
Asbestos Advisory Committee

Communiqué

Meeting 2026-4 | 10 September 2026

The Asbestos Advisory Committee (AAC) met via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, 10 September 2026, bringing together members, agency staff, presenters and observers.

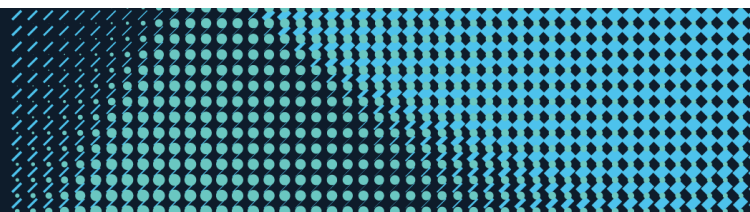
The Chair opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country, recognising the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands from which participants joined, paying respect to Elders past and present, and acknowledging the continuing cultures and contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

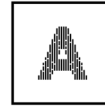
The Committee reviewed progress against the 2025–26 Committee Advisory Plan and endorsed the 2026–27 Advisory Plan after considering its priorities, sequencing and timing. Priorities include campaign delivery and evaluation, development of new asbestos guidance, phase 3 of the Heat-Map, behavioural research of key groups, engagement with high-risk Indigenous communities, asbestos stock-and-flow analysis, industry removal capacity, incentives for proactive removal, lived-experience research and alternative waste-disposal technologies.

Members considered the evaluation of the 2025–26 National Asbestos Awareness Campaign and the proposed approach for 2026–27, noting the campaign reached an estimated five million people and achieved or exceeded required benchmarks across most campaign components. The Committee supported a two-burst campaign structure, with activity during National Asbestos Awareness Week from 23 to 29 November 2026 and a second burst during the Easter 2027 DIY period. Members noted the importance of consistent information and were encouraged to share information on planned National Asbestos Awareness Week activities which will support coordination and cross-promotion.

ASSEA presented a proposed approach to engaging Indigenous communities at high risk of asbestos exposure. Members supported the programme logic approach as a basis for further consultation and advised that priorities should be led by community capabilities, advice and be culturally appropriate. The Committee recommended that the approach include access to diagnosis, treatment and support for asbestos-related disease and involve Aboriginal community-controlled health organisations, the National Indigenous Australians Agency, National Asbestos Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, support groups and relevant jurisdictional representatives.

Members considered the University of Adelaide’s systematic review and dose-response meta-analysis of non-occupational, low-level asbestos exposure. The review found an association with increased asbestos-related disease risk, particularly mesothelioma, but did not establish a clear safe lower threshold. Members discussed that historical and geographically specific evidence may not translate directly to contemporary Australia. ASSEA will examine the report, reconsider the proposed DIY





exposure-monitoring work and consult a smaller expert group before determining future research priorities.

The Committee considered the scope of the Asbestos National Strategic Plan action related to national guidance on naturally occurring asbestos and asbestos contamination in soil or land. Members advised that the guidance should focus on human-made asbestos contamination in soil, clarify soil classifications, regulatory interfaces and waste definitions, account for co-contaminants, and draw on technical and organisational expertise.

The Committee received an update from Safe Work Australia on the Asbestos Framework Review, including its current status, key developments and next steps. The Committee was encouraged to continue providing relevant feedback to Safe Work Australia as the review progressed.

Members considered findings from the survey aligned to the ASSEA Committee Review. Respondents valued the Committee and its work, while members suggested frequency of meetings, distribution of papers and greater out-of-session engagement. ASSEA will consider alternative meeting models, and the consolidated findings will be provided to the Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Council.

The Chair thanked members, presenters and guests for their contributions and continued commitment to preventing asbestos exposure and eliminating asbestos-related disease in Australia.

The next meeting is scheduled for 18 March 2027.

