to support sanctions on their licence and thus cease unsafe removal activities. Recalcitrant licence holders are identified through a combination of data sources, including high numbers of public complaints against them, compliance history and reports from other regulators. Cases are escalated to the Asbestos and Demolition Licence Review Panel for further action where necessary. OIR cancelled one Class B asbestos removal licence during the reporting period, with a disqualification period of two years, due to the licence holder's failure to comply with the requirements of the *Work Health and Safety Act* and Work Health and Safety Regulation; one warning letter was issued regarding cumulative breaches by another licence holder.

Illegally imported asbestos: In 2024, OIR responded to 15 cases where asbestos had been identified in a range of imported prefabricated building components, including cement fibre board and flooring materials, and 3 cases where pet crematoriums were supplied with a furnace that contained asbestos.

In the first half of 2025, OIR issued 5 improvement notices for imported materials, relating to prefabricated tiny homes and gaskets for car parts.

Incident response: OIR continued to ensure effective compliance and enforcement of WHS laws by responding to all asbestos related incidents and issuing prohibition, improvement and infringement notices when appropriate.

DETSI

Prosecution outcome: In October 2024, an asbestos demolition company was fined a total of $550,000, and the company's director received fines totalling $130,000 and a suspended jail term after pleading

guilty to a number of offences relating to the illegal dumping of asbestos waste in Queensland[68].

DETSI and OIR

DETSI and OIR conducted joint compliance activity in February and April 2024 in response to the detection of asbestos in commercial mulch derived from waste material in other states. 36 workplaces that recycle green waste and/or manufacture and supply composted soil products were inspected, 141 samples of composted soil products and suspected ACM were taken by OIR and DETSI. One sample of a composted soil product from a commercial compositing facility and one sample of green waste mulch from a local government waste recycling facility returned positive results for asbestos and statutory notices were issued to the operators of those facilities. The agencies worked collaboratively through the Interagency Asbestos Group to provide a coordinated and strategic response to this urgent, complex and rapidly evolving event. This event highlighted the robust regulatory controls Queensland has in place to manage asbestos and demonstrated that there is coordination, cooperation and communication between responsible government agencies to enable effective enforcement of regulatory controls. More information about this event is available in the Asbestos in Soil 2024 Response report[69].

RSHQ

Compliance actions: During the reporting period, RSHQ recorded 15 compliance actions, relating to man-made and naturally occurring asbestos identification and quantification.

South Australia

SafeWork SA, enforces compliance with the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012* and the Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012, through prohibition notices, improvement notices, licence suspension, expiation notices, expiation caution notices, and prosecution.

SafeWork SA also conducts proactive compliance campaigns regarding asbestos and takes enforcement action as appropriate.

In 2024, the number of notifications to SafeWork SA regarding the removal of asbestos was up 57% from 2019, to 5,848 notifications covering 642,666m² of asbestos removed. More than half asbestos removed in 2024 was from residential properties.

SafeWork SA is again targeting licensed asbestos removalists as part of its annual proactive compliance campaign during the FY 2025–26. SafeWork SA's proactive compliance campaign from February to November 2024 included 101 compliance audits, targeting 55 licenced asbestos removalists and 46 licenced asbestos assessors. The leading reason for issuing notices included the inadequate provision of decontamination facilities, failure to provide health monitoring and removalists not having training records available.

68 Eagleby company and director fined, handed suspended jail term, in one of Queensland's worst cases of asbestos offences | Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI),

69 Asbestos in soil 2024 Response report

Tasmania

During the reporting period:

- WorkSafe Tasmania conducted 253 inspections relating to asbestos compliance under the *WHS Act 2012*, issuing 28 improvement notices and 5 prohibition notices were issued for contraventions relating to asbestos.
- There were 20 asbestos reports made to the Tasmanian EPA by telephone, email or recorded and allocated via the EPA system. A further 10 asbestos reports were made through the EPA's Report Rubbish web application. Typically, small scale asbestos dumping is referred to council and WorkSafe Tasmania for management.

Victoria

WorkSafe Victoria

During the reporting period, WorkSafe Victoria cancelled 1 asbestos licence. From 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2025, WorkSafe issued 255 notices for asbestos-related contraventions. This includes:

- 137 improvement notices
- 43 prohibition notices
- 56 contraventions remedied at time of inspection
- 15 non-disturbance notices
- 4 infringement notices

There have been no asbestos-related prosecutions.

