



National Strategic Plan for Asbestos
Management and Awareness 2014 – 2018

FINAL REPORT



Australian Government working with:







CONTENTS

Forward	6
Background	7
At a glance	8
Section 1 <i>Activities and case studies</i>	11
Section 2 <i>Removal and waste data</i>	19
Appendices	29
<i>Activities reported against deliverables and outcomes for the final quarter of NSP 2014–2018</i>	30
<i>National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness 2014–2018: Strategies and outcomes summary</i>	48
<i>Recent developments</i>	50





INTRODUCTION



The National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness 2014–2018 (NSP 2014–2018) final report is an opportunity for us to reflect and celebrate the collective achievements of all stakeholders, working together towards our aim of eliminating asbestos-related diseases (ARDs) in Australia, over the last five years.

NSP 2014–2018 has played a crucial role in providing a framework to direct and coordinate asbestos awareness and management efforts across Australia.

During the life of NSP 2014 – 2018 a total of 126 activities were reported as completed and over sixty activities will continue into the next phase of the plan, demonstrating active engagement in the awareness and management of asbestos.

While progress was made, the extent of Australia's harmful asbestos legacy means that more work is required to secure effective legacy management in order to achieve our aim.

This final report highlights some of the achievements made and draws out the key elements of the work done over the last five years that were critical to achieving progress against the NSP 2014–2018, including:

- information sharing to ensure that best-practice approaches are used
- identification of the critical areas which must be addressed in order to improve awareness and management
- the coordinated approach through which Government and non-government organisations worked towards a single aim
- the phased approach, which recognises the importance of building an evidence base to inform actions.

The evaluation of NSP 2014–2018 has revealed some key lessons and identified opportunities for greater collaboration. Going forward, a clearer articulation of the roles and responsibilities involved, and more targeted actions to demonstrate commitment and accountability, will enhance the progress made towards eliminating ARDs in Australia.

BACKGROUND

In 2012, the Asbestos Management Review found that urgent, systematic, nationwide action was required to deal with Australia's asbestos legacy. The review recommended the development of a national strategic plan to better drive, focus and coordinate efforts to address the asbestos-related issues across Australia.

In August 2015, Commonwealth, state and territory ministers with responsibility for work health and safety (WHS Ministers) approved NSP 2014–2018, outlining a phased approach to eliminating asbestos-related diseases in Australia. Phase one went from 2014–2018 (NSP 2014–2018) with phase two moving forward from 2019–2023 (NSP 2019–2023).

NSP 2014–2018 contained the following six strategies:

- Awareness
- Best practice
- Identification
- Removal
- Research
- International leadership.

The Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (ASEA) coordinated and reported on the implementation of the NSP 2014–2018. During the first phase ASEA has published an annual progress report on activities undertaken by the state, territory and Australian Government agencies.

Although WHS Ministers approved NSP 2014–2018, the responsibility for implementation fell to multiple organisations, including: the Australian Government, state and territory health and environment agencies.

This report highlights examples of successful activities completed by the Commonwealth, state and territory agencies involved. It also details ASEA's contribution to implementing NSP 2014–2018.

Note: A detailed list of all activities reported for the final quarter of NSP 2014–2018 is featured in the Appendices of this report. Please refer to annual Progress Reports for activities reported against strategies for each year of NSP 2014–2018.

> AT A GLANCE

The four elements of the asbestos 'life-cycle' – identification, management, removal and disposal – are interlinked. Because of this, there is variation in the number of activities reported each year against the NSP 2014–2018 strategies.

Figure 1 – Number of activities reported per strategy 2015 – 2016

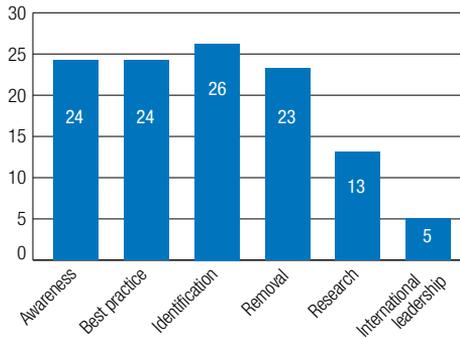
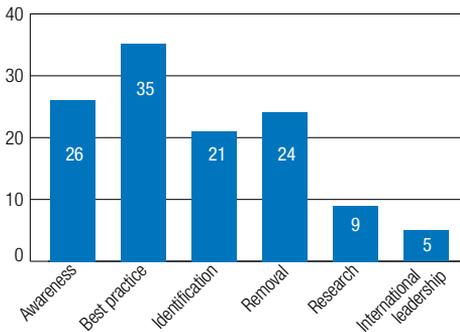


Figure 3 – Number of activities reported per strategy 2017 – 2018



Further evidence of the progress is presented in Section 1 of this report and in each of the annual Progress Reports published during the life of NSP 2014–2018.

Under NSP 2014–2018, all governments worked together researching, increasing awareness and developing and disseminating practical information

The number of activities featured in Figures 1 to 4 include all activities reported as in progress, complete and ongoing for each year of NSP 2014–2018. It is important to note that each of these activities vary in size and nature and are only one of the components of the measure of success.

