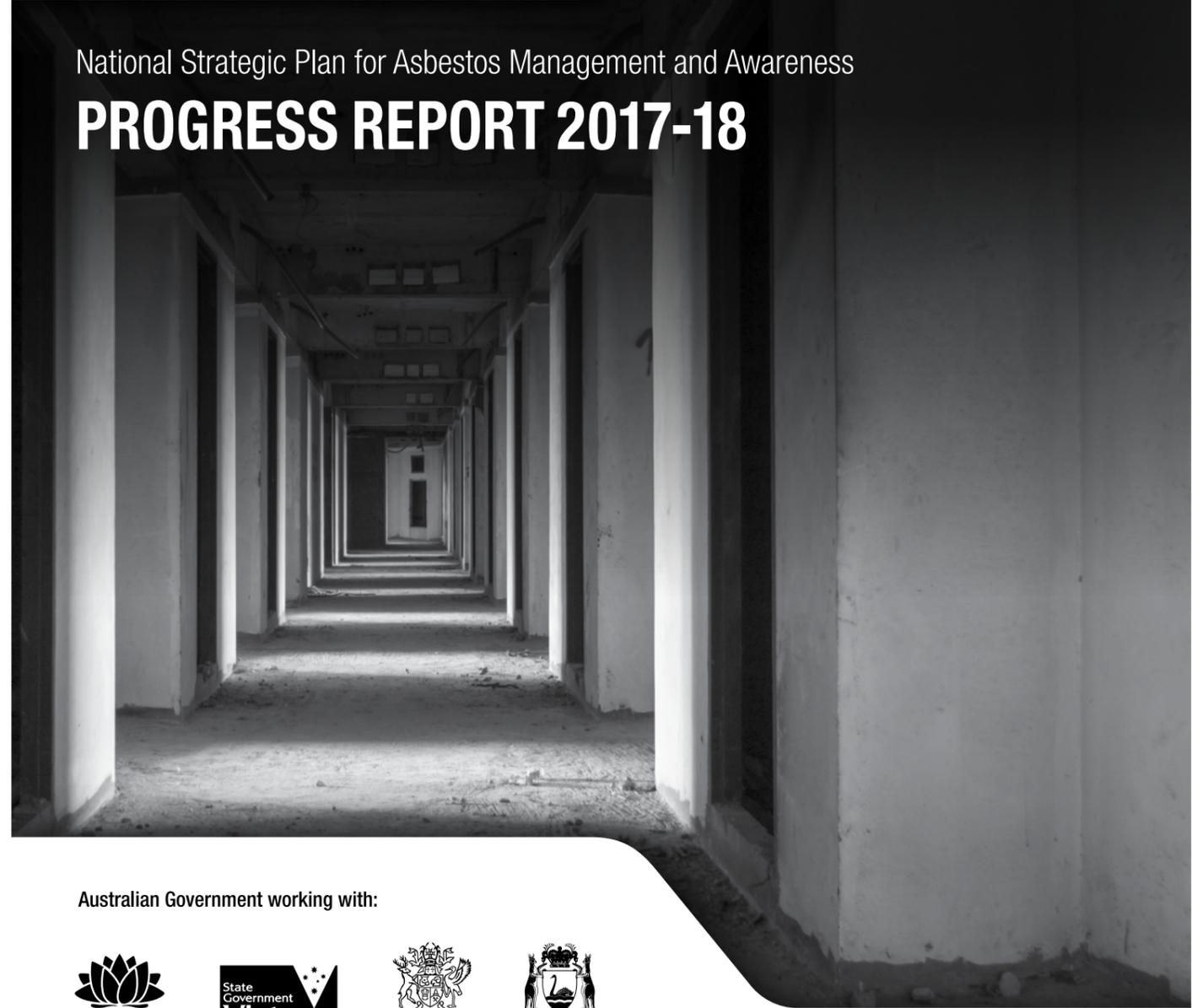




National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness
PROGRESS REPORT 2017-18



Australian Government working with:



@AsbestosSafety

Asbestos-Safety-and-Eradication-Agency

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 CONTENTS

CREATING AN ASBESTOS-FREE AUSTRALIA

Introduction	4
About this report	5
Section 1 National Strategic Plan progress assessment	7
Awareness strategy	8
Best practice strategy	9
Identification strategy	10
Removal strategy	11
Research strategy	12
International leadership strategy	13
Section 2 Supporting evidence and data	14
Awareness research	14
Operational trends and insights	16
National Asbestos Exposure Register	17
Removal notifications and removal quantities	18
Asbestos disposal data	21
Tonnages and trends	21
Section 3 Case studies	23
Appendices	42
Activities tables	42
National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness 2014–18: Strategies and outcomes summary	58
Recent developments	60

> INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to present the 2017–18 Progress Report on the National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness 2014–18, which is the final annual report on activities undertaken by state, territory and Australian Government agencies during this first phase of the Plan. This report highlights the significant achievements made by all stakeholders progressing the goals of the Plan. The activities and best practice case studies in this report illustrate our collaborative successes implementing the Plan and the progress that has been made toward our ultimate aim of eliminating asbestos related disease in Australia.

The Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency coordinates the national effort to prevent asbestos related disease in Australia by supporting inter-jurisdictional and inter-agency collaboration.

Diane Smith-Gander
Chair
Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council

Justine Ross
Chief Executive Officer
Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency

The Agency is grateful for the commitment and support of all jurisdictions, which is evidenced in the following pages. Together we have worked towards the substantial and long-term objectives of the Plan, and each year, our progress is built upon the lessons of the previous year.

In any multiyear plan, revision and refocus is required. It is proposed that the next phase of the National Strategic Plan will have more focused priorities and clear targets for reporting linked to new approaches to achieving our aim. This will help us develop more effective ways to plan, prioritise and invest.

We look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts as we move into the next phase of the National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness 2019–23.

> ABOUT THIS REPORT

2017-18 Progress of the National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness 2014–18

The Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (ASEA) was established 1 July 2013 as a statutory authority that provides a national focus on asbestos issues. Part of the Agency's function is to encourage, coordinate, monitor and report on the implementation of the National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness.

The Plan was endorsed on 28 August 2015 following a meeting of Australian Government, state and territory ministers with responsibility for work health and safety. It is the first time a plan of its type has been endorsed by state, territory and Australian governments.

The Plan is a long-term strategy for achieving significant progress in six areas related to current asbestos issues in Australia; awareness, best practice, identification, removal, research and international leadership. These six strategies contain deliverables and outcomes that all governments are working together to achieve.

This progress report is the last annual report for the first phase of the Plan. It outlines the work that has been reported by state, territory and Australian Government agencies throughout 2017–18 contributing to the six strategies of the Plan. A further report will be released in early 2019 that will wrap up the final six months of the first phase of the Plan. From then on, progress will be reported against the new priorities and targets, which will be contained in the National Strategic Plan Phase 2 from 2019–23.

ASEA's coordination of the Plan is achieved by working with all levels of government; employer and employee representatives; and with the support of independent experts. In 2017–18, this included collaborating with state and territory governments to produce quarterly reports and working with committees and working groups.¹

The evaluation framework for the National Strategic Plan highlights how the short-term measures of greater national coordination and sharing of information contribute to the Plan's long-term aim of eliminating asbestos-related disease in Australia.

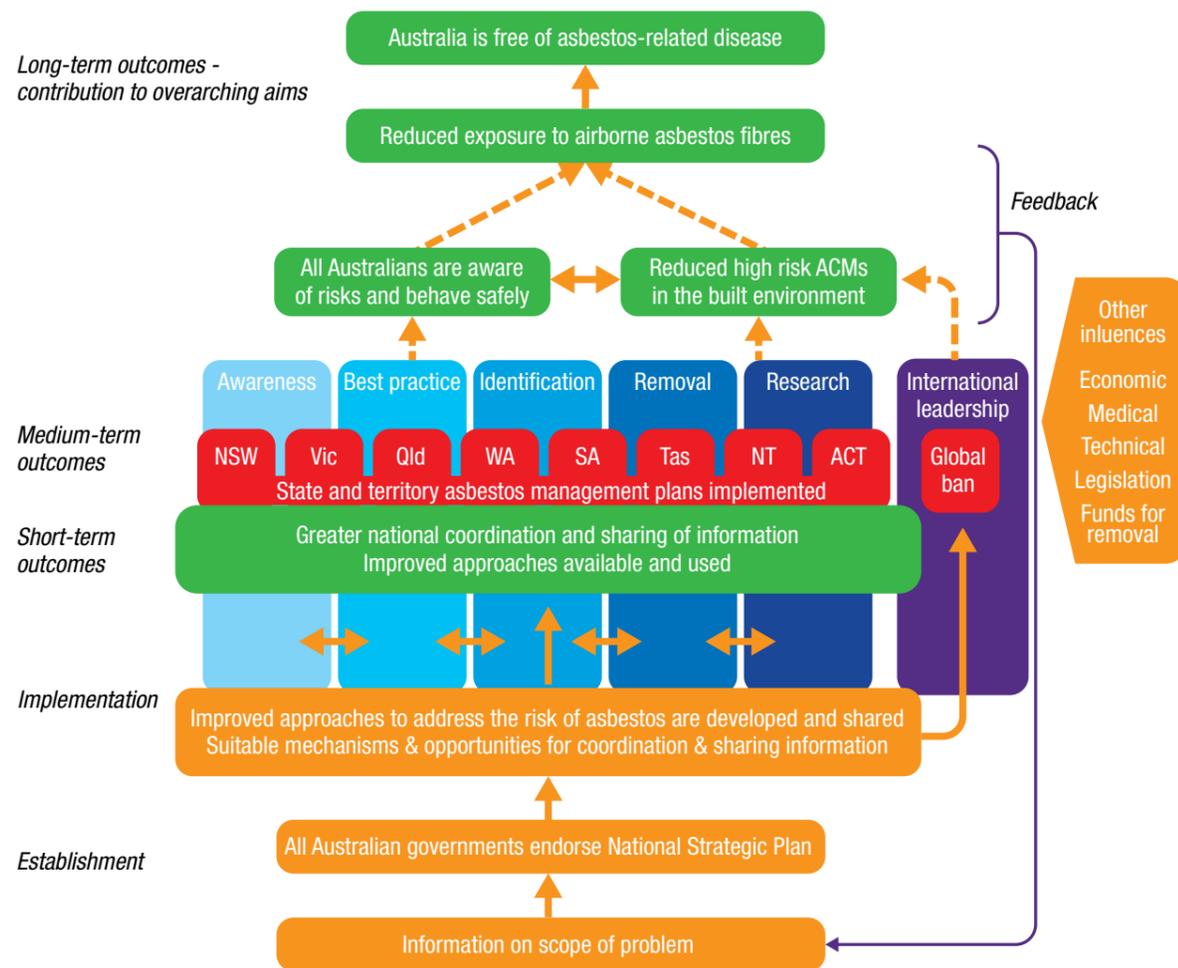
The evaluation framework shown in Figure 1 highlights the importance of fostering greater collaboration and information sharing about asbestos risks and practical solutions in order to improve asbestos awareness, encourage safe behaviours and reduce high risk asbestos in the built environment.

¹ Please refer to the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency's Annual Report



Figure 1: Logic model illustrating how coordination of the National Strategic Plan contributes to prevention of asbestos related diseases

The agency program model demonstrating the contribution of short-term outcomes to the elimination of asbestos-related disease in Australia:



Source: National Strategic Plan evaluation framework (2015)

Status: Significant progress underway

The overarching aim of the Plan is to prevent exposure to asbestos fibres in order to eliminate asbestos-related disease in Australia.

The Plan provides a framework for governments to work together in a complex environment.

Strategies

Six key strategies are the means of achieving the overarching aim of the Plan. The progress made against each strategy is presented in this chapter with the full list of activities presented in the Appendices at page 42. Below is a snapshot of progress during 2017–18:

Progress made in 2017–18

Total activities	120
Activities completed	20
Activities in progress	37
Activities ongoing	63

Activities reported per strategy

Strategy	Number	Percentage
Awareness	26	22%
Best practice	35	29%
Identification	21	17.5%
Removal	24	20%
Research	9	7.5%
International leadership	5	4%

The activities reported against each of the strategies in 2017–18 illustrate significant progress towards achieving the goals set out in the Plan.

Outlook

The achievement of 'significant progress' of the deliverables in the Plan does not indicate that outcomes are complete. The work required to eliminate asbestos-related disease in Australia is complex and will require continuous effort to work towards the targets of the next phase of the National Strategic Plan. In many cases, the work started under this phase of the plan will continue in to the next phase from 2019–23.

This is most clearly seen in the Awareness and Best Practice strategies where 77 percent and 98 per cent respectively of all activities are reported to continue into 2018–19. This reflects that all governments recognise the need to continue focus on raising awareness and encouraging best practice in order to work towards the behavioural change needed to prevent exposure to asbestos fibres in order to eliminate asbestos related diseases in Australia.

> AWARENESS STRATEGY

Status: Significant progress underway

Progress made in 2017–18

Total activities	26
Activities completed	6
Activities in progress	3
Activities ongoing	17

Achievement of the three deliverables of the awareness strategy of the plan have been assessed as 'significant progress underway'. Figure 2 shows the trend analysis for this section of the plan.

The activities reported by jurisdictions in 2017–18 demonstrate continual commitment to raising awareness in order to achieve necessary cultural and behavioural change regarding asbestos safety.

ASEA completed a review of awareness raising information, programmes and campaigns in Australia and internationally which signified completion of deliverable 1.1.

Tasmania reported, under deliverable 1.2, a successful campaign targeting the workplace and do-it-yourself (DIY) home renovators, which recommended the smartphone as the first 'tool' to use to access online asbestos safety and management information. The campaign, marketed as 'The safest tool to use' supports the development of a 'one-stop shop' of information on asbestos related issues and provides referral points for members of the public. This activity is presented in the case study section of this report on page 38.

Western Australia's Worksafe WA and the Department of Health reported, under deliverable 1.3, how they worked together in 2017–18 to deliver joint presentations raising awareness around asbestos removal in metropolitan and regional areas. WA also reported on the development of an industry checklist to increase awareness of the health risks posed by working with or being exposed to asbestos. Both of these activities were reported as complete, showing the significant effort by WA to develop practical, evidence-based asbestos safety awareness material for people likely to come into contact with asbestos contaminated materials (ACMs) in a residential setting.