EPA Victoria

In FY 2024–25, the EPA established and facilitated a co-regulatory working group to co-design an EPA-led compliance strategy to disrupt and prevent the illegal disposal of asbestos. The involved partners were WorkSafe Victoria, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, the Building and Plumbing Commission, Sustainability Victoria, Parks Victoria, Victorian Asbestos Eradication Agency, Recycling Victoria and the Municipal Association of Victoria. This Strategy and relevant actions are being implemented over the next two years commencing in FY 2025–26.

Concurrent to the development of the compliance strategy, EPA spearheaded 3 operations targeting illegal asbestos disposal and management. In this period, the EPA:

- assessed 41 businesses and individuals
- uncovered 31 operators who failed to correctly transport and dispose of hazardous asbestos
- conducted 24 inspections.

The EPA acted on compliance issues, including failure to log waste movement in EPA's Waste Tracker system, and:

- provided advice 37 times on how to meet obligations (compliance advice)
- issued 5 remedial notices
- prosecuted 6 businesses and individuals.

These operations have enabled EPA to trial a compliance and enforcement approach that will expand as part of FY 2025–26, ensuring prevention of illegal disposal of asbestos.

Western Australia

WorkSafe WA maintains WA's licensing regime and for the reporting period:

- Licensed Asbestos Assessor (new/renewal) – 12 granted, 6 withdrawn
- Class A Asbestos Removal Licence applications (new/renewal) – 8 granted/renewed, 4 withdrawn
- Class B Asbestos Removal Licence applications (new/renewal) – 121 granted/renewed, 77 withdrawn, 8 refused

- Supervisor additions applications (class a/b mod with fee) – 65 granted, 2 refused, 26 withdrawn

WorkSafe WA:

- number of complaints – 467
- number of investigations – 710
- number of improvement notices – 49
- number of prohibition notices – 2
- number of prosecutions – 1 for unlicensed work resulted in a conviction; another prosecution for unlicensed work is before the courts.

Environment Watch WA[70] (operated by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation) received 725 illegal dumping complaints during FY 2024–25. Of these, 47 were related to asbestos (approximately 6.5%), 39 of which were referred to the local government or WorkSafe. Most of the asbestos complaints were in relation to dumping or burial of asbestos cement fence sheeting.

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Examples of compliance activities undertaken by WA local government:

Local government	Complaints Investigated	Main issues of concern	Noted outcomes Notice issued per the Health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992
Metropolitan			
Cockburn	66	Illegal dumping and demolition site.	All inspected/enquired with clean-up notices issued if appropriate.
Kwinana	45	Illegal dumping (Noting the LGA does not accept asbestos waste).	Nine clean-up notices issued.
Mosman Park	2	Dumped asbestos.	One clean-up notice issued.
Perth (City)	8	Dumped asbestos, removal of asbestos fence without notice, alleged asbestos on verge.	Outcomes and feedback to complainant and education of client, referral to landowner for resolution and one referral to building unit for demolition involving asbestos. No enforcement action required.
Vincent	43	Approximately 1,233m² surface area or 18.495 tonnes of suspected ACM material reported and assessed. 6 reports of illegal dumping.	1 Improvement notice issued (asbestos roofing material) resulting in demolition and removal of asbestos clad roofed dwelling – 15 letters to ratepayers sent.
Bassendean	37	Poor handling, poor condition of fence, dumped asbestos, fire damaged dwelling friable asbestos.	Site inspection, discussions with owners and complainants, samples collected for analysis, correspondence issued with corrective action to be taken. Formal notice issued where required. LGA ensured dumped asbestos removed from public land. 1 notice issued to private landowner.
Swan	57	Illegally dumped asbestos/ damage to dividing fences and concern regarding demolition works.	Two clean-up notices issued to property owners both complied with no other enforcement action was necessary.
South Perth	56	Fences, improper removal and illegal dumping.	