Figure 2 – Number of activities reported per strategy 2016 – 2017

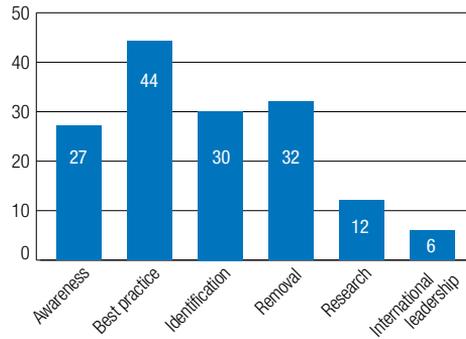
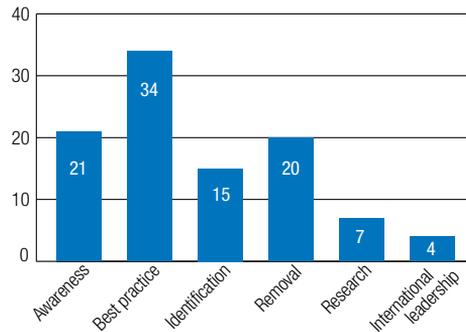


Figure 4 – Number of activities reported per strategy Q1 and Q2 2018



about asbestos. The knowledge and information developed in the first phase informs the goals and targets in subsequent phases. NSP 2019–2023 targets will keep us focused on our aim and provide a measure of our progress in increasing awareness and supporting more effective management and removal of asbestos containing materials (ACMs) over the next five years.







SECTION ONE

ACTIVITIES AND CASE STUDIES

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All stakeholders completed a significant number of activities that demonstrate the strength of collaboration and coordination in meeting a common aim.

STRATEGY ONE: AWARENESS

Our Goal

INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE HEALTH RISKS POSED BY WORKING WITH OR BEING EXPOSED TO ASBESTOS.

It is crucial that tradespersons and do-it-yourself (DIY) renovators know what to do when they encounter asbestos. Asbestos awareness for trades people and people undertaking DIY renovation is pivotal for Australia to forestall the economic, social and healthcare costs of the anticipated next wave of ARD.

A coordinated awareness strategy under the NSP helps with the communication of consistent asbestos messages with collaborative campaigns run by and across jurisdictions.

Impact of the NSP 2014–2018

Awareness activities delivered included:

- › developing 'one-stop-shop' websites
- › conducting awareness campaigns

- › developing practical, evidence-based awareness information, including information targeted at people likely to come into contact with ACMs in a residential setting.

Examples of Success

WorkCover Tasmania, WorkSafe Tasmania and ASEA collaborated during 2017 to run an asbestos awareness campaign. It included the message 'The safest tool to use', referring to what tool should be used when asbestos is first identified – the answer being a smartphone. The message and associated resources resonated with people across Tasmania and was accessed from other states and territories.

ASEA hosted four annual international conferences around the nation attracting increased attendance each year. The 2018 conference welcomed over 300 professionals from a range of industries including work health and safety, public health and the environment. These conferences presented a unique opportunity for industry to come together, exchange information and share ideas.

> STRATEGY TWO: BEST PRACTICE

> Our Goal

IDENTIFY AND SHARE BEST PRACTICE IN ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT, EDUCATION, TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND DISPOSAL.

Sharing best practice approaches has proven to be an effective way of ensuring continual improvement takes place regarding the raising of awareness and the management and removal of ACMs. Best practice case studies are a valuable resource that will continue to be used to achieve the aim and targets of NSP 2019–2023.

> Impact of the NSP 2014–2018

Best practice activities delivered included:

- > developing disaster management plans and reviewing asbestos management practices in disaster planning
- > developing awareness training for workers in the utilities sector
- > identifying and sharing best practice in identification, removal and waste disposal
- > reviewing policy and legislation to increase compliance and develop model codes of practice.

> Examples of Success

Local Government NSW, on behalf of the Heads of Asbestos Coordination Authorities (HACA), developed a Model Asbestos Policy for NSW Councils. This helps councils prepare and adopt a sound asbestos policy, so that important information about asbestos is available to council workers and local communities. Take-up of the resources has been significant with:

- > 72 per cent of NSW councils adopting the model asbestos policy
- > 99 per cent of NSW councils placing asbestos information on their website
- > 100 per cent of NSW councils' staff (over 700 people) have participated in asbestos workshops, forums, discussion groups, or other engagement activities
- > the release of over 40 publications (asbestos awareness material, educative guides, case studies, newsletter articles, submissions).

ASEA developed a range of case studies to demonstrate best practice approaches for tradespersons, DIY renovators and businesses, as well as best practice approaches to training and asbestos awareness. A total of 34 case studies have been published in the annual NSP Progress Reports since 2015 and on the ASEA website. The most popular case study was '**Ergon Energy - A systematic approach to managing asbestos**', which looks at working towards becoming an asbestos-free workplace.

STRATEGY THREE: IDENTIFICATION

➤ Our Goal

IMPROVE THE IDENTIFICATION AND GRADING OF ASBESTOS, AND SHARING OF INFORMATION, REGARDING THE LOCATION OF ACMs.

The identification of ACMs within the built environment is essential to addressing avoidable exposure to asbestos fibres and underpins other initiatives in the NSP 2014–2018. The identification of ACMs in workplaces is a requirement under work health and safety laws in all jurisdictions, as well as the requirement to establish and maintain a building register.

➤ Impact of the NSP 2014–2018

Awareness activities delivered included:

- developing a rapid response protocol and information on protecting consumers from illegally imported ACMs
- developing guidelines for identification and grading of in-situ asbestos
- reviewing stabilisation and containment practices of ACMs in poor condition
- identifying priority areas where ACMs may present a risk to the Australian community.