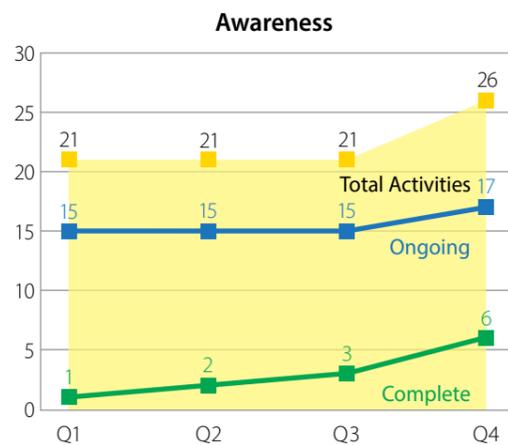


Figure 2: Trend analysis by quarter over 2017–18 for activities reported under the awareness strategy of the plan

Queensland also reported, under deliverable 1.3, the completion of a fact sheet on maintenance, inspection and testing of H-Class vacuum cleaners.

Highlights of the awareness strategy are provided as the following case studies:

- Tasmania – 'The safest tool to use' campaign
- NSW – 'Aboriginal Communities Project' training and awareness

Outlook

All jurisdictions continue to provide advice about asbestos safety and develop practical, evidence based asbestos safety awareness material; demonstrating a strong commitment to the awareness strategy.

> BEST PRACTICE STRATEGY

Status: Significant progress underway

Progress made in 2017–18

Total activities	35
Activities completed	1
Activities in progress	14
Activities ongoing	20

Achievement of the four deliverables of the best practice strategy of the plan have been assessed as 'significant progress underway'.

The activities reported by jurisdictions in 2017–18 demonstrate consistent progress in identifying and sharing best practice in asbestos management, education, transport, storage and disposal.

New South Wales reported, under deliverable 2.1, SafeWork NSW's completion of a suite of guidance material on tools to understand and manage naturally occurring asbestos. This activity is presented as a case study on page 26 of this report.

All jurisdictions reported, under deliverable 2.2, the best practice strategies being implemented to identify industry needs and gaps in awareness and training for workers who may come into contact with ACMs. A number of ongoing activities have been reported illustrating the continued effort to improve and implement improved training options for targeted industries.

Both NSW and South Australia reported activities, under deliverable 2.3, to improve disaster information and planning practices regarding the risks of exposure to asbestos in the event of an emergency or natural disaster.

Highlight of the best practice strategy is provided as the following case study:

NSW – Naturally occurring asbestos guidance material

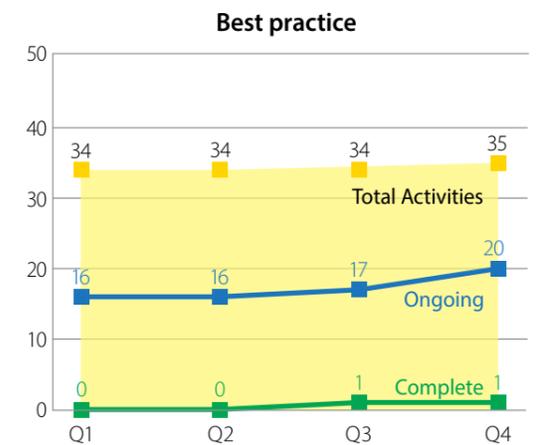


Figure 3: Trend analysis by quarter over 2017–18 for activities reported under the best practice strategy of the plan

Outlook

Ninety-eight per cent of all current best practice activities will continue into 2018–19 as they are reported as either ongoing or in progress. This illustrates a broad and absolute commitment to adopting best practice and furthers opportunities for encouraging discussion, information sharing and promotion of best practice to build continual improvement in the handling and management of ACMs.

IDENTIFICATION STRATEGY

Status: Significant progress underway

Progress made in 2017–18

Total activities	21
Activities completed	6
Activities in progress	4
Activities ongoing	11

Achievement of all four deliverables of the identification strategy have been assessed as 'significant progress underway'.

The activities reported by jurisdictions in 2017–18 confirm a consistent effort towards obtaining reliable data in relation to the location and condition of ACMs nationwide.

The ACT reported, under deliverable 3.1, the completion of the Asbestos Response Taskforce's collaboration with industry to develop asbestos management plans for Mr Fluffy residences.

South Australia reported, under deliverable 3.2, on a collaborative project completed in 2017-18 to identify heater banks in buildings resulting in a safety alert to inform and protect workers. This activity is presented in more detail as a case study on page 36.

Also under deliverable 3.2, Victoria reported that its data collection on the presence and condition of ACMs is complete. This activity consisted of developing standardised terminology on the material type, condition and location of ACMs to ensure data consistency and to assist with the development of the Victorian Government Buildings Asbestos Register. It also reported as complete, an education project targeting school, kindergarten and the tertiary sector on compliance with OHS regulations regarding in-situ asbestos.

Queensland reported, under deliverable 3.4, it has completed two activities to support the ban on importation of ACMs and improved coordinated responses when ACMs in imported materials are identified. Queensland enhanced laws on non-conforming building products and developed fact

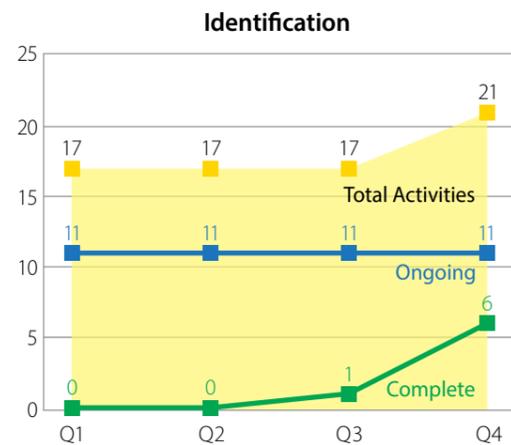


Figure 4: Trend analysis by quarter over 2017-18 for activities reported under the identification strategy of the plan

sheets for importers, suppliers and businesses on how to prevent goods containing asbestos being supplied to workplaces.

Highlights of the identification strategy are provided as the following case studies:

- Commonwealth – Asbestos Interdepartmental Committee (IDC)
- Commonwealth – Hazard Analysis and Management of Novelty Fire Wallets
- South Australia – Safety Alert for building owners and managers on millboard lining in heater ducts

Outlook

All activities ongoing and in progress will continue into 2018–19. This indicates that the development and implementation of systems, frameworks and processes to improve the identification and grading of asbestos and sharing of information regarding the location of ACMs has become a perpetual goal for stakeholders over phase one of the Plan.

REMOVAL STRATEGY

Status: Significant progress underway

Progress made in 2017–18

Total activities	24
Activities completed	4
Activities in progress	11
Activities ongoing	9

Achievement of four deliverables of the removal strategy have been assessed as 'significant progress underway'.

The activities reported by all jurisdictions in 2017–18 detail the progress made to identify the priority areas where ACMs present a risk, identify the barriers to the safe removal of asbestos and review management removal infrastructure to estimate the capacity and rate for the safe removal of asbestos.

The Commonwealth's Department of Finance reported, under deliverable 4.2, the completion of asbestos remediation in the Cox Peninsular in the Northern Territory.

Also under deliverable 4.2, WA reported it had completed a water pipe remediation project which removed asbestos-containing bitumen coating from non-asbestos cement water pipes.

The Victorian School Building Authority is also supporting this deliverable by progressing the Victorian Government's largest ever removal of asbestos from Victoria's government schools; this activity is presented in detail as a case study on page 32.

Victoria reported, under deliverable 4.5, significant activity developing the Victorian Government Asbestos Risk Assessment Model, which is a best practice tool to assess the risk of ACMs across a significant number of government owned buildings.

Highlight of the removal strategy is provided as the following case study:

Victoria – Victorian Governments largest ever removal of asbestos from Victorian Government Schools

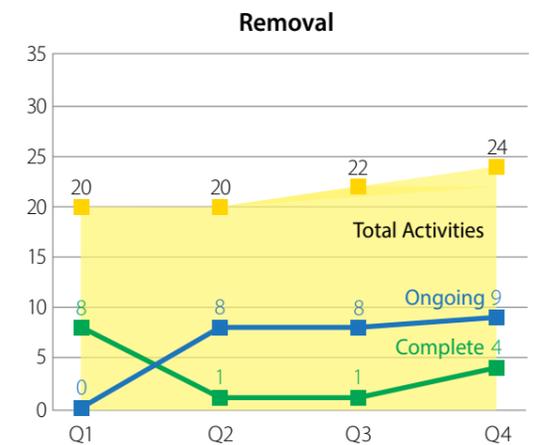


Figure 5: Trend analysis by quarter over 2017–18 activities reported under the removal strategy of the plan

Outlook

Eighty-three per cent of all current removal activities will continue into 2018–19 as they are either ongoing or in progress. These activities show evidence based planning and progress towards achieving safe asbestos removal. The steady increase of removal notifications to Work Health and Safety regulators indicates recognition and compliance of WHS requirements to safely remove asbestos and the increasing volume of ACM's entering the waste stream.

RESEARCH STRATEGY

Status: Significant progress underway

Progress made in 2017–18

Total activities	9
Activities completed	2
Activities in progress	5
Activities ongoing	2

Achievement of both deliverables of the research strategy have been assessed as 'significant progress underway'.

The activities reported by all jurisdictions in 2017–18 illustrate the continued efforts of stakeholders to commission, monitor and promote research into the prevention of asbestos exposure and asbestos-related disease.

New South Wales reported, under deliverable 5.1, the completion of a research project on future risks, based upon research from a recent Blue Mountains fire. The published report analyses the experience and aims to inform and manage future risks such as asbestos emergency management and exposure monitoring.

Also under deliverable 5.1, NSW, WA and the Commonwealth reported research projects being progressed highlighting the consistent effort by governments to identify, promote and commission research to reduce the risk of asbestos related diseases in Australia.

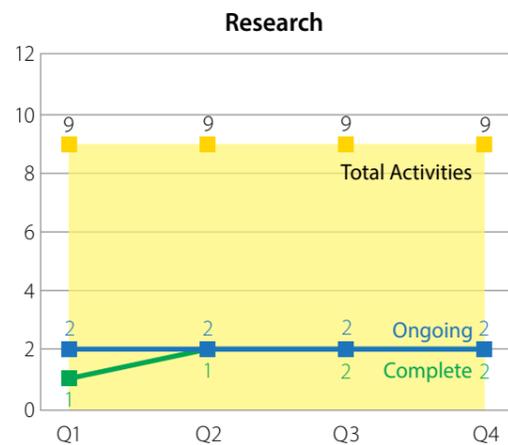


Figure 6: Trend analysis by quarter over 2017–18 for activities reported under the identification strategy of the plan

Outlook

Seventy-eight per cent of all current research activities will continue into 2018–19 as they are either ongoing or in progress. The research strategy is vital to informed decision making on asbestos management and awareness.

INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP STRATEGY

Status: Significant progress underway

Progress made in 2017–18

Total activities	5
Activities completed	1
Activities in progress	0
Activities ongoing	4

Achievement of the two deliverables of the international leadership strategy have been assessed as 'significant progress underway'.

The activities reported by the Australian Government in 2017–18 shows that Australia is continuing to play a leadership role in the global campaign for a world-wide ban on asbestos mining and manufacturing.

Both deliverables of the international leadership strategy are perpetual and require continued effort each year.

Ongoing, whole-of-government activities, under deliverable 6.1, support the listing of chrysotile on the Rotterdam Convention which is coordinated by the Department of Environment and Energy.

Also under deliverable 6.1, ASEA staff took part in workshops and met with relevant government officials in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam as part of an international delegation of asbestos experts.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade reported, under deliverable 6.2, the release of 'Guideline to managing asbestos risk in the aid program', which provides practical advice on the management of asbestos and ACM in the aid management cycle.



Figure 7: Trend analysis by quarter over 2017–18 for activities reported under the international leadership strategy of the plan

Outlook

Eighty per cent of all current international leadership activities will continue in to 2018–19 as they are either ongoing or in progress. ASEA will continue to support the Department of the Environment and Energy on preparations for the 2019 Rotterdam Convention consideration of listing chrysotile asbestos in Annex III to the Convention. ASEA will also continue to provide support, information, research and advice to South East Asian and Pacific nations to work towards local asbestos bans and improve management of asbestos risks.

SECTION 2 – SUPPORTING EVIDENCE AND DATA

There is no single source of data that can accurately measure progress towards achieving the Plan's aim of eliminating asbestos related disease in Australia. This section highlights the available data in Australia regarding asbestos awareness, removal and disposal. These data sets concern the level of awareness of the risks posed by asbestos and notifications regarding the removal and disposal of asbestos. Over time, the data will show the management of asbestos out of our built environment and identify emerging trends.

Awareness research

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

In 2014, the agency conducted a nationwide baseline survey – Survey 1 to assess community awareness, understanding and attitudes regarding asbestos in the domestic built environment. In 2016, the agency commissioned Survey 2 to give an updated assessment of the community's awareness levels of asbestos. Survey 3, done in 2018, provides an update on whether people's attitudes and behaviours towards asbestos have changed since 2014.

The same methodology was used for all three surveys across the four groups that were surveyed, which were:

- general public
- tradespeople
- DIY/home renovators
- real estate agents/private landlords.

