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Asbestos Safety Eradication Agency  
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To whom it may concern

## **HIA submission - Asbestos safety training for workers entering trades**

HIA agrees there is a need for improved asbestos awareness training of trades that may be at risk of exposure to asbestos fibres.

It is HIA's experience that most tradespersons in building construction are aware of the risks posed by asbestos containing materials. There is an abundance of health and safety information available about the measures required to prevent exposure and other legal requirements as identified in the discussion paper. There are also a range of training courses and training options available. Notwithstanding, enhancing the quality and availability of asbestos safety awareness training should benefit trades, particularly new starters embarking on their apprenticeship and workers acquiring their trade qualification. Such training should be timely and specific to their work and to their industry.

It is HIA's view that the most appropriate option to enhance asbestos safety awareness training would be a variant of the option presented at 6.2 of the discussion paper. The training for those embarking on their apprenticeship and workers acquiring their trade qualification should be nationally recognised training. This should be tailored to the needs of tradespeople and be trade-specific rather than generic training. This is best achieved by developing trade-specific asbestos awareness training and embedding this training in the relevant units of competency in CPC trade training packages.

For existing tradespeople, the training options should remain as either nationally recognised training or unaccredited asbestos-specific courses and in-house training that allow PCBUs to tailor their training to the specific needs of their work, and for that training to be more comprehensive than nationally recognised training.

Yours sincerely  
HOUSING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION LIMITED

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