➤ Examples of Success

The Victorian Government established a dedicated agency, the Victorian Asbestos Eradication Agency (VAEA), to target and prioritise the removal of asbestos in government owned buildings across Victoria. The VAEA has developed a long-term plan for removing asbestos in government buildings. It has developed an evidence-based model for grading in-situ asbestos and has compiled an aggregated and standardised register for ACMs in Victorian Government buildings.

An Asbestos Interdepartmental Committee was established at the Australian Government level to ensure policy and regulatory coordination across Commonwealth agencies managing asbestos issues. The committee's aim was to identify risks and gaps in asbestos management across the supply chain and coordinate proposals to resolve these.

> STRATEGY FOUR: REMOVAL

> Our Goal

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.

The activities carried out demonstrate practical approaches to removal and how investment by governments in best practice removal strategies is worthwhile and can benefit communities.

> Impact of the NSP 2014–2018

Removal activities delivered included:

- > loose-fill asbestos eradication schemes in the ACT and NSW
- > identifying the barriers to safe removal of ACMs for the residential sector and local governments
- > identifying priority areas where ACMs may be present in homes, workplaces and the environment
- > using studies to inform reviews of hazardous waste management policies and regulations.

> Examples of Success

The Australian Government's remediation of the Cox Peninsula in the Northern Territory was a substantial undertaking. The Cox Peninsula posed a significant risk to human health through potential exposure to ACMs and other contaminants. Remediation was required to protect the community and enable the handing back of land to the traditional owners.

The Asbestos Response Taskforce was established in 2014 to coordinate the Loose Fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme. The scheme involved the acquisition and demolition of almost 1000 properties affected by loose fill asbestos insulation (Mr Fluffy) across the ACT. The Taskforce statistics show that over 93 per cent of affected properties have been removed from the Affected Residential Premises Register. With many of the affected properties now demolished and new homes built, the register has been published to enable members of the community to identify the remaining affected properties.

STRATEGY FIVE: RESEARCH

➤ Our Goal

COMMISSION, MONITOR AND PROMOTE RESEARCH INTO THE PREVENTION OF ASBESTOS EXPOSURE AND ARDS.

The evidence gathered during NSP 2014–2018 will enable government and non-government organisations to prioritise and plan activities during the second and third phases.

➤ Impact of the NSP 2014–2018

Research activities delivered included:

- developing the National Asbestos Profile (NAP)
- estimating the economic burden of ARD and the future burden of mesothelioma
- investigating the impact of Australia's asbestos legacy on remote indigenous communities
- conducting a national benchmark survey of awareness and attitudes to asbestos in 2014, 2016 and 2018
- building databases to collect information to support epidemiological research studies.

➤ Examples of Success

The ACT Asbestos Health Study conducted by the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, at the Australian National University, was a two-year study into the health impacts of living in a house with loose-fill Mr Fluffy asbestos insulation. It found the rate of mesothelioma in men living in Mr Fluffy homes was two and a half times higher than in men not living in these homes. It also found no cases of mesothelioma among women, and that the association between living in a Mr Fluffy house and mesothelioma was much weaker than that seen in studies where people were exposed to asbestos through their work.

ASEA developed the NAP to provide information and define the baseline situation with regard to the elimination of asbestos-related diseases. The NAP includes information on the: consumption of the various types of asbestos; populations at risk from current and past exposures; the system for inspection and enforcement of exposure limits; and the social and economic burden of asbestos-related diseases. The NAP for Australia follows the reporting structure proposed by the World Health Organization for national profiles.

➤ STRATEGY SIX: INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP

➤ Our Goal

AUSTRALIA CONTINUES TO PLAY A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR A WORLDWIDE BAN ON ASBESTOS MINING AND MANUFACTURING.

The Asbestos Management Review Report 2012 considered that Australia had a moral obligation to play an international leadership role to achieve a total worldwide ban in the production and trade of asbestos and ACMs, thus achieving our national policy intent.

➤ Impact of the NSP 2014–2018

International leadership activities delivered included:

- sharing knowledge and information regarding Australia's approach to asbestos awareness and management
- helping other countries shape their own national program for the elimination of asbestos-related diseases
- whole-of-government advocacy for listing chrysotile asbestos in the hazardous chemicals list in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention.

➤ Examples of Success

ASEA assisted South-East Asian countries work towards introducing national bans on the production and use of asbestos. ASEA provided advice and assistance to the Governments of Vietnam, Cambodia and the People's Republic of Laos in updating their National Asbestos Profiles in line with World Health Organization guidelines and developing formal roadmaps towards national bans.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade implemented the Environmental and Social Safeguard Policy for the Aid Program, ensuring all new aid investments are screened for potential risks of exposing workers and communities to asbestos.





SECTION TWO

REMOVAL AND WASTE DATA



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This section presents data on asbestos removal and disposal over the life of NSP 2014–2018. Over time, the data will show the management of asbestos out of our built environment and identify emerging trends. Since 2013-2014, there has generally been an increase in the number of asbestos removal notifications being reported nationally.