2018 survey results

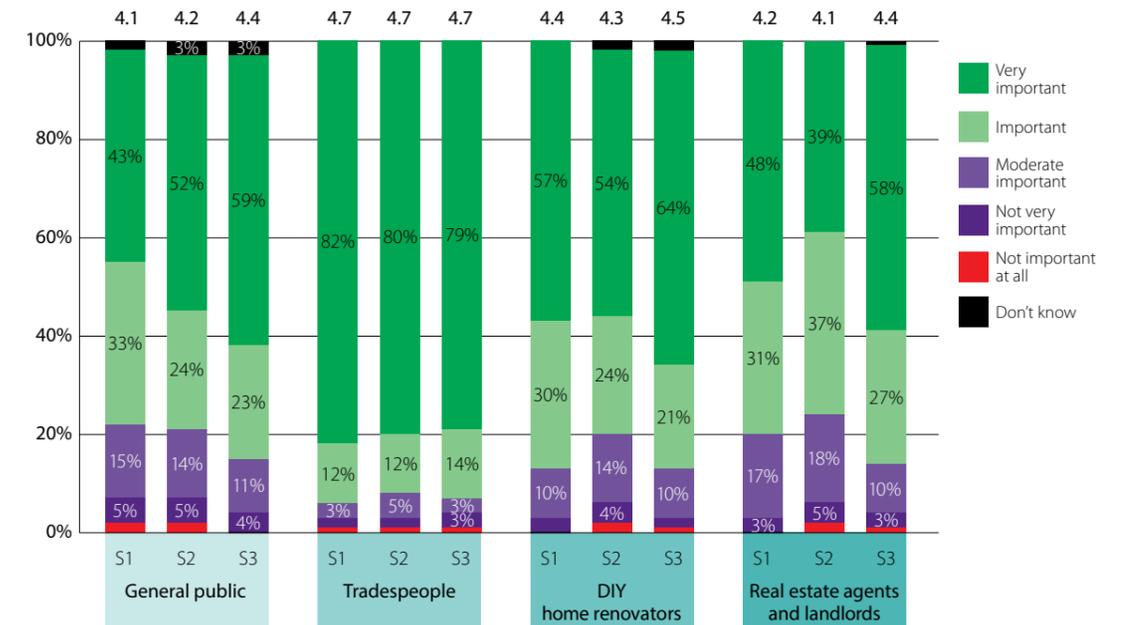
This survey confirms the demographics most at risk are: females, people aged 18–39, people renting accommodation, people from non-English speaking backgrounds and residents of Melbourne.

While attitudes amongst tradespeople are largely knowledgeable about asbestos, there remains significant demand for additional training. Only a quarter of all trades people are commonly adhering to best practice in relation to asbestos identification, management and removal, indicating the need for continued efforts to showcase examples of best practice.

DIY home renovators display positive awareness and attitudes towards asbestos but a significant portion of this cohort are still at risk either inadvertently or through cost saving.

The importance of knowledge and understanding of asbestos among real estate agents and landlords remains low, with this demographic identified as requiring additional focus to improve their awareness levels. The survey results are graphed in Figures 8 to 10.

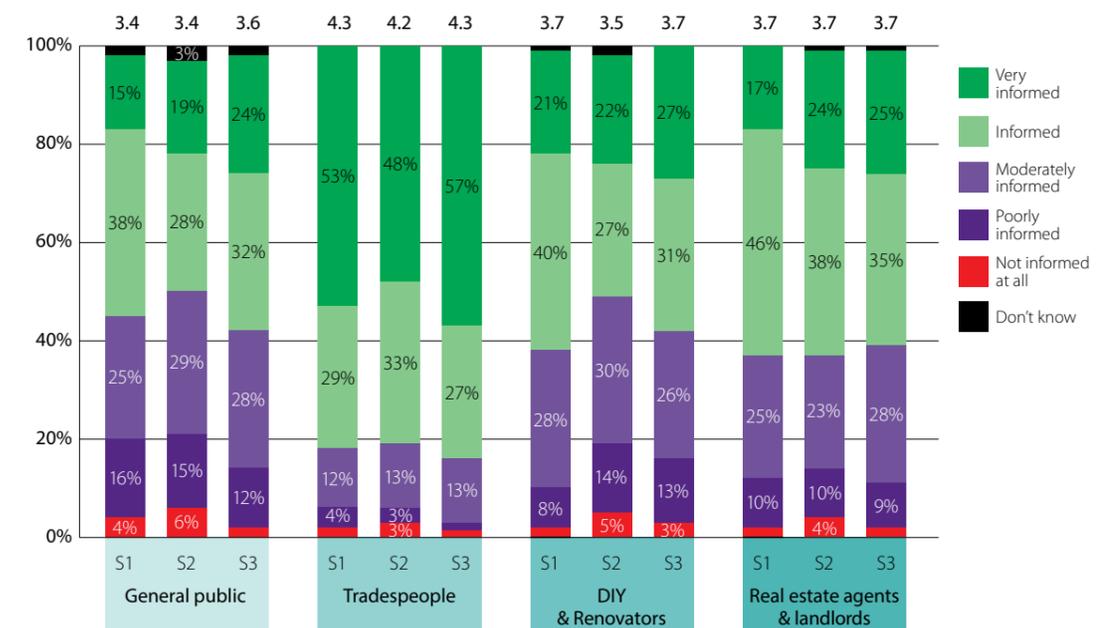
Figure 8: Importance of being knowledgeable about asbestos and dangers



Q2. On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is not at all important and 5 is very important, how important is it for you to know about asbestos and its related dangers?
SR, 1-5 SCALE

Base: All respondents: General public: S1 (n=1015), S2 (n=1125), S3 (n=1013); Tradespeople: S1 (n=401), S2 (n=402), S3 (n=400); DIY home renovators: S1 (n=824), S2 (n=848), S3 (n=814); Real estate agents and landlords: S1 (n=122), S2 (n=130), S3 (n=263)

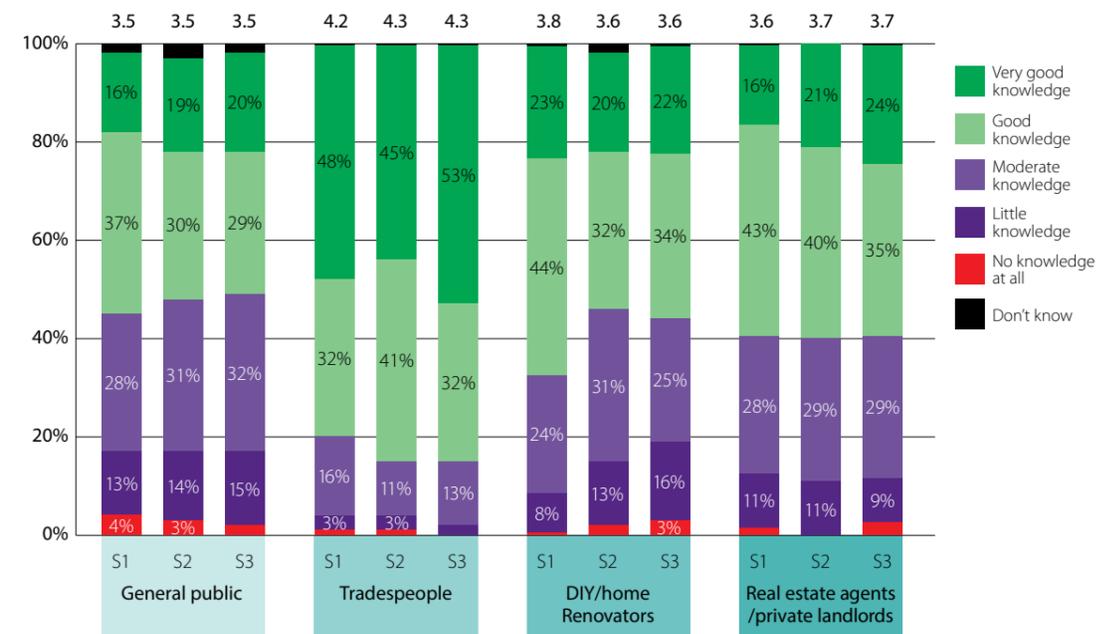
Figure 9: Perception of being informed about asbestos and its dangers



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

Base: All respondents: General public: S1 (n=1015), S2 (n=1125), S3 (n=1013); Tradespeople: S1 (n=401), S2 (n=402), S3 (n=400); DIY home renovators: S1 (n=824), S2 (n=848), S3 (n=814); Real estate agents and landlords: S1 (n=122), S2 (n=130), S3 (n=263)

Figure 10: Perceived level of knowledge associated with asbestos and its dangers (%)



Q3. On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is no knowledge at all and 5 is very knowledgeable, how would you rate your own knowledge of the dangers associated with exposure to asbestos? SR, 1-5 SCALE
 Base: All respondents: General public: S1 (n=1015), S2 (n=1125), S3 (n=1013); Tradespeople: S1 (n=401), S2 (n=402), S3 (n=400); DIY home renovators: S1 (n=824), S2 (n=848), S3 (n=814); Real estate agents and landlords: S1 (n=122), S2 (n=130), S3 (n=263)

Operational trends and insights

Jurisdiction's reported the following matters as operational insights or trends observed during the year:

- there exists a high volume of abandoned asbestos contaminated residential properties where the cost to remediate the properties exceeds the resale value of the property
- increased collaboration with licensed asbestos removalists and assessors to promote greater awareness of asbestos related issues
- an increase in enquiries relating to asbestos containing dust and asbestos containing flooring
- there is a need to update the guidance material on asbestos in soil, including information on compliance and remediation.

The following asbestos management and awareness reviews and evaluations were undertaken by jurisdictions in 2017-18:

Queensland – The Asbestos Unit is reviewing guidance material on the competency requirements of persons conducting general and pre-demolition asbestos surveys.

NSW – The Asbestos Education Committee coordinated an independent evaluation of the Asbestos Awareness Campaign identifying gaps to be focused on in future campaigns.

Tasmania – WorkSafe Tasmania evaluated its 'Safest Tools' campaign (refer to case study on page 38 of this report).

Victoria – WorkSafe Victoria are reviewing their radio campaign on asbestos awareness, which ran 3 December 2017 to 30 June 2018. A preliminary review of the Victorian asbestos website page indicates that the views and visitors increased during the campaign period compared to the same campaign period in 2015-16.

South Australia – SafeWork SA undertook targeted audits on licensed asbestos removalists to remind them of their legal obligations and identifying areas for improvement.

National Asbestos Exposure Register

The National Asbestos Exposure Register (NAER) captures details of potential exposure to asbestos. The information cannot be taken to be confirmed exposures, but it provides a valuable mechanism to monitor awareness of exposure, community concerns and perceptions of risk.

Trends

The number of people registering their details on the NAER in 2017-18 is comparable to the previous year. The results are graphed in Figures 11 to 13.

Figure 11: Total registrations by financial year

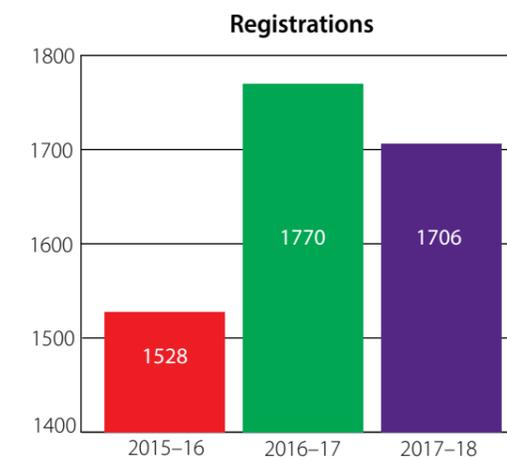


Figure 12: Registrations by location of registrant 2017-18

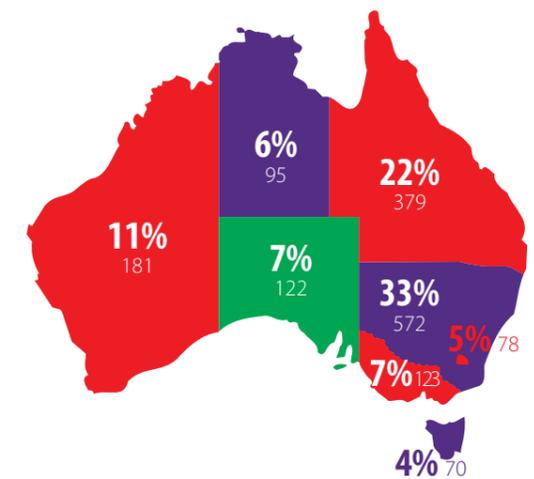
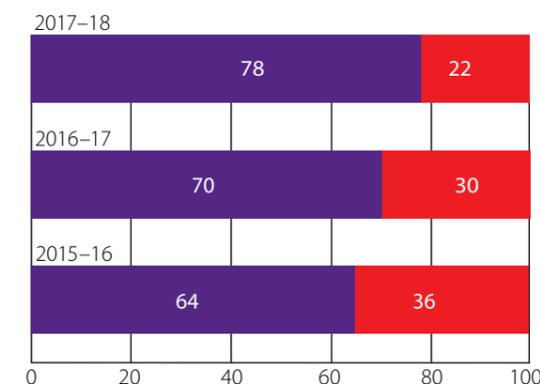


Figure 13: Comparing trend of occupational to non-occupational recorded exposure



The occupational to non-occupational ratio has widened at 78 per cent to 22 per cent respectively; compared with approximately 70 and 30 per cent in 2016-17. This reflects a high incidence of reporting driven by employer referrals, which represent 32 per cent of all registrations, comparable to 31 per cent in 2016-17.