Local government	Complaints Investigated	Main issues of concern	Noted outcomes Notice issued per the Health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992
Canning	47	Damaged asbestos fencing; dumped asbestos in public; incorrect handling of asbestos during removal.	One Infringement notice issued.
Nedlands	58	(42) Illegal dumping; fencing, sheds and suspected ACM in demolition.	
Belmont	15	Fences and ACM in demolition waste. The City received 520 reports of illegal dumping during the 18-month reporting period.	Two clean-up notices issued. To counter illegal dumping the city introduced Free disposal (if correctly wrapped and labelled) to residents up to 6 sheets of fencing. Drop off allowed twice a year in September and March.
Mundaring	18	Illegal dumping, demolition.	Where asbestos is identified, the Shire engages licenced contractor to remove. One Infringement notice issued.
Armadale	13	Broken fencing dumped and fire affected dwellings.	No compliance measures needed
Kalamunda	25	Broken/damaged asbestos fencing; and illegal dumping.	No prosecutions and civil proceedings during the reporting period. 4 clean-up notices issued
Regional			
Northam	12	Dumping and fencing.	All investigated and samples taken. Complainants advised of results of sampling. If asbestos was confirmed owner was told to engage an asbestos removalist.
Kalgoorlie Boulder	16	Illegal dumping, hardiflex damage, weathered roofs or fencing and public health concerns due to fire damaged houses.	Two Health direction notices issued. One legal proceeding commenced: owner in default to demolish fire damaged house.
Esperance	4	Illegal dumping.	One clean-up notice issued.

Appendix E

Asbestos compliance activities at the border

Month	Number of profile/ alert matches	Tests for asbestos undertaken at the border	Positive detections	Asbestos types relative to the number of positive detections	Country of origin	Type of goods	Infringement Notices served	Value of penalties served	Number of Warning Letters	Legal proceedings initiated	Prosecutions
Jan-24	153	47	2	2x chrysotile	USA	• used motor vehicle/parts	0	$0	2	0	0
Feb-24	151	61	5	5x chrysotile	China x2 Sri Lanka USA x2	• building materials • used motor vehicles • pet incinerators	0	$0	2	0	0
Mar-24	131	55	2	2x chrysotile	China USA	• building materials • used motor vehicle • motorcycle	0	$0	2	0	0
Apr-24	142	50	3	3x chrysotile	China	• building materials	0	$0	2	0	0
May-24	159	98	1	1x chrysotile	China	• building materials	0	$0	2	0	0
Jun-24	157	103	3	3x chrysotile	China USA x2	• motor vehicles • cement sheets	0	$0	2	0	0
Jul-24	171	114	3	3x chrysotile	China	• cement fibre board • motor vehicle parts • carbonisation machines	0	$0	0	0	0
Aug-24	141	74	2	2x chrysotile	Canada Spain	• used motor vehicle • motorcycle	0	$0	1	0	0
Sep-24	150	99	5	5x chrysotile	China x2 Japan NZ USA	• construction materials • used motor vehicle parts • tractor parts	0	$0	1	0	0

Month	Number of profile/ alert matches	Tests for asbestos undertaken at the border	Positive detections	Asbestos types relative to the number of positive detections	Country of origin	Type of goods	Infringement Notices served	Value of penalties served	Number of Warning Letters	Legal proceedings initiated	Prosecutions
Oct-24	160	102	8	8x chrysotile	China x6 Japan USA	• building materials	0	$0	1	0	0
Nov-24	192	110	2	2x chrysotile	China	• cement fibre board • used motor vehicle parts	0	$0	2	0	0
Dec-24	194	116	3	3x chrysotile	USA	• cement fibre board & flooring • used motor vehicle • motorcycle & parts	0	$0	2	0	0
Jan-25	174	95	3	3x chrysotile	China UK	• used motor vehicle parts	0	$0	2	0	0
Feb-25	149	50	2	2x chrysotile	China UK	• used motorcycle • tractor parts	0	$0	0	0	0
Mar-25	149	65	4	4x chrysotile	China x 2 India UK	• used motor vehicle parts	0	$0	1	0	0
Apr-25	159	86	4	4x chrysotile	Canada China x3	• used motor vehicle & parts • building materials	1	$4,950	7	0	0
May-25	186	107	0	N/A	N/A	• N/A	0	$0	1	0	0
Jun-25	160	55	1	1x chrysotile	China	• building materials	0	$0	3	0	0