▶ Removal notifications and removal quantities

Figure 5 – Asbestos removal notifications provided to work health and safety regulators

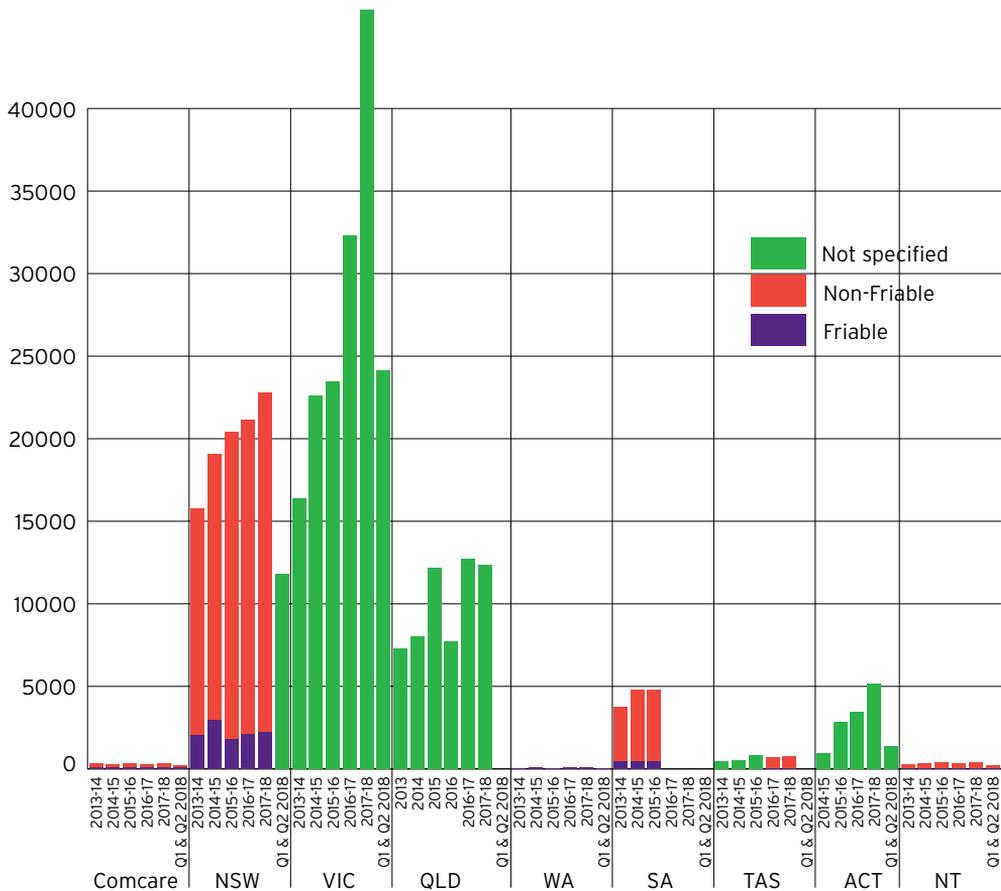


Table 1 outlines the number of notifications WHS regulators have received for asbestos removal works. The data indicates removal notifications are increasing. This may represent improved understanding of reporting requirements by duty holders and/or increased activity resulting in more removal notifications.

Table 1 – Sum of licensed asbestos removal work notifications across all jurisdictions

Financial year, unless otherwise indicated	Number of notifications received by WHS regulators			
	Friable	Non-Friable	Not specified	Total
Comcare	494	1170		1664
2013-14	85	276		361
2014-15	66	205		271
2015-16	95	207		302
2016-17	80 (Class A)	127 (Class B)		207
2017-18	106	218		324
Q1 & Q2 2018	62	137		199
NSW	11173	88033	11825	111031
2013-14	2053	13709		15762
2014-15	2963	16124		19087
2015-16	1799	18602		20401
2016-17	2115	19046		21161
2017-18	2243	20552		22795
Q1 & Q2 2018			11825	11825
Vic			164876	164876
2013-14			16411	16411
2014-15			22606	22606
2015-16			23459	23459
2016-17			32300	32300
2017-18			45985	45985
Q1 & Q2 2018			24115	24115
Qld			60339	60339
2013			7320	7320
2014			8002	8002
2015			12169	12169
2016			7734	7734
2016-17			12728	12728
2017-18			12386	12386
Q1 & Q2 2018				n/a
WA	383			383
2013-14	37			37
2014-15	63			63
2015-16	58			58
2016-17	79			79
2017-18	99			99
Q1 & Q2 2018	47			47

Financial year, unless otherwise indicated	Number of notifications received by WHS regulators			
	Friable	Non-Friable	Not specified	Total
SA	1389	11981	10234	23604
2013-14	464	3305		3769
2014-15	455	4347		4802
2015-16	470	4329		4799
2016-17			5093	5093
2017-18			5141	5141
Q1 & Q2 2018				n/a
Tas	49	1425	1781	3255
2013-14			465	465
2014-15			508	508
2015-16			808	808
2016-17	38 (Class A)	655 (Class B)		693
2017-18	11	770		781
Q1 & Q2 2018				n/a
ACT			7231	12370
2014-15			961	961
2015-16			2813	2813
2016-17			3457	3457
2017-18			5139	5139
Q1 & Q2 2018				n/a
NT	161	1764		1925
2013-14	13	288		301
2014-15	28	287		315
2015-16	30	338		368
2016-17	25	294		319
2017-18	41	350		391
Q1 & Q2 2018	24	207		231
Total	13649	104373	256286	379447

Asbestos removalists provide 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. These quantities are presented in Table 2. The development of a more consistent process for collating and reporting removal quantity data would improve the ability to monitor and analyse removal patterns and trends.