For more information and analysis about the NAER go to www.asbestossafety.gov.au

Removal notifications and removal quantities

Asbestos removal notifications provided to work health and safety regulators

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

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

Figure 14: Notification of asbestos removal (to WHS regulators)

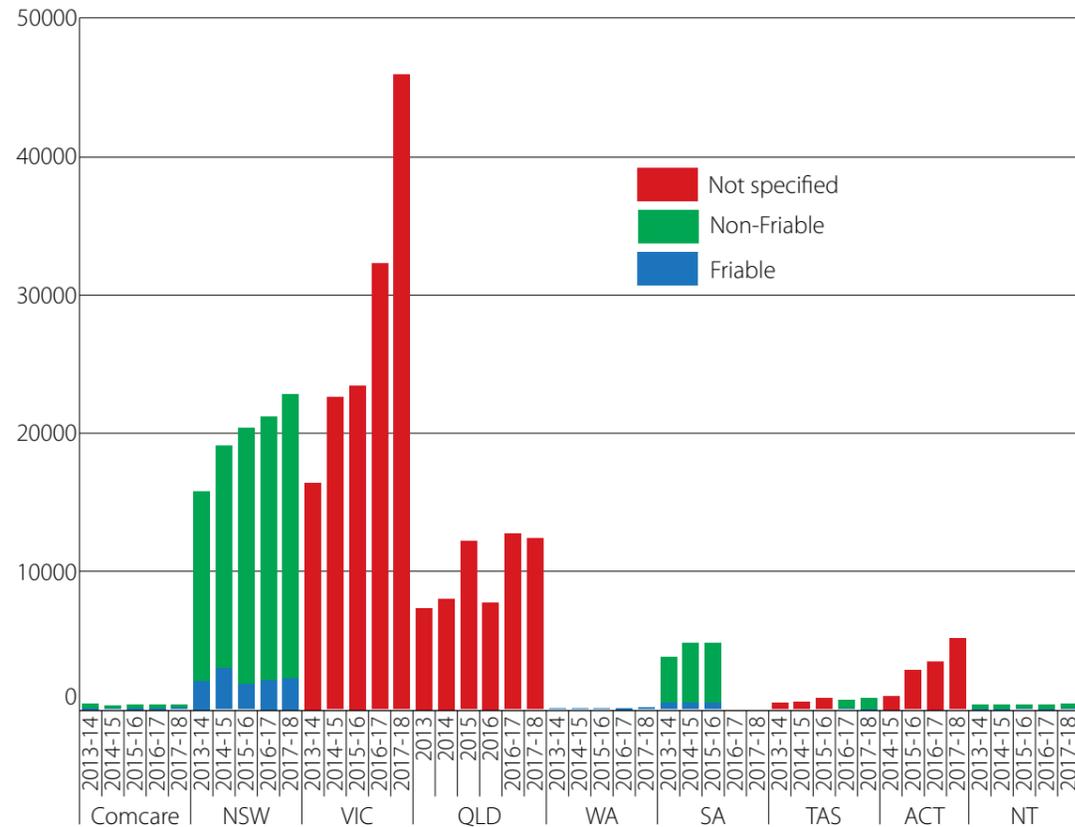


Table 2: Quantity of asbestos removed (where available)

Asbestos removalists provide information on the quantity of asbestos to be removed in a wide range of formats (including metres squared, cubic metres, tonnes, bags, skips) and amounts are generally estimated. The development of a more consistent process for collating and reporting removal notification data would improve the ability to monitor and analyse removal patterns and trends.

Jurisdiction	Financial year, unless otherwise indicated	Type	Estimated quantity removed m ²	Estimated quantity removed m ³	Estimated quantity removed tonnes
Comcare	2013-14	Friable	112,512		
	2014-15	Friable	450,849		
	2015-16	Friable	234,175		
	2016-17	Friable	Data not captured		
	2017-18	Friable	Data not captured		
	2013-14	Non-friable	1,401,539		
	2014-15	Non-friable	200,147		
	2015-16	Non-friable	122,483		
NSW	2016-17	Non-friable	Data not captured		
	2017-18	Non-friable	Data not captured		
	2013 (Oct-Dec)	Friable	58,205		25,647
	2014	Friable	269,067		110,978
	2015	Friable	354,682		702,878
	2016	Friable	269,798		1,164,947
	2017 (Jan-Sep)	Friable	385,405		2,021,497
	2017-18	Friable	396,546		1,574,094
	2013 (Oct-Dec)	Non-friable	497,158		NA
	2014	Non-friable	2,012,713		NA
VIC	2015	Non-friable	2,206,443		Plus 153 tonnes
	2016	Non-friable	2,663,338		NA
	2017 (Jan-Sep)	Non-friable	2,822,598		NA
	2017-18	Non-friable	4,115,564		8365
	2013-14	Friable		13,810	
	2014-15	Friable		121,580	
	2015-16	Friable		16,571	
	2016-17	Friable		61,663	
	2017-18	Friable	42,615		
	2013-14	Non-friable	1,076,366		
QLD	2014-15	Non-friable	1,132,570		
	2015-16	Non-friable	1,238,793		
	2016-17	Non-friable	1,176,926		
	2017-18	Non-friable	1,362,147		
	2015**	Not-specified	1,138,000	55,800	177,330
WA	2016***	Not-specified	1,114,000		
	2016-17	Not specified	1,036,759	6416	1127
	2017	Not specified	1,117,322	121,568	32,574
	2018 (to 17 Aug)	Not specified	774,545	53,197	41,611
SA	2016-17	NA			
	2017-18	NA			
	2013-14	Friable	19,794		
	2014-15	Friable	35,688		
	2015-16	Friable	28,710		
	2016-17	Friable	34,580		
	2017-18	Friable	75,730		
	2013-14	Non-friable	387,621		
	2014-15	Non-friable	464,511		
	2015-16	Non-friable	421,903		
TAS	2016-17	Non-friable	424,440		
	2017-18	Non-friable	528,181		
	2016-17	Friable	9556		
	2017-18	Friable	1058		
ACT	2016-17	Non-friable	66,491		
	2017-18	Non-friable	154,965		
	2015	Friable & Non-friable			13.74
	2016**	Friable & Non-friable			16.26
NT	2016-17	Friable & Non-friable	Data not captured		
	2017-18*	Friable & Non-friable	Data not captured		
NT	2016-17	Not specified			5889
	2017-18	Not specified	Data not captured		

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

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

***Complete data not provided – estimate

Asbestos disposal data

- Waste disposal data indicates that more asbestos waste was produced in Australia in 2017-18 than has been reported in any previous year.
- Our ageing asbestos legacy is now a significant waste stream challenge. Levels of asbestos waste are likely to continue rising.
- Some data limitations are noted. There is a need to ensure accurate and consistent reporting of waste data to support a nationally coordinated approach to asbestos.

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

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

1. Hazardous waste tracking systems are maintained primarily to enable checking of transport certificates and operators in the event of suspected illicit activity. Many thousands of records are collected each year. They are infrequently collated, and gaps or even errors may not be readily recognised or followed up. The presented data corrects some previously reported historical data, particularly a very large volume in Qld reported in 2014-15 and subsequently found erroneous.
2. The extent of contamination before waste is deemed 'asbestos contaminated' may differ between jurisdictions. NSW appears to take a particularly risk-averse position, which may partially explain its generation of high volumes of asbestos contaminated waste.
3. Some asbestos contaminated waste may be excluded from this record, including
 - domestic or smaller loads, which, in some jurisdictions, do not need to be tracked
 - soil contaminated with asbestos, which could potentially be reported as 'contaminated soil' rather than 'asbestos contaminated waste'
 - waste from natural disasters.

4. Waste may be reported in volumetric units, requiring conversion to weight. The Australian Hazardous Waste Data and Reporting Standard applies an assumed average density of 0.8 tonnes per cubic metre¹. Some states and territories may apply a different assumed density. Victoria, in particular, applies a uniform density assumption of 1 tonne per cubic metre to all prescribed wastes including asbestos.

Tonnages and trends

Quantities of asbestos contaminated waste generated in 2017-18 are presented by state and territory in Table 3. Longer term annual trend data is shown in tonnes in Figure 15 and in kilograms per capita in Figure 16. Almost invariably, the fate of waste asbestos is disposal in landfill.

Quantities of asbestos waste were reported by six of the eight states and territories. For completeness, estimates were made for Qld and WA based on previously reported quantities.

The estimated total quantity of asbestos contaminated waste generated in Australia in 2017-18 was about 1.6 million tonnes, 32% higher than last year's estimate. NSW and Vic. produced more asbestos waste in 2017-18 than in any previous year. The NSW total of 1.15 million tonnes was 70% higher than its previous record, but may be partially due to a change in data presentation, as 'asbestos contaminated soil' is now recorded separately from 'contaminated soil'. The ACT total was less than half the previous year's as its program of 'Mr Fluffy' demolitions drew to a close.

The ACT produced more asbestos waste per capita than any other jurisdiction at 227 kg per capita. NSW was the next highest at 145 kg per capita. All the other states and territories produced a reported or estimated 10 to 30 kg per capita.

Figures 15 and 16 show that quantities vary significantly between years and jurisdictions. Spikes in the data are often associated with particular large development projects. NSW produces the most asbestos contaminated waste. Overall, a rising trend is apparent.

¹ For more information about Australian hazardous waste data and reporting standard, see <http://www.environment.gov.au/protection/waste-resource-recovery/publications/australian-hazardous-waste-data-reporting-standard>

SECTION 3 – CASE STUDIES

Table 3: Quantities of asbestos contaminated waste generated by jurisdiction, 2017–18 (tonnes)

ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA
94,293	1,150,988	5,225	150,036	17,302	5059	154,520	39,310

Figure 15: Quantities of asbestos contaminated waste generated by jurisdiction and year (tonnes)

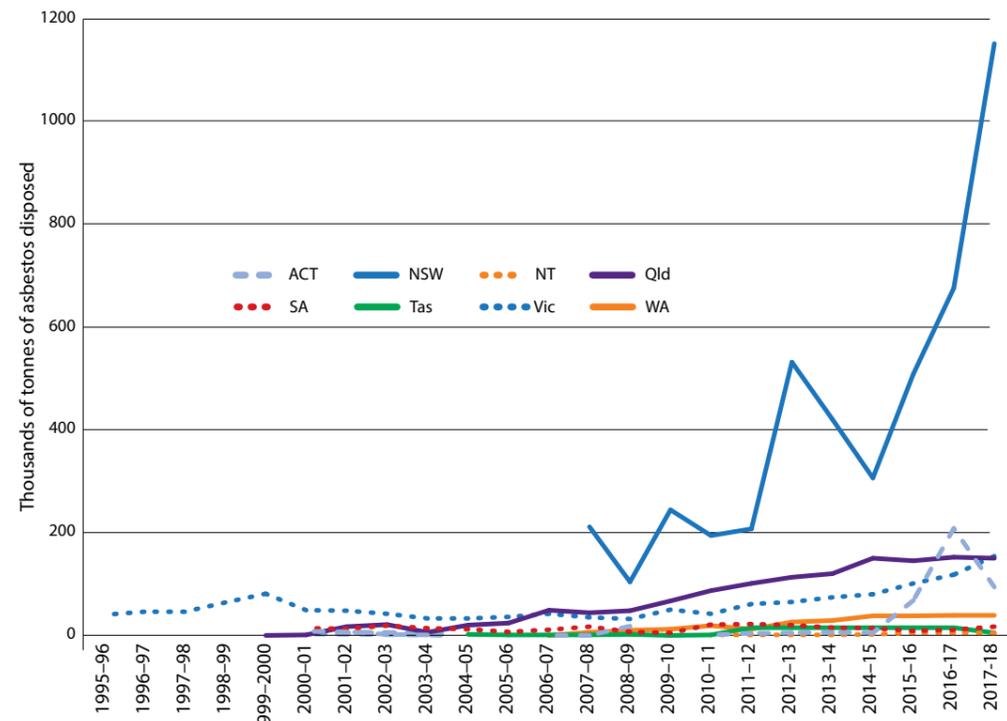
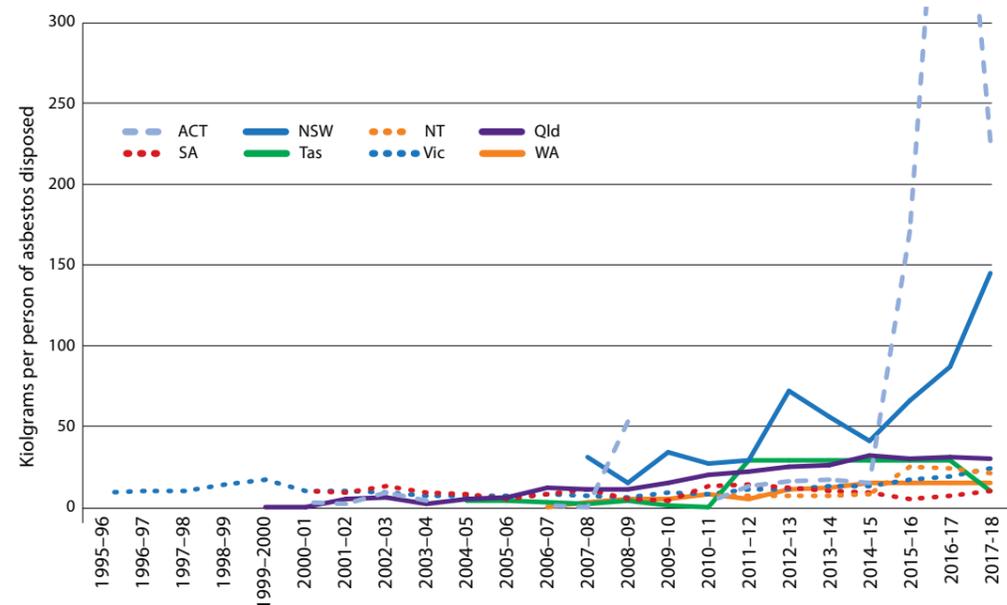


Figure 16: Quantities of asbestos contaminated waste generated by jurisdiction and year (kilograms per person)



The peak in this chart was removed to make the data more legible. The peak was for ACT data for 2016-17, which amounted to 512 kg per capita at the peak of the 'Mr Fluffy' demolitions program.

This chapter presents case studies for specific projects. These case studies display the variety of approaches and depth of work being undertaken by governments in Australia to achieve the outcomes of the Plan.

STRATEGY

Australian Government

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission – Hazard Analysis and Management of Novelty Fire Wallets **IDENTIFICATION**

NSW Government

SafeWork NSW – Naturally occurring asbestos guidance material **BEST PRACTICE**

SafeWork NSW – Improving asbestos awareness in Aboriginal communities **AWARENESS**

Victorian Government

WorkSafe Victoria – Victorian School Building Authority **REMOVAL**

Queensland Government

Office of Industrial Relations – Licensed Asbestos Removalist Assessment Program **BEST PRACTICE**

South Australian Government

SafeWork SA – Safety Alert for building owners and managers on millboard lining in heating ducts **IDENTIFICATION**

Tasmanian Government

WorkSafe Tasmania – The safest tool to use **AWARENESS**

ACT Government

Ainslie shopping precinct – bulk loose fill asbestos removal **REMOVAL**

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) – Hazard Analysis and Management of Novelty Fire Wallets

Strategy:
Identification

Outcome:
(O3.6) Effective coordinated response when ACMs in imported products are identified

Deliverable:
(D3.4) Support the 2003 ban on the importation of ACMs with improved coordinated efforts to identify and respond to the importation of ACMs

Location:
National

The issue

Novelty fire wallets (Figure 17) are a product used by magic enthusiasts having the appearance of a regular leather wallet but produce a large flame when opened. The wallets contain absorbent pads that are pre-filled with lighter-fluid ignited by a flint striker upon opening. The fire wallets are known to potentially contain chrysotile asbestos in the absorbent pads as a fire retardant.