Table 2 Quantity of asbestos removed (where available)

	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		
	Q1 & Q2 2018	Friable	Data not captured		
	2013–14	Non-friable	1,401,539		
	2014–15	Non-friable	200,147		
	2015–16	Non-friable	122,483		
	2016–17	Non-friable	Data not captured		
	2017–18	Non-friable	Data not captured		
Q1 & Q2 2018	Non-friable	Data not captured			
NSW	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
	Q1 & Q2 2018	Friable	237,919		1,576,593
	2013 (Oct–Dec)	Non-friable	497,158		NA
	2014	Non-friable	2,012,713		NA
	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
	Q1 & Q2 2018	Non-friable	2,680,080	22,794	1,231
Vic			7734	7734	
	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,		
	Q1 & Q2 2018	Friable		17,873.73	
	2013–14	Non-friable	1,076,366		

	Financial year, unless otherwise indicated	Type	Estimated quantity removed m ²	Estimated quantity removed m ³	Estimated quantity removed tonnes
Vic cont.	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		
	Q1 & Q2 2018	Non-friable	587,130.20		
Qld	2015**	Not-specified	1,138,000	55,800	177,330
	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
	Q1 & Q2 2018	Not specified	Nil update	Nil update	Nil update
WA	2016-17	Data not captured			
	2017-18	Data not captured			
	Q1 & Q2 2018	Data not captured			
SA	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		
	Q1 & Q2 2018	Friable	10887		
	2013-14	Non-friable	387,621		
	2014-15	Non-friable	464,511		
	2015-16	Non-friable	421,903		
	2016-17	Non-friable	424,440		
	2017-18	Non-friable	528,181		
Q1 & Q2 2018	Non-friable	214494			
Tas	2016-17	Friable	9556		
	2017-18	Friable	1058		
	Q1 & Q2 2018	Friable	Nil update		
	2016-17	Non-friable	66,491		
	2017-18	Non-friable	154,965		
	Q1 & Q2 2018	Non-friable	Nil update		
ACT	2015	Not specified			13.74
	2016	Not specified			16.26
	2016-17	NA*			
	2017-18	NA			
	Q1 & Q2 2018	NA			
NT	2016-17	Not specified			5889
	2017-18	Data not captured			
	Q1 & Q2 2018	Data not captured			

*WorkSafe ACT's notifications 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 waste data 2013–2014 to 2017–2018

State and territory governments gather data on asbestos-contaminated waste captured from their tracking systems for hazardous wastes and/or reports from landfill operators. Most governments were able to provide this data for each year of NSP 2014–2018.

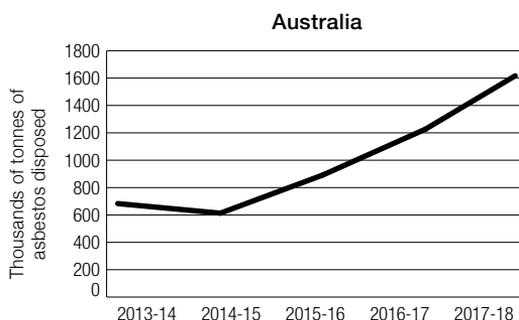
➤ Tonnages and trends

Total estimated quantities of asbestos-contaminated waste generated in Australia in each year of NSP 2014–2018 are presented in Table 3 and graphed in Figure 6. A strong trend is apparent in the national quantities of asbestos-contaminated waste, which has increased in four of the five years, to more than doubling over the period of NSP 2014–2018 to about 1.6 million tonnes.

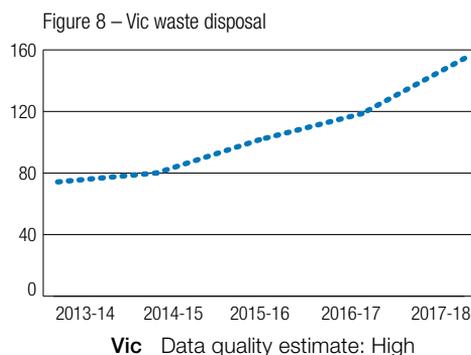
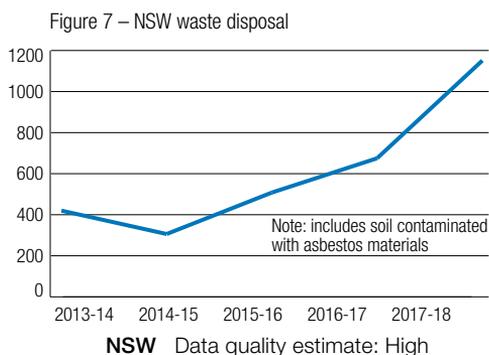
Table 3 – Recorded quantities of asbestos-contaminated waste in Australia over the period of the NSP 2014–2018 (tonnes)

	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18
Asbestos-contaminated waste in Australia (tonnes)	683,521	612,743	892,369	1,227,376	1,616,733