These novelty fire wallets were supplied online by 'All Media Collectables' via the eBay store from July 2011 to November 2013. Testing of these products detected the presence of chrysotile asbestos (white asbestos) in the flame pads of the wallet. The importation of asbestos or goods containing asbestos into Australia is prohibited under the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 (Customs Prohibited Import Regulations)*.

Action taken

During 2013–14 the ACCC commissioned a scientific risk assessment confirming the wallets contained asbestos and requested a voluntary recall of these fire wallets.

The ACCC has issued guidelines for suppliers to initiate their own recalls once a product has been identified as presenting a safety risk. A voluntary recall is communicated through a variety of means, including: media releases, recall notices on supplier's website and supplier's networks, social media and contacting consumers. The ACCC works with stakeholders to encourage the supply of safe consumer products.

In the case of the voluntary recall of these fire wallets the following steps were also taken.

- Consumers were advised to contact asbestos disposal facilities to inform the facility that they needed to dispose of a recalled fire wallet that contains a very small amount of asbestos. Consumers were also advised to confirm disposal fees as costs can vary widely.
- Consumers were also advised to ask All Media Collectables to reimburse them with any reasonable disposal costs and to retain receipts for this purpose. All Media Collectables offered a refund/replacement under the recall of these goods.

- The wallets were to be double-bagged prior to disposal and were not to be sent via mail.
- Consumers could also contact the ACCC if they had any queries or concerns about disposal.

The ACCC continues to periodically monitor the market as part of routine surveillance operations. In December 2017 and January 2018 the ACCC identified and purchased seven fire wallets from various eBay suppliers located in Australia (NSW, NT and Qld.). Each wallet was examined by a NATA accredited laboratory by Polarised Light Microscopy with Dispersion Staining (PLM/DS) using methods of AS 4964 and supplementary in-house instructions.

Results

The scientific risk assessment of the 2013–14 recalled fire wallets were found to contain asbestos. That risk assessment concluded that the health risk from the use, handling or disposal of these products presented low risk; however, the Australian Consumer Law together with environmental protection laws apply to all ACMs regardless of the levels.

The results of the wallets examined by a NATA accredited laboratory in 2017 showed that no asbestos was detected. The laboratory disposed of the samples safely.

Outcomes

- Effective coordinated response when ACMs are identified in imported products, supporting the 2003 ban on the importation of all ACMs

Next steps

The ACCC applies a risk based approach to scheduling of operational market surveillance and product testing taking into account factors including inherent product risk and market behaviour, informed by most recent testing results. Testing of fire wallets is not scheduled for the 2018–19 financial year; however, the ACCC will continue to respond to intelligence reports.

More information

<https://www.accc.gov.au/consumers/consumer-protection/buying-safe-products>

Figure 17: Fire wallet showing asbestos lined absorbent pad



SafeWork NSW – Naturally occurring asbestos guidance material

Strategy:

Best practice

Outcome:

(O2.1) Evidence-based best practice to minimise risks in targeted areas

Deliverable:

(D2.1) Identify opportunities to share best practice for initiatives related to the safe management of asbestos such as licensing, education, training and home renovations where ACMs may be present

Location:

NSW

The issue

Naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) occurs within ten metres of the ground surface in as much as one per cent of NSW. While one per cent may not seem to be significant, it does affect the local government areas of thirty-seven NSW councils. Workers, families and the community are put at risk of asbestos exposure when undertaking excavation for homes, pools or landscaping and roadworks. Property owners and managers are legally required under the NSW Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011 to develop an Asbestos Management Plan that addresses these risks to ensure NOA is safely managed. However councils had very little guidance material available for the business owners and residents who are affected by NOA.

Action taken

The Heads of Asbestos Coordination Authorities (HACA) developed a suite of guidance material to provide residents in regional NSW (where NOA occurs) with the tools and knowledge required to manage NOA safely and in accordance with Regulations. The guidance material includes:

- NOA Asbestos Management Plan (AMP) Guide
- NOA AMP Property Risk Assessment Template
- NOA AMP – Site Specific Template
- NOA Incident Procedures and Report Template
- NOA Workers Training Requirements and Records Template
- NOA Respiratory Protective Equipment and Personal Protective Equipment factsheet
- NOA Decontamination Fact Sheet.

A media event was held in Orange on 16 October 2017 to launch the material. Orange is one of the regions where NOA exists. The launch had a great turn out with media in attendance, council representatives from four regional councils, students from the local TAFE and local tradespeople.

Flyers and posters were also developed to help promote and encourage uptake and use of the guidance material (Figure 18). Copies of the flyers, posters, the NOA AMP guide, factsheets and templates were also distributed to all NSW councils affected by NOA.

Results

The media event was well covered by several targeted rural and regional media outlets including print, radio, television and online. A large number (3,700) of copies of the NOA package were printed and delivered to the 38 councils in areas that contain naturally occurring asbestos. On top of this, 3,588 NOA resources were downloaded from the website following the launch of the guidance material.

Outcomes

Feedback from Orange Council where the media launch was held was very positive. Due to the media coverage it received, members of the public had come into the council to get copies of the NOA material. Some councils have also added links on their websites to the guidance material.

Next steps

The NOA material will continue to be promoted through the website, through social media and through engagement with the councils where the local government area contains naturally occurring asbestos.

More information

The NOA guidance material can be found at www.asbestosawareness.com.au/noa/

Figure 18: Poster for the NOA Management Plan



SafeWork NSW – Improving asbestos awareness in Aboriginal communities

Strategy:

Awareness

Outcome:

(O1.3) Demonstrated cultural and behavioural change within the community as a result of improved understanding of both the health risks and exposure pathways of asbestos in both commercial and residential environments

Deliverable:

(D1.3) Develop practical, evidence-based asbestos safety awareness material for people likely to come into contact with ACMs in a residential setting

Location:

NSW

The issue

Many Aboriginal communities in NSW contain fibro houses and buildings, and may have limited or no access to information on the health risks of asbestos or safe behaviours around asbestos containing materials. Aboriginal land is also particularly susceptible to illegal dumping of asbestos because it is often located in remote areas or undeveloped urban parcels of land. There is also a lack of licensed asbestos removalists in regional areas where many Aboriginal communities are located.

To address this issue, an initiative of the NSW 2013–2016 State Wide Asbestos Plan was to ‘work with communities in regional, rural and remote regions of NSW, including the Aboriginal Land Councils and communities, to promote the safe management of asbestos’.

A Heads of Asbestos Coordination Authorities (HACA) sub working group was established with representatives from the:

- Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency
- Environment Protection Authority
- Local Government NSW
- Ministry of Health
- NSW Aboriginal Housing Office
- NSW Aboriginal Land Council
- NSW Ombudsman’s Office.

The group undertook research and consultation with local Aboriginal Land Councils to develop an effective and culturally appropriate program aiming to:

- raise awareness amongst Aboriginal communities to promote the safe management of asbestos
- build capacity and capabilities to deal with asbestos within Aboriginal communities.
- equip Aboriginal communities to adequately remediate asbestos issues locally where possible.

Action taken

Research

The project team consulted with Aboriginal Local Land Councils and Aboriginal Housing providers to identify key asbestos issues.

Research case studies were also undertaken at La Perouse (metropolitan Sydney), Murrin Bridge (320km southwest of Dubbo) and Lake Cargelligo (140km south of Griffith, NSW) to gain a better understanding of asbestos issues particularly in historic Aboriginal communities.

Stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder engagement was carried out by way of face-to-face meetings, forums, by telephone and by email with Aboriginal Local Land Councils and Zone Directors, with the aim of knowledge sharing and collective learning about the asbestos issues facing Aboriginal communities.

The engagement with Zone Directors of Aboriginal Local Land Councils helped to identify the level of knowledge within Aboriginal communities, and to identify known behaviours, which may cause risk or harm to health and safety.

The project team worked directly with the Aboriginal Local Land Councils and other key stakeholders to ensure the development of the communication strategy and campaign messaging was accurate and culturally appropriate.

Communication strategy

Research findings helped to direct the development of the communication strategy, which was launched during Asbestos Awareness Month in November 2016.

The communication strategy targeted the key issues through culturally appropriate messaging and methods of communication.

A suite of guidance material and campaign collateral including flyers, posters and asbestos safety checklists were produced to provide support and guidance for all members of the Aboriginal community, according to their roles and responsibilities for asbestos management.

Building capacity and capabilities in Aboriginal communities

A pilot program to build capacity and capabilities in Aboriginal communities was rolled out through

training of Local Aboriginal Land Council workers, Aboriginal Green Teams and Aboriginal staff from local government and organisations.

The aim was to provide non-friable asbestos removal and Asbestos Supervisor training to Aboriginal participants to help them find asbestos-related work experience or employment.

SafeWork NSW engaged a training provider to deliver a program of courses including:

- non-friable asbestos removal training
- asbestos supervisor training
- general construction induction training.

Working with Aboriginal Local Land Councils, suitable Aboriginal participants were sought who had experience working within their community, for example, from Green Teams skilled in natural resource management and building maintenance workers or those who had previously completed other relevant courses, such as Certificate I in Construction.

SafeWork organised the training sessions which were delivered in Liverpool, Dubbo, Karuah, Casino and Ulladulla.

Training incentives were also offered through Local Government NSW and a workshop was held at the 2016 Local Government Aboriginal Network Conference (24–26 August 2016 in Tweed Heads) on asbestos issues to both share knowledge as well as consult with delegates.

Results

Guidance material

A suite of culturally appropriate guidance material was developed and distributed as information kits to approximately 250 recipients, including 1 Aboriginal Local Land Councils, Aboriginal Housing providers, the NSW Aboriginal Land Council, HACA and other key stakeholders. These information kits included posters, magnets, caps, tote bags and an asbestos safety checklist, plus a total of 5,000 brochures for further distribution in to the Aboriginal community to increase knowledge and awareness about asbestos (Figure 19).

Asbestos removal training statistics

- forty-five people completed the Remove Non-Friable Asbestos Training
- thirty-two people completed the Asbestos Supervision training
- eighteen people from the Clontarf Foundation in Wagga Wagga were trained to improve the employment prospects of young Aboriginal men.

Outcomes

There were several positive outcomes from the training program.

A 70 per cent Aboriginal-owned and operated civil and building construction company gained experience in asbestos removal, working in conjunction with a licensed asbestos removalist. After the required industry experience, the company will be able to apply for their own asbestos licence, which will enable them to expand their business.

Some of the other participants have also gained employment with licensed asbestos removalists, and a number of Land Councils are evaluating how they could integrate their workers' new skills into their environmental programs.

Sufficient training and experience acquired through the project may lead to Local Aboriginal Councils' eligibility to apply for and obtain a non-friable asbestos removal licence with SafeWork NSW.

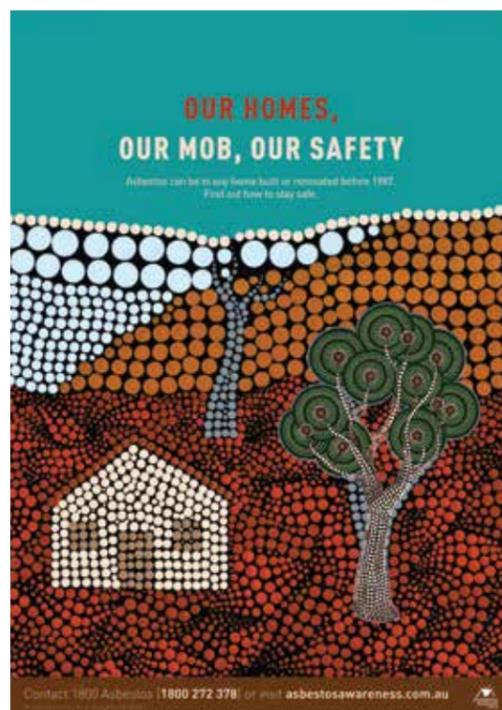
Next steps

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) have been granted funding through the NSW Government for asbestos management, clean-up and awareness activities including specific funding for Aboriginal Programs. A new asbestos directorate has been established within the EPA as at 1 July 2018 who will oversee key prevention and awareness campaigns.

More information

<https://asbestosawareness.com.au/>

Figure 19: Asbestos awareness poster for Aboriginal communities



WorkSafe Victoria – Victorian School Building Authority – The largest ever school asbestos removal program in Victoria

Strategy:

Removal

Outcome:

(O4.3) Asbestos removal infrastructure can meet the future needs and demands of ageing ACMs without creating increased risk

Deliverable:

(D4.2) Develop and conduct projects in various locations and conditions where ACMs are in poor condition or likely to cause risks to ensure removal approaches are effective

Location:

Victoria

The issue

The Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA), established in 2016, is a division of the Department of Education and Training. The VSBA oversees the design and construction of new schools, as well as the modernisation and upgrade of existing ones. The VSBA supports schools to meet their obligations under the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017 (Vic) to identify, manage and remove asbestos.

The VSBA also delivers the Victorian Government's commitment to remove all identified asbestos that may pose a risk from government schools by 2020. To achieve this, the VSBA firstly identified 1,712 government school sites throughout Victoria in 2015–16, which consequently identified 497 sites containing high-risk asbestos (friable, poor condition), and 1,200 sites containing asbestos that may pose a risk (that is, medium-risk asbestos that are non-friable but susceptible to future deterioration and damage). These findings highlighted the need to implement a program to remove all identified high risk asbestos of this nature.