Figure 6 – Waste disposal in Australia over the period of NSP 2014–2018

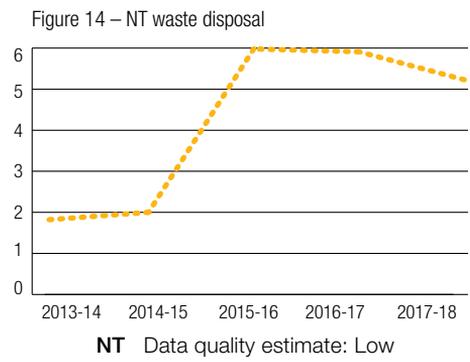
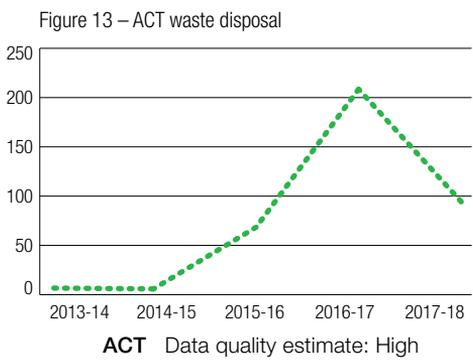
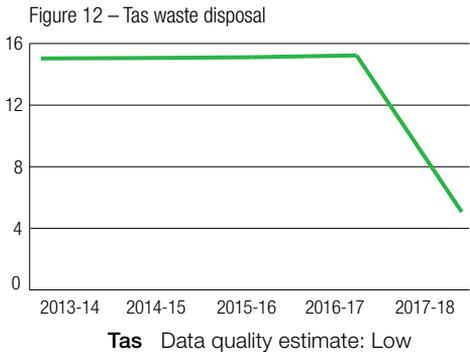
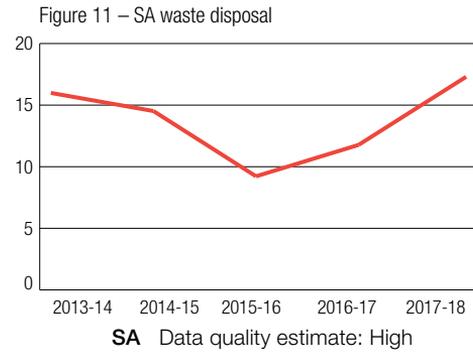
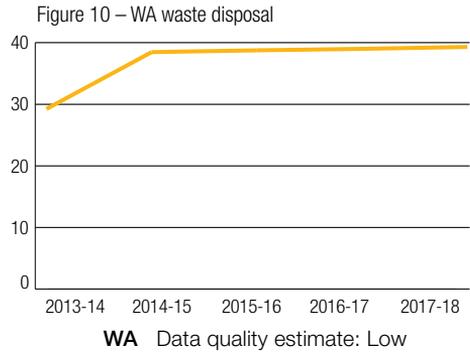
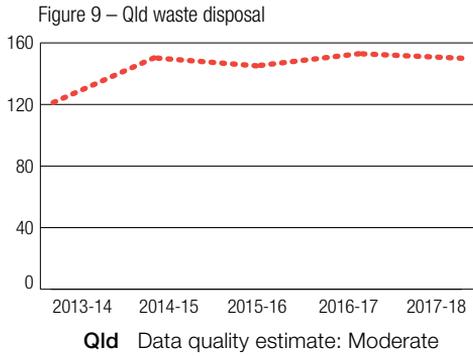


Figures 7 to 14 - show total recorded quantities of asbestos-contaminated waste per state or territory (in thousands of tonnes) over the period of NSP 2014–2018. All the data below are in thousands of tonnes



Key to data quality estimates: **High** - Data measured through a comprehensive system and quality-checked, **Moderate** - Data quality not confirmed, **Low** - Data only partially measured or contains gaps

All the data below are in thousands of tonnes

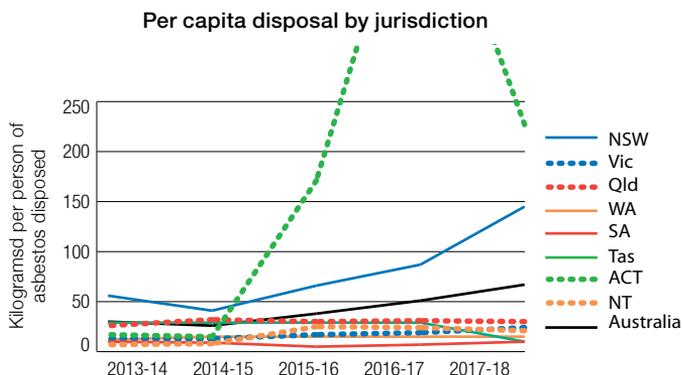


Key to data quality estimates: **High** - Data measured through a comprehensive system and quality-checked, **Moderate** - Data quality not confirmed, **Low** - Data only partially measured or contains gaps

Figure 15 shows recorded asbestos-contaminated waste per capita nationally and by state or territory. The ACT recorded the highest quantities per capita, peaking at 512 kilograms per capita. NSW was the highest producer of waste per capita in two years and second highest in three. Apart from these two, all states and territories recorded between five and 30 kilograms per capita in all years.

Most of the states and territories have rising trends, and all except Tasmania record waste quantities in the final year exceeding those in the first. Spikes in the data may be due to large development projects. The very large spike in the ACT data, in particular, was due to its program of 'Mr Fluffy' demolitions. The position NSW takes to determining when a waste is asbestos-contaminated could account for it producing more than half the national total in all years.

Figure 15 - Waste disposal per capita nationally and by state or territory



➤ Data issues

There were several issues identified around this data as follows.

- The extent of contamination before waste is deemed 'asbestos-contaminated' differs between jurisdictions
- Hazardous waste tracking systems may contain gaps or errors that are not readily recognised or followed.
- Some asbestos-contaminated waste may be excluded including:
 - domestic or smaller loads, which do not need to be tracked in some jurisdictions
 - soil contaminated with asbestos, which could potentially be reported as 'contaminated soil' rather than 'asbestos-contaminated waste', for example in Victoria and WA
 - waste from natural disasters.

- Waste may be reported in volumetric units, requiring conversion to weight. *The Australian Hazardous Waste Data and Reporting Standard* applies an assumed average density of 0.8 tonnes per cubic metre. Some states and territories may apply a different assumed density.