Action taken

The audit of 1,712 school sites identified asbestos across various places in school buildings. This is due to the widespread application of asbestos in all kinds of building material, including thermal insulation, fireproofing materials, asbestos cement sheets, asbestos cement moulded products, vinyl floor adhesives, gaskets, electrical switchboards and insulators, mastics and equipment.

Over four years, \$200 million was invested in the Asbestos Removal Program to undertake the largest ever removal of asbestos from Victoria's government schools.

The program consists of three components:

- planned removal of identified high risk asbestos from 497 schools and medium risk asbestos from 1,200 schools (Planned Removal Program)
- demolition of 100 school buildings with high levels of asbestos, and replacing them with permanent modular buildings (Modular Buildings Program)

- respond to asbestos emergencies through a 24 hour, seven-day a week service that makes the incident areas safe so that schools can continue to operate (Incident Response Program).

The removal of high-risk asbestos containing material from 497 schools was completed by Class A asbestos removalists under the supervision of occupational hygienists. The program has moved to the next phase, targeting medium risk asbestos in 1,200 school sites.

To undertake this increased volume of work, the VSBA has recently established a panel of 19 Class A removalists.

The VSBA has also established policies above regulatory requirements to ensure the safety of students, staff and community members. These include:

- use of only Class A removalists for all removal works, even for medium-risk asbestos which are non-friable in case friable material is encountered during works
- asbestos removal to be only undertaken outside of school hours, when no extra-curricular activities are taking place
- air monitoring is required in addition to visual clearance prior to students reoccupying schools.

Results

The VBSA:

- completed an audit of 1,712 school sites with asbestos identified and rated according to risk level
- completed the removal of identified high-risk asbestos from 497 schools
- completed the removal of identified asbestos that may pose a risk in the future at 316 schools (as of 1 September 2018)
- provided comprehensive training to school staff including principals and asbestos coordinators
- a 24-hour asbestos help desk was established to register an asbestos incident, obtain advice and get further information.

Outcomes

In recent years the Department of Education and Training has raised the awareness of asbestos management within school communities through the enhancement of training programs.

Next steps

The planned removal of asbestos from schools will continue to 2020.

In addition, asbestos is being removed through the demolition and replacement of school buildings with modular buildings (Modular Buildings Program). To date, the Victorian Government has funded 50 projects³.

More information

<https://www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/Pages/Asbestos-removal-from-schools.aspx>

<https://www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/Pages/Permanent-Modular-School-Buildings-Program.aspx>

Strategy:

Best practice

Outcome:

(O2.1) Evidence-based practice to minimise risks in targeted areas

Deliverable:

(D2.1) Identify opportunities to share best practice for initiatives related to the safe management of asbestos such as licensing, education, training and home renovations where ACMs may be present

Location:

Queensland

The issue

The Office of Industrial Relations (OIR) commenced the Licensed Asbestos Removalist program, as part of the Robust Asbestos Regulator Project, targeting the risk of exposure to asbestos in the community. This gives effect to a key initiative under the Statewide Strategic Plan for the Safe Management of Asbestos in Queensland 2014–2019: to strengthen the administration of asbestos licensing under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*, by implementing a process for suspending or cancelling an asbestos licence where a holder contravenes the legislation.

OIR ensures that the community can be confident in Queensland's asbestos removalist licensing regime by taking action to cancel or suspend an asbestos removal licence where there is evidence a removalist has not demonstrated safe and competent asbestos removal practices (see example shown in Figure 20).

Action taken

OIR inspectors record details of their findings on OIR's compliance history database when conducting routine audits, or responding to complaints of poor removal practices of licensed asbestos removalists. These details include interventions and any compliance action taken against the licence holder, plus improvement or prohibition notices that were issued.

Every year, OIR interrogates the compliance history database to identify those licence holders who have repeated non-compliance with the asbestos regulations. The number of notices issued to a licence holder, plus local inspector knowledge of their practices, is used to rank licence holders for a comprehensive audit by asbestos inspectors and advisors in OIR's Asbestos Unit.

The comprehensive audit of licence holders involves:

- a thorough review of their compliance history to date
- an on-site audit to validate the compliance history
- in most instances, a desktop audit of safety management systems
- further on-site audit of removal practices.

The assessment process is designed to gather evidence about competent and safe asbestos removal practices, which is an automatic condition of the asbestos removal licence.

If the investigation concludes that the licence holder does not demonstrate safe and competent work practices, the Asbestos Unit completes an assessment report and forwards it to the Asbestos Licence Review Panel to make recommendations. These recommendations may include issuing a warning letter or suspending, cancelling or imposing a condition on the licence.

The licence holder is then contacted and invited to 'show cause' as to why a specified sanction should not be imposed on their licence. Alternatively, if the licence holder is sent a written warning stating that their work practices need improvement to prevent suspension or cancellation of their licence, they will be subject to a follow up audit as soon as possible.

If a decision is made to sanction the licence, the licence holder has options under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* to seek a review of the decision.

When a licence sanction is finalised, the licence holder is informed of the decision and a notation of the sanction is made against the licence holder on the list of licensed asbestos removalists, which is published on the WorkSafe website.

If a licence is suspended or cancelled and the removalist is issued a new licence following the disqualification period, they may also be subject to more frequent audits by the Asbestos Unit.

Work Health and Safety Queensland is also taking a tougher stance on removalists undertaking asbestos removal work without the appropriate licence, and in instances where this is detected, it will be treated as a priority regulatory offence and subject to comprehensive investigation and possible prosecution.

Results

In the first half of 2018, the Asbestos Unit completed seven comprehensive assessments of licensed removalists, resulting in two finalised licence cancellations, one finalised licence suspension and one finalised warning letter. Renewal of another licence was refused based upon completion of an assessment

report that coincided with licence renewal application. Recommendations have been made to cancel two other licences and the show cause process is underway. All cancellations have a specified disqualification period, ranging from one to two years, while the suspended licence has an additional condition imposed.

Outcomes

By taking action to cancel or suspend an asbestos removal licence where there is evidence a removalist has not demonstrated safe and competent asbestos removal practices, OIR is ensuring that the community can be confident in Queensland's asbestos removalist licensing regime.

Next steps

This is an ongoing program. A similar program to audit licensed asbestos assessors and assess their competency to perform air monitoring and clearance inspections for friable asbestos removal is also being planned.

More information

<https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/forms-and-resources/newsletter/esafe-newsletters/esafe-editions/esafe/august-2018/licenced-asbestos-removalist-audit-continues>

Figure 20: Multiple pieces of suspected ACM sheets in skip bin – evidence of poor removal methods being targeted as part of the audit program



SafeWork SA – Safety Alert for building owners and managers on millboard lining in heating ducts

Strategy:
Identification

Outcome:
(O3.4) Estimated total presence of ACMs in the built environment is available.

Deliverable:
(D3.2) Review building and infrastructure data to estimate likely presence of ACMs

Location:
South Australia

The issue

In late 2016, SafeWork SA was alerted to potential asbestos-containing millboard lining in heater banks in buildings throughout Adelaide by the Air-Conditioning and Mechanical Contractors Association of SA. As much of the installation work took place in the 1970s and 1980s, not all building owners were aware of it and may not have included it in their asbestos registers.

Asbestos-containing millboard has been used in the construction industry all over the world due to its flame-resistant properties. It was extensively used in the electrical industry to line boxes or compartments that housed heat or spark-producing electrical equipment such as heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVAC&R) plant.

With many older buildings across Adelaide undergoing refurbishment and retrofitting, there was a potential exposure risk to contractors undertaking these works from the millboard lining.

SafeWork SA determined that the millboard lining should be identified as containing asbestos and removed prior to demolition or refurbishment to minimise exposure risks.

SafeWork SA developed a communication plan which included the issuing of a Safety Alert to building owners.

Action taken

SafeWork SA worked with the Air Conditioning and Mechanical Contractors Association of SA to identify buildings that they knew of that had millboard lining installed in the ducts adjacent to the heater banks.

SafeWork SA then wrote to all known building owners and managers, based on this list, alerting them to the potential presence of asbestos-containing millboard lining, and their responsibility to include the millboard lining on their asbestos registers.

To capture any building owners or managers not listed, a Safety Alert was developed and placed on SafeWork SA's website. The Safety Alert is an agency-developed

guidance material for workers that highlights risks and hazards with equipment, work practices or workplaces, and provides advice on the required action to prevent an incident from occurring. For this case relating to asbestos-containing millboard lining in heater banks, SafeWork SA's Safety Alert provided advice on where the asbestos could be located, factors and risks to consider, and what action was required to ensure building owners were meeting their work health and safety legal responsibilities.

Results

SafeWork SA was able to:

- identify and contact 42 building owners to alert them to potential asbestos-containing millboard lining in heater banks
- provide a general industry-wide awareness with the Safety Alert available on the SafeWork SA website
- provide stakeholders with information about old air conditioning systems and the potential for asbestos millboard.

Outcomes

The development of the Safety Alert will assist building owners and managers identify and build upon information already contained in a buildings asbestos register, improve compliance and reduce the risk of exposure.

Next steps

Engagement with stakeholders, community and homeowners regarding potential asbestos exposure risks remain a priority for SafeWork SA. As new issues emerge, SafeWork SA will develop a communication plan to inform the public on the dangers. The process through which this Safety Alert was developed can help inform those processes.

More Information

<https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/news/asbestos-and-air-conditioning-ductwork#>

Figure 21: Asbestos lining within a heater bank.



Figure 22: Textile flexible joint in the exhaust duct.



WorkSafe Tasmania – The safest tool to use

Strategy:

Awareness

Outcome:

(O1.1) Increased community awareness of the risks posed by asbestos and its impact on the health of the community.

Deliverable:

(D1.2) Develop a ‘one-stop-shop’ of information on asbestos-related issues, integrating information, and providing referral points for members of the public

Location:

TASMANIA

The issue

WorkSafe Tasmania recognised that workplace and DIY home renovators had limited awareness of asbestos in buildings and limited direction to access asbestos safety and management information.

Action taken

WorkCover Tasmania, WorkSafe Tasmania and ASEA collaborated during 2017 to run an asbestos awareness campaign. It included the message ‘The safest tool to use’. This referred to what tool should be used when asbestos is first identified – ‘not a drill, not a paintbrush, but your smartphone’. The message and associated resources connected with people across Tasmania and was accessed from other states and territories.

Results

The central message of this campaign was demonstrated to be effective in the recall of tradespeople and the action taken by the DIY sector showed benefits as the leading responder to Helpline inquiries and the targeted DIY web page was the second most popular web page in the campaign (after the main landing page) suggesting that there is a strong appetite for greater access to information with clear and simple messages.

Outcomes

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

The audience overview identified that the leading locations for people accessing the campaign’s webpages was Melbourne, with Sydney and Brisbane also featuring in the top five cities. Evaluation suggests it may be more effective for jurisdictions to collaborate on a single campaign creating a stronger awareness and more cost effective campaign.

Next step

WorkSafe Tasmania continues to work closely with licensed asbestos removalists and assessors in promoting greater awareness of asbestos related issues.

More information

https://www.worksafe.tas.gov.au/safety/safety_subjects/subject/asbestos_safety

Find a licensed asbestos removalist in Tasmania
https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/licensing/asbestos_licensing/asbestos

Asbestos Fact vs Myth (pdf, 244.3 KB)
https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/376915/Facts_V_MythsWeb.pdf

Getting a Residential Asbestos Survey (pdf, 354.7 KB) info sheet
https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/376168/Asbestos_Surveyor.pdf

For full guidance, see these codes of practice:

- How to Manage and Control Asbestos in the Workplace
<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/doc/model-code-practice-how-manage-and-control-asbestos-workplace>

- How to Safely Remove Asbestos in the Workplace

<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/doc/model-code-practice-how-safely-remove-asbestos>

Figure 23: Asbestos: Fact vs Myth poster

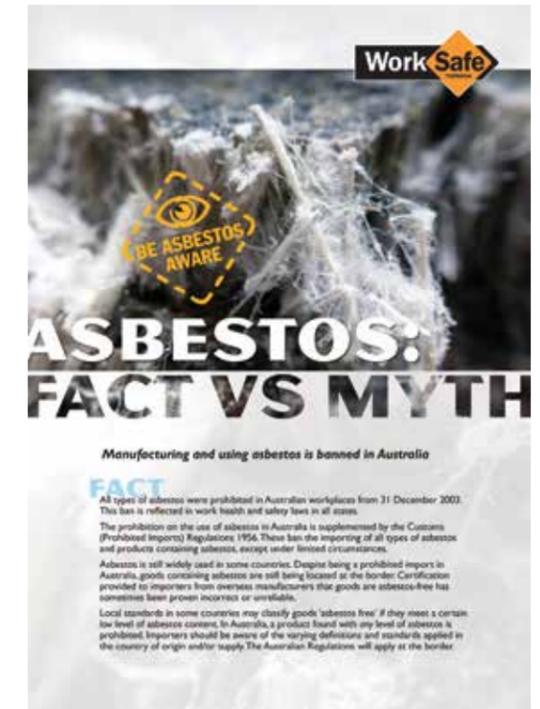


Figure 24: Asbestos campaign television advertisement 2017



Access Canberra/Workplace Protection/WorkSafe ACT – Last Mr Fluffy premises containing bulk loose fill asbestos in ACT remediated

Strategy:

Removal

Outcome:

(O4.1) Priority actions identified support removal of ACMs in poor condition

Deliverable:

(D4.1) Identify priority areas where ACMs may present a risk due to deterioration for action

Location:

ACT

The issue

Since the early 1990s the presence of loose fill asbestos (Mr Fluffy) was confirmed to be in place in the roof cavity of number 1, Edgar Street, Ainslie (Figure 26). At the time the premises was leased to a business and was deemed commercial.

During 2014 a prohibition notice was placed on the premises directly below the roof space due to high levels of asbestos fibre contamination in the business/workplace areas. The prohibition notice remains in place to date.

The roof cavity of number 1 was the only known location in the ACT that still contained loose fill asbestos in bulk form. It was a government imperative to remove the asbestos for the safety of the community. Advice from consultants Robson Environmental confirmed that there would be a major safety concern in the event of an adverse weather event or fire in the building.