These issues make comparison of measurements between jurisdictions challenging, however over the span of NSP 2014–2018 we have developed a national picture of asbestos waste and have identified notable trends which contribute to our assessment of the progress being made and future issues to be addressed.





APPENDICES

 APPENDICES

Activities reported against deliverables and outcomes for the final quarter of NSP 2014–2018

Refer to annual Progress Reports for activities
reported over the life of NSP 2014–2018.

> 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	
Deliverable		Assessment	
D1.2 Develop a 'one-stop-shop' of information on asbestos related issues, integrating information and providing referral points for members of the public		Significant progress underway	
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity Status	Outcome
All jurisdictions	Websites - respective jurisdiction and Commonwealth asbestos websites, Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency website: public websites	Ongoing	O1.2 Improved access to information for those who work and live with asbestos, including where and when to source information and advice
SA	Help centre for the general public: call centre to provide information and advice on asbestos	Ongoing	
WA	Information and advice for the general public: email, telephone and web advice to the public, WorkSafe website - communication materials developed	Ongoing	
NSW	1800 Asbestos enquiry line: central enquiry line for all NSW asbestos enquiries	Ongoing	
NSW	asbestosawareness.com.au - comprehensive website detailing vital information about the safe management of asbestos, including an Asbestos Products Online Database and guidance material for residential and commercial properties.	Ongoing	
TAS	Helpline for general public: email, telephone and web advice to the public providing asbestos information and advice	Ongoing	
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	
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity Status	Outcome
NSW	Aboriginal Communities Project: pilot of non-friable asbestos removal training and an asbestos awareness campaign designed specifically for Aboriginal communities	Complete	O1.3 Demonstrated cultural and behavioural change within the community as a result of improved understanding of both the health risks and exposure pathways of asbestos in both commercial and residential environments
ASEA	Dissemination of awareness campaign resources: Finalise materials for dissemination by governments and community stakeholders (AOP5)	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 PCBUs 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	

> 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	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)	Complete
VIC	Asbestos website update: The asbestos.vic.gov.au website was created in 2013, it was jointly funded by WorkSafe, DHHS and EPA. There is currently a project in place to review and update the website which is due for completion in April 2019.	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) (AOP4)	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	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 (AOP1)	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 Construction Occupations Licensing Act 2004 (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	In progress	
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 programme 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	Complete	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 - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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)	Complete	
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	Complete	
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 - SUPPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

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 programme 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 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 (AOP2)	In progress	O3.1 Evidence-based model for grading in-situ asbestos is developed
Deliverable		Assessment	
D3.2 Review building and infrastructure data to estimate likely presence of ACMs		Significant progress underway	
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity Status	Outcome
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	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	O3.5 Improved practice in the residential sector to identify and minimise the risk of exposure, in particular for DIY home renovators

Deliverable		Assessment	
D3.4 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 (AOP8)	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	

> 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
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: the Department has completed asbestos identification surveys and put Asbestos Management Plans in place for 1107 of the 2429 dwellings constructed prior to 1983 in urban centres. Development of ASNEX has finished for the central recording of ACMs and locations, forming the Department's Asbestos Register. Existing data is being incrementally loaded into ASNEX and will be accessible to all Departmental staff with reporting available to contractors.	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	Complete	
Deliverable		Assessment	
D4.2 Develop and conduct projects in various locations and conditions where ACMs are in poor condition or likely to cause risks to ensure removal approaches are effective		Significant progress underway	
Jurisdiction	Activity	Activity Status	Outcome
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	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	Ongoing	
NT	Asbestos Removal from Crown Land: additional budget allocated in 2017-18 to Crown Land Estate to remove asbestos from Crown Land	In progress	

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	
VIC	Removal of asbestos from schools programme: 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	Complete	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	Complete	

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 and practice (AOP9)	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
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	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
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

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

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 (AOP10)	In progress	O5.1 Coordination of key research supports evidence informed policy and practice
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 of minimise risks from exposure to asbestos fibres, and support for people with asbestos-related diseases
ASEA	Summary and dissemination of ASEA research (AOP3)	In progress	
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	Complete
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	
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	O6.2 Australia recognised as an international voice in the global campaign against asbestos hazards.
Commonwealth	Australian Aid Program: The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade manages and seeks a ban on asbestos containing materials in the aid program through policy. 'Managing Asbestos Risk in the Aid Program' and the 'Guideline to managing asbestos risk in the aid program'; provides practical advice on the management of asbestos in the aid management cycle. The Department's Environmental and Social Safeguard Policy for the Aid Program, 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.	Ongoing	This outcome relates to the ASEA activity - Supporting international asbestos bans.

National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness

2014 – 2018 Strategies and outcomes summary

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

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.