Action taken

In 2017 WorkSafe ACT engaged with the owner of number 1 Edgar Street to consider options for the safe removal of the asbestos at his expense. Testing was conducted on the roof spaces adjacent to number 1 and it was found that the fibres had migrated to the roof cavity of numbers 3 and 5 Edgar Street, with no residual find of asbestos in number 7 Edgar Street (Figure 25).

WorkSafe ACT immediately advised the owner/s of numbers 3 and 5 Edgar Street of the health and safety issue and stated that the roof spaces had to be hygienically cleaned and a full remediation of the affected area must be completed at their own expense. Furthermore, the owners were advised that if this action was not undertaken community safety could not be assured as the buildings aged and deteriorated. At some point in time the buildings would need to be demolished.

Results

- The bulk loose fill asbestos was removed during 2017 from the roof space at number 1 Edgar Street.
- During June/July 2018 the roof space of numbers 3 and 5 Edgar Street underwent a full environmental hygiene cleansing.
- The entire roof space of the building, from numbers 1 to 7 Edgar Street, had full replacement of electrical wiring, plumbing and insulation. The roof tiles were replaced to prevent the water egress into the building.
- The entire building has been resealed with an Asbestos Management Plan now in place to ensure no intrusion into the wall cavities are made for future renovations.

Outcomes

The shopping precinct has returned to normal commercial business with no safety concerns to the community.

Next steps

A full review is underway by WorkSafe ACT to establish an agreed terms of management for the building/s with the owners. This will facilitate the removal of the Prohibition Notice and the area immediately beneath the roof space of number 1 Edgar Street can return to commercial leasing by the owner.

Ongoing monitoring and assessment of annual inspections by Licensed Asbestos Assessors will be maintained by WorkSafe ACT, at intervals not exceeding 12 months.

Once satisfied with the management and control of the building to ensure encapsulation and approved management of the premises the prohibition notice will be removed.

More Information

www.act.gov.au/accessCBR

Figure 25: Ainslie shops in Edgar Street – left to right – shop 1 – 3 – 5



Figure 26: Photo in the roof cavity of shop number 1 Edgar Street – Ainslie Shops



2017–18 ACTIVITIES TABLES

NSP 1 – AWARENESS

GOAL: Increased public awareness of the health risks posed by working with or being exposed to asbestos

Deliverable		Assessment	
D1.1 Review of awareness raising information, programmes and campaigns in Australia and internationally to identify gaps and improve awareness in the Australian community of the risks of asbestos in the built environment		Complete	
Deliverable complete 2015–16		O1.1 Increased community awareness of the risks posed by asbestos and its impact on the health of the community	
D1.2 Develop a 'one-stop-shop' of information on asbestos related issues, integrating information and providing referral points for members of the public		Significant progress underway	
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
Tas.	The safest tool to use campaign messaging workplace and the DIY home renovators by recommending a smartphone as the first tool to use to access asbestos safety and management information, before picking up any other tool	Complete	O1.1 Increased community awareness of the risks posed by asbestos and its impact on the health of the community
All jurisdictions	Websites – respective jurisdiction and Commonwealth asbestos websites, Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency website: public websites	Ongoing	O1.2 Improved access to information for those who work and live with asbestos, including where and when to source information and advice
SA	Help centre for the general public: call centre to provide information and advice on asbestos	Ongoing	
WA	Information and advice for the general public: email, telephone and web advice to the public, WorkSafe website – communication materials developed	Ongoing	
NSW	1800 Asbestos enquiry line: central enquiry line for all NSW asbestos enquiries	Ongoing	
NSW	asbestosawareness.com.au – comprehensive website detailing vital information about the safe management of asbestos, including an Asbestos Products Online Database and guidance material for residential and commercial properties.	Ongoing	

Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
Tas.	Helpline for general public: email, telephone and web advice to the public providing asbestos information and advice	Ongoing	O1.2 Improved access to information for those who work and live with asbestos, including where and when to source information and advice
ASEA	National website: redesign of ASEA website with additional functionality and online resources	Complete	
Qld.	Queensland Government 13QGOV www.asbestos.qld.gov enquiry line: A dedicated whole-of-government website allows the public and asbestos-removal industry to access information on asbestos issues, including the roles of government agencies, and a central enquiry line for all asbestos queries in Queensland	Ongoing	
Deliverable			Assessment
D1.3 Develop practical, evidence-based asbestos safety awareness material for people likely to come into contact with ACMs in a residential setting			Significant progress underway
NSW	Aboriginal Communities Project: pilot of non-friable asbestos removal training and an asbestos awareness campaign designed specifically for Aboriginal communities	Ongoing	O1.3 Demonstrated cultural and behavioural change within the community as a result of improved understanding of both the health risks and exposure pathways of asbestos in both commercial and residential environments
ASEA	Dissemination of awareness campaign resources: Finalise materials for dissemination by governments and community stakeholders	In progress	
Qld.	Promotion of short film 'Dear Dad' with safety ambassador Trevor Gillmeister: promotion of short film to increase community awareness about asbestos safety (DIY focus)	Ongoing	
Qld.	Short film 'How to use, maintain and test H Class HEPA vacuum cleaners': development of film to improve compliance of PCBU's performing asbestos related and removal work in regard to proper use of H Class vacuum cleaners	In progress	
SA	Community and industry information sessions: community and targeted industry information sessions on health risks and exposure	Ongoing	
WA	Worksafe WA: Developed industry checklist for asbestos removals	Complete	
WA	Presentations and seminars delivered to increase awareness: Joint seminars by WorkSafe WA and the Department of Health held in metropolitan and regional areas on asbestos removal	Complete	
Qld.	Maintenance, inspection and testing of H-Class vacuum cleaners fact sheet: providing examples of compliant and non-compliant H-Class vacuums and how they should be maintained and tested	Complete	

NSP 1 – SUPPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

Outcome		
O1.1 Increased community awareness of the risks posed by asbestos and its impact on the health of the community		
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status
All jurisdictions	Asbestos week/month: all jurisdictions support community awareness and education events in November	Ongoing
NSW	National Asbestos Awareness Campaign: the Asbestos Education Committee oversees a comprehensive campaign across Australia to help raise awareness about the risks of exposure to asbestos during home renovations and maintenance	Ongoing
NSW	Betty – the ADRI house: a mobile home that travels throughout Australian communities to display where asbestos can be found in and around the home and advice on the safe management of asbestos.	Complete
SA	Funding to asbestos victim support organisations: SA Government funding to Asbestos Victims Association and Asbestos Diseases Society of South Australia	Ongoing
Vic.	WorkSafe VIC: funding to asbestos victim support organisations: funding to GARDS/ACV to provide support and advocacy services	Ongoing
Tas.	Asbestos awareness communications plan: campaign being developed to increase community awareness of the risks posed by asbestos and its impact on the health of the community	Ongoing
Commonwealth	The inclusion of asbestos-related cancers in Safe Work Australia's Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy 2012–2022 as a priority condition, following mid-term review of the Strategy (Safe Work Australia)	Ongoing
Outcome		
O1.2 Improved access to information for those who work and live with asbestos, including where and when to source information and advice		
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status
All jurisdictions	Safety alerts: consumer safety alerts	Ongoing
NT	Development of asbestos awareness website for use by all stakeholders in the NT	In progress

NSP 2 – BEST PRACTICE

GOAL: Identify and share best practice in asbestos management, education, handling, storage and disposal

Deliverable			Assessment
D2.1 Identify opportunities to share best practice for initiatives related to the safe management of asbestos such as licensing, education, training and home renovations where ACMs may be present			Significant progress underway
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
All jurisdictions	Asbestos licensing: licensing of removalists and assessors, including training	Ongoing	O2.1 Evidence-based best practice to minimise risks in targeted areas
ASEA	Awareness and identification guidance for key industry where asbestos containing material (ACM) is common: (plumbers, electricians, removalists, maintenance workers)	In progress	
Qld.	Comprehensive assessment of licensed asbestos removalists with history of poor practices: licenses can be cancelled or suspended as a result, to ensure community confidence in the licensing regime	Ongoing	
WA	Revision of the Health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992: to improve management practices in residential sector	In progress	
WA	Department of Health and WorkSafe: establishment of asbestos regulators interagency group	Ongoing	
NSW	Model Asbestos Policy: adoption of the revised Model Asbestos Policy 2016 in all NSW councils	In progress	
NSW	Naturally occurring asbestos (NOA): Published Asbestos Management plan templates and fact sheets—for small business owners.	Complete	
NSW	Revised Asbestos Blueprint: update to the 2013 guide to roles and responsibilities for state and local government operational staff	In progress	
Tas.	Contact with asbestos removal licence holders to increase compliance with certain requirements: regulatory compliance checks delivered to improve management practices	Ongoing	
Tas.	Building asbestos registers: Proactive campaign to ensure currency	Ongoing	
Commonwealth	Model WHS Regulations coordination: coordination of amendments to the model WHS Regulations (SafeWork Australia)	Ongoing	
Vic.	Contact with asbestos removal licence holders to increase compliance: regulatory compliance checks delivered to improve management practices	Ongoing	

Deliverable			Assessment
D2.2 Identify industry needs and gaps in awareness and training for workers who may come into contact with ACMs – such as tradespeople – and develop model training options for industry adoption			Significant progress underway
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
ASEA	Review of asbestos awareness training unit developed for the utilities sector: Recommendations to improve asbestos awareness learning/training	In progress	O2.2 Model training for workers likely to come into contact with ACMs to increase competency and decrease risk
ACT	Workers to complete VET Asbestos Awareness Training: VET Asbestos Awareness Training completed for workers as defined by the <i>Construction Occupations Licensing Act 2004</i> (ACT)	Ongoing	
Qld.	Increasing awareness of manufacturers, suppliers, hirers and users of high pressure water equipment about the illegality and risks of using high pressure water equipment on ACMs: tagged high pressure water cleaners with asbestos warnings to decrease risk they will be used on ACM	Ongoing	
Tas.	Asbestos awareness program: Worksafe Tasmania sponsorship with Asbestos Free Tasmania providing asbestos awareness and skill development for pre-employment and apprentice programs across all TAFE courses in Tasmania	Ongoing	
SA	Contribution to Doorways2Construction: the Doorways2Construction training program creates increased awareness and knowledge on how to manage ACM for young people considering construction as a career	Ongoing	
Deliverable			Assessment
D2.3 Review disaster planning practices and information regarding the risks of exposure to asbestos to assist in times of emergencies and natural disasters			Significant progress underway
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
NSW	Asbestos Emergency Sub Plan: review and test the Asbestos Emergency Sub Plan to ensure appropriate response levels for asbestos incidents	In progress	O2.3 Australian communities are supported to manage asbestos risks during natural disasters or emergencies
SA	Review of hazardous waste management policies and processes: SA EPA undergoing internal review to feed in to State Emergency planning policies	In progress	

Deliverable			Assessment
D2.4 Identify and promote best practice transport, storage and disposal practices, including support for: - initiatives to encourage safe storage and disposal at licensed facilities - initiatives for the reporting of illegal disposal sites.			Significant progress underway
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
WA	Research and consultation for national criteria on waste management: including asbestos and contamination thresholds in mixed waste.	In progress	O2.4 Improved transport, storage and disposal practices for ACM
NSW	Waste Recycling Facilities Verification Program: capacity building/education and compliance activities (EPA and SafeWork NSW)	In progress	
NSW	WasteLocate: online system to monitor the transport and management of waste tyres and asbestos waste in NSW and allow information gathering to better target enforcement and compliance activities	Ongoing	
NSW	Research and review: research to identify motivators for peoples behaviour regarding waste, identify ways to make disposal of small quantities of asbestos more convenient and customer experience mapping for key stakeholder groups. Review of asbestos policy and guidelines	In progress	
NT	Waste tracking: Adoption of waste tracking system by December 2017	In progress	
NT	Review of Environmental Legislation: includes review of licensing and fees relating to asbestos waste. Completion expected 2020	In progress	
SA	Proactive interventions on illegal removal, dumping and transport of asbestos: targeted initiatives to prevent illegal dumping	Ongoing	
SA	Waste transport and storage: targeted compliance campaign on asbestos waste transporters utilising unauthorised waste depots	In progress	
WA	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation: encourage and facilitate reporting of land pollution. Undertake covert and overt patrols of known dumping sites, camera surveillance, investigation and prosecution of illegal dumping	Ongoing	
WA	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation: unmixed asbestos not subject to landfill levy at metropolitan landfills in WA	Ongoing	
Vic.	Illegal Waste Disposal Strikeforce Program: resources and mandate to understand and minimise the impacts of illegal waste disposal, including asbestos waste. Program runs until June 2018	Ongoing	
SA	Collaborative arrangement with EPA: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place for collaborative arrangements between Safework SA and EPA SA	Ongoing	

NSP 2 – BEST PRACTICE

Outcome		
O2.1 Evidence-based best practice to minimise risks in targeted areas		
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status
All jurisdictions	State-wide approach to asbestos management: state-wide asbestos plans and strategies promote reduction in risks posed by asbestos	Ongoing
Commonwealth	Asbestos Verification Programme: Comcare asbestos verification program for NBN roll out	Ongoing
NSW	James Hardie: Re-assessment and testing of asbestos disposal legacy sites	In Progress
Commonwealth	Completing a technical and useability review of the model Codes of Practice on How to manage and control asbestos in the workplace and How to safely remove asbestos	Ongoing

NSP 3 – IDENTIFICATION

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

Deliverable			Assessment
D3.1 Review current practices with the aim of developing: - a model grading system for the condition of ACMs - a model framework for the stabilisation and containment of ACMs in poor condition - a model process to identify asbestos contaminated land.			Significant progress underway
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
ASEA	Dissemination of asbestos grading guidelines: Testing, release and promotion of guidance to inform grading of in-situ asbestos	In progress	O3.1 Evidence-based model for grading in-situ asbestos is developed
ACT	Asbestos Removal Taskforce collaboration with industry for asbestos management: asbestos management plans for ACT Mr Fluffy residences	Complete	
Deliverable			Assessment
D3.2 Review building and infrastructure data to estimate likely presence of ACMs			Significant progress underway
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
Vic.	Data Collection on presence and condition of ACM: developed standardised terminology on the material type, condition and location of ACMs to ensure consistency in data collected as part of the consolidated Victorian Government Buildings Asbestos Register	Complete	O3.4 Estimated total presence of ACMs in the built environment is available
Commonwealth	Asbestos management projects: Defence asbestos surveys delivered to inform remaining ACM in Department of Defence estate as part of Defence Estate Works Program (EWP)	Ongoing	

Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
SA	Protecting Air Conditioning and Mechanical contractors from asbestos containing heater banks in buildings throughout Adelaide	Complete	O3.5 Improved practice in the residential sector to identify and minimise the risk of exposure, in particular for DIY home renovators
Deliverable			Assessment
D3.3 Pilot residential ACM identification tools and strategies with local government partners			Significant progress underway
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
WA	Workshops to local government: Local Government Area workshops delivered to support local government ACM management	Ongoing	O3.5 Improved practice in the residential sector to identify and minimise the risk of exposure, in particular for DIY home renovators
ACT	WorkSafe ACT continue to monitor compliance with the Asbestos Management Plan required for residential premises affected by loose fill asbestos insulation	Ongoing	
Deliverable			Assessment
D3.4 Support the 2003 ban on the importation of ACMs with improved coordinated efforts to identify and respond to the importation of ACMs			Significant progress underway
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
All jurisdictions	HWSA Imported Materials with Asbestos Working Group	Ongoing	O3.6 Effective coordinated response when ACMs in imported materials are identified
ASEA	Continue to raise awareness about the risks of asbestos in imported products across stakeholder supply chain: Seminars in targeted locations	In progress	
Commonwealth	Targeted outreach of international suppliers and governments: raise awareness of Australia's prohibition on the importation of asbestos – Department of Immigration and Border Protection	Ongoing	
Commonwealth	Enhanced risk profiling: to better target goods at risk of containing asbestos – Department of Immigration and Border Protection	Ongoing	
ASEA	Identification and promotion of strategies to reduce the risk of imported material containing asbestos: Industry engagement and evaluation to raise awareness of import risks	Ongoing	
Commonwealth	Asbestos Interdepartmental Committee (IDC): to ensure effective policy and regulatory coordination across Commonwealth agencies in managing asbestos issues throughout the supply chain	In progress	
Commonwealth	Intelligence led and targeted testing of consumer products that may cause injury or illness because they contain asbestos: Australian Competition & Consumer Commission consumer product safety	Ongoing	

Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
Qld.	Factsheet for importers, suppliers and businesses: providing information on how to prevent goods containing asbestos being supplied to Queensland workplaces	Complete	
Qld.	Legislation on non-conforming building products: The Queensland Building and Construction Commission has the power to require remedial action to be taken where building products are found to contain asbestos or are otherwise not of acceptable quality.	Complete	

NSP 3 – SUPPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

Outcome		
O3.2 Improved stabilisation and containment practices for ACMs in poor condition		
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status
All jurisdictions	Compliance management: regulatory compliance checks – including inspections and audits	Ongoing
Commonwealth	Remediation works: remediation works in Defence properties, does not involve removal work	Ongoing
Vic.	In situ asbestos project - education: project targeting school, kindergarten and tertiary sector compliance with the OHS regulations	Complete
Outcome		
O3.3 Improved identification and management of information regarding asbestos contaminated land		
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status
NSW	Asbestos Legacy Sites Working Group: establishment of a cross agency Working Group to determine a coordinated government response to asbestos legacy sites including former disposal sites, abandoned properties and Aboriginal communities	Ongoing
Outcome		
O3.5 Improved practice in the residential sector to identify and minimise the risk of exposure, in particular for DIY home renovators		
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status
NT	Department of Housing and Community Development: inspection of properties built pre 1983 to check for ACM to update asbestos database, assess condition and determine ongoing management	In progress

NSP 4 – REMOVAL

GOAL: Identify priority areas where ACMs present a risk, identify the barriers to the safe removal of asbestos and review management removal infrastructure to estimate the capacity and rate for the safe removal of asbestos

Deliverable			Assessment
D4.1 Identify priority areas where ACMs may present a risk due to deterioration for action			Significant progress underway
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
Commonwealth	Managing ACM risks: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – Asbestos management plans – for overseas Commonwealth properties	Ongoing	O4.1 Priority actions identified support removal of ACMs in poor condition
Vic.	Develop Schedule for Prioritised Asbestos Removal from buildings owned by Victorian public sector bodies	In progress	
Deliverable			Assessment
D4.2 Develop and conduct projects in various locations and conditions where ACMs are in poor condition or likely to cause risks to ensure removal approaches are effective			Significant progress underway
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
ACT	Loose Fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme – proactive community engagement: ACT Taskforce conducted community engagement to increase knowledge and awareness about asbestos risks and provide community support	Ongoing	O4.2 Options to remove asbestos in poor condition are practical, evidence based and targeted towards sources of asbestos-related disease
ACT	Loose Fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme – removal: removal of loose fill asbestos insulation from over 900 residential properties and safe demolition – buy back scheme	In progress	
Commonwealth	Planned works for asbestos removal across the Finance portfolio – small to medium projects based on risk: Department of Finance delivered planned works for asbestos removal across the portfolio from small to medium projects based on risk	Ongoing	
Commonwealth	Planned works for asbestos removal in the Finance portfolio – Cox Peninsula remediation project	Complete	
Commonwealth	Defence Estate Works Program: all asbestos identification, assessment, management and removal activities are undertaken within Defence through the Defence Estate Works Program (EWP)	Ongoing	
NSW	Loose-fill Asbestos Implementation Taskforce: identification of loose fill asbestos in NSW and Purchase Demolition Program	In progress	
NT	Asbestos Removal from Crown Land: additional budget allocated in 2017–18 to Crown Land Estate to remove asbestos from crown land	In progress	

Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
Qld.	Removal of asbestos in government assets: as part of asset management and service delivery responsibilities, asset-owning departments manage asbestos based on an assessed level of risk and use a variety of options to manage risk. Asbestos is being progressively removed from government properties as part of maintenance and refurbishment programs	Ongoing	O4.2 Options to remove asbestos in poor condition are practical, evidence based and targeted towards sources of asbestos-related disease
SA	Removal of asbestos in government buildings: removal of asbestos in government buildings based on risk grading of asbestos	Ongoing	
WA	Asbestos water pipe remediation: Water Corporation (WA) removal of asbestos-containing bitumen coating on non-asbestos cement water pipes	Complete	
Vic.	Removal of asbestos from schools program: prioritised removal of asbestos in schools	Ongoing	
Commonwealth	Receipt of notifications of voluntary recalls, assessment and publication of recalls of asbestos containing materials that are consumer goods under the Australian Consumer Law: Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	Ongoing	O4.3 Asbestos removal infrastructure can meet the future needs and demands of ageing ACMs without creating increased risk
Deliverable			Assessment
D4.3 Conduct a review into asbestos removal infrastructure (transport, storage and disposal facilities) across Australia focusing on capacity and future risks			In progress
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
Commonwealth	Hazardous waste data and reporting: Department of Environment has undertaken a series of studies as input towards the reform of Australian hazardous waste policies, regulations, markets and management, which are relevant to asbestos	In progress	O4.3 Asbestos removal infrastructure can meet the future needs and demands of ageing ACMs without creating increased risk
Vic.	Review asbestos removal capacity and infrastructure (asbestos audit, removal, transport and disposal facilities) across Victoria: to inform the development of the Victorian Government Schedule for Prioritised Removal	In progress	

Deliverable			Assessment
D4.4 Investigate the barriers to the safe removal of ACMs from government, commercial and residential properties, and develop policy options to support removal of asbestos in poor condition			Significant progress underway
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
ASEA	Review the future trends for asbestos management, removal, transport and disposal industries: Report on the influence of megatrends on asbestos industries and implications for policy an practice	In progress	O4.3 Asbestos removal infrastructure can meet the future needs and demands of ageing ACMs without creating increased risk
Qld.	Pilot scheme on disposal options for homeowners needing to dispose of small quantities of asbestos waste: improved access to asbestos waste disposal facilities and reducing illegal dumping	In progress	O4.4 The barriers to the safe removal of ACMs are reviewed and options to address the challenges faced by government, commercial and residential sectors are evaluated
WA	WA Health Roofs strategy: project commenced to investigate the obstacles to the removal and replacement of asbestos roofs and identify incentives and educational and regulatory tools to overcome these	In progress	
Deliverable			Assessment
D4.5 Review the potential risks and benefits of a prioritised removal programme to safely remove ACMs in government occupied and controlled buildings and commercial premises, including the requirement for exceptions, to reduce asbestos-related disease			Significant progress underway
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
Vic.	Development of Victorian Government Asbestos Risk Assessment Model: Research and develop best practice tool to assess the risk of ACMs across a significant number of government owned buildings	Complete	O4.1 Priority actions identified support removal of ACMs in poor condition
ASEA	Analysis of the business case for safe management and removal of asbestos by individuals, business and government	Complete	O4.4 The barriers to the safe removal of ACMs are reviewed and options to address the challenges faced by government, commercial and residential sectors are evaluated
Commonwealth	Department of Environment: project on waste levy harmonisation including the development of a case study on asbestos to examine pooled funding from a potential asbestos waste level to fund removal, management and safe disposal of ACMs to be completed in 2017–18.	In progress	
ASEA	Research into the costs of asbestos management and removal, and building a series of case studies that highlight the business case in decision making for asbestos	In progress	

NSP 4 – SUPPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

Outcome		Assessment
O4.4 The barriers to the safe removal of ACMs are reviewed and options to address the challenges faced by government, commercial and residential sectors are evaluated		
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status
WA	Improved identification of ACM pre-demolition: asbestos surveys required pre-demolition	Ongoing

NSP 5 – RESEARCH GOAL:

GOAL: Commission, monitor and promote research into the prevention of asbestos exposure and asbestos-related disease

Deliverable		Assessment	
D5.1 Identify key national and international research and reports to enable better sharing of information to inform policy and best practice		Complete	
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
ASEA	Review of asbestos research: future recommendations on prevention research priorities	In progress	O5.1 Coordination of key research supports evidence informed policy and practice
NSW	Research – future risks: analyse recent experiences to inform and manage future risks such as asbestos emergency management and exposure monitoring; research from the Blue Mountains fire in NSW published in the Journal of Health and Safety, Research & Practice.	Complete	
Deliverable		Assessment	
D5.2 Commission and promote research that reduces the risks of exposure to asbestos and minimises the impact of asbestos-related disease		Significant progress underway	
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
ASEA	Research on exposure risk: disseminated research on sources of exposure risk in the Australian community (remote communities, illegal dumping, grey literature, and fibre release)	In progress	O5.2 Commissioned research identifies practical and innovative approaches to prevent or minimise risks from exposure to asbestos fibres, and support for people with asbestos-related diseases
ASEA	Summary and dissemination of ASEA research	In progress	
ASEA	Evaluation of first National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness (2014–18)	Complete	
WA	Department of Health: research commissioned on high risk groups for mesothelioma	In progress	

NSP 5 – SUPPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

Outcome		
O5.1 Coordination of key research supports evidence informed policy and practice		
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status
All jurisdictions	Australian Mesothelioma Register review: working group led by Safework Australia focusing on the collection and evaluation of the usefulness of asbestos exposure information	In progress
ASEA	National Asbestos Exposure Register: manage and promote the National Asbestos Exposure Register (NAER) and publish report on the NAER report analysis	Ongoing
Outcome		
O5.2 Commissioned research identifies practical and innovative approaches to prevent or minimise risks from exposure to asbestos fibres, and support for people with asbestos-related diseases		
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status
Commonwealth	Defence Asbestos and Hazardous Chemicals Exposure Scheme (DAHCES): assisting people who have been exposed to asbestos and hazardous chemicals	Ongoing

NSP 6 – INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP

GOAL: Australia continues to play a leadership role in a global campaign for a worldwide ban on asbestos mining and manufacturing

Deliverable		Assessment	
D6.1 Pursue opportunities for improvements in international arrangements for asbestos awareness, management and a global ban on asbestos mining and manufacturing		Significant progress underway	
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
Commonwealth	Support of the listing of chrysotile in the Rotterdam Convention: Department of Environment and Energy – coordinates whole of government response to supporting the listing of chrysotile on the Rotterdam Convention supported by ASEA	Ongoing	O6.1 International issues relating to asbestos and asbestos-related disease are effectively coordinated
ASEA	Supporting international asbestos bans: Provision of support, information, research and advice to South East Asian and Pacific nations to work towards local asbestos bans and improvement management of asbestos risks	Ongoing	O6.2 Australia recognised as an international voice in the global campaign against asbestos hazards

Deliverable			Assessment
D6.2 Proactively share knowledge, tools and information on best practice with other countries and relevant international organisations			Significant progress underway
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity status	Outcome
ASEA	Internationally share knowledge and information: proactively share knowledge, tools and information on best practice with other countries and relevant international organisations	Ongoing	O6.3 Best practice for awareness, management and eradication of asbestos is shared internationally
ASEA	Annual conference: 2017 Asbestos Safety and Eradication Summit planning and delivery	Complete	
Commonwealth	Australian Aid Program: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – support for asbestos management in developing countries. ‘Managing Asbestos Risk in the Aid Program’ policy seeks a ban on use of asbestos and ACM in DFAT funded aid investments. The department has also released the Environmental and Social Safeguard Policy for the Aid Program, which outlines a consolidated approach to managing safeguard risks and seeks to ensure aid investments do not cause unacceptable impacts to people and their environment. Through the implementation of both policies, all new aid investments are screened for potential risks of exposing workers and/or communities to asbestos. DFAT’s Guideline to managing asbestos risk in the aid program provides practical advice on the management of asbestos and ACM in the aid management cycle.	Ongoing	



National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness

2014 – 18 Strategies and outcomes summary



Australian Government
Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency

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

GOALS

1. AWARENESS Increase public awareness of the health risks posed by working with or being exposed to asbestos	2. BEST PRACTICE Identify and share best practice in asbestos management, education, handling, storage and disposal	3. IDENTIFICATION Improve the identification and grading of asbestos and sharing of information regarding the location of ACMs
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OUTCOMES

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

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

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

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS