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

- 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. RESEARCH

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

- 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. INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP

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

- 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

2012

The Australian Government releases the Asbestos Management Review Report which recommends the development of a national strategic plan to improve asbestos awareness and management in the broader community

2013

In 2013, the Australian Government commits funding to Comcare to ensure the safe handling of asbestos during the removal of asbestos in telecommunication pits with a verification program

NOV 2014

The 1st International Conference on Asbestos Awareness and Management took place in Melbourne

2014

ASEA works with all levels of government in Australia to develop an agreed National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness

2015

The NSW Government establishes the Loose-fill Asbestos Implementation Taskforce in August 2015

28 AUG 2015

The National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness 2014–18 is launched by the Minister for Employment

NOV 2016

The 3rd International Conference on Asbestos Awareness and Management took place in Adelaide

NOV 2016

The first National Progress Report on the National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness 2014–18 is released

DEC 2016

New Chair and Council members of the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council appointed by the Australian Government

FEB 2017

First meeting of the second term of the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council

1 JUL 2013

The Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (ASEA) is established to support and monitor the National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness, and provide a national focus on asbestos issues which go beyond workplace safety to encompass environmental and public health concerns

SEP 2013

First meeting of the inaugural Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council

2014

The Australian Government provides the ACT Government with a concessional loan of up to \$1 billion to help pay for the demolition of homes affected by loose-fill asbestos

2014

The ACT Government establishes the Asbestos Response Taskforce to provide a coordinated response to address community concerns about contamination of over 1,000 Canberra houses with loose-fill asbestos insulation

NOV 2015

The 2nd International Conference on Asbestos Awareness and Management took place in Brisbane

2015

Work commences on demolition of over 1,000 houses in the ACT as part of the ACT Government's Loose Fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme

SEP 2016

First meeting of the Asbestos Policy and Regulation Interdepartmental Committee is held

2016

The Victorian Government announces the establishment of the Victorian Asbestos Eradication Agency

JUN 2017

Reporting and coordination identifies 151 different activities contributing to the National Strategic Plan

AUG 2018

Appointment of new Chief Executive Officer of the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency

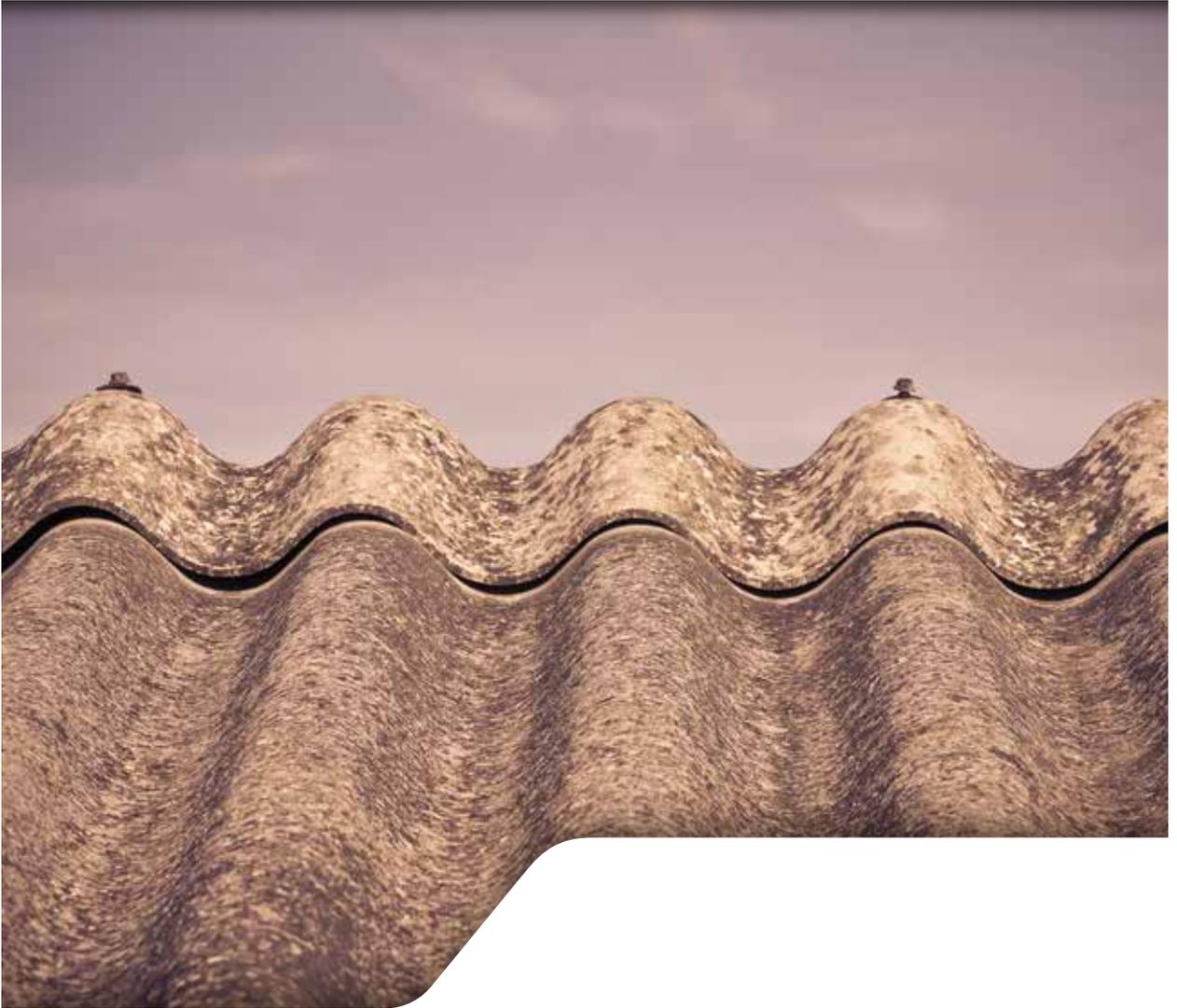
2019

NSP 2014 – 2018 Final Report

NOV 2018

The 4th International Conference on Asbestos Awareness and Management took place in Sydney





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