**Submission Template | Asbestos Communications**

**Encompassing:**

*Guidelines for communication about asbestos* *risk* and *Asbestos facts and figures guides*

**Submission from: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Contact details: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*Whilst you can structure your submission in any form that you choose, you may like to use the questions below to frame your thoughts and ideas. Please write as much as you like.*

*You can choose to write a submission on either or both of the documents that are out for consultation. There are guiding questions for both in the template below.*

*The final question – question 9 – is open ended and asks for any feedback or experience you may like to give.*

**Information about submissions:**

Please send your submission (or any questions) to engage@asbestossafety.gov.au

Consultation closes on **Friday** **8 April 2021**. We will acknowledge receipt of all submissions received.

Please note that your submission may be published on our website. If you would like your submission to be excluded from publishing, or to be published anonymously, please indicate this below:

[ ]  do not publish submission

[ ]  publish submission anonymously

[ ]  other, please advise

**Guiding questions:**

**Challenges in asbestos communication**

1. Do you agree the draft guidelines identify the key challenges involved in communicating the risks around asbestos and adequately address those challenges? If not, which additional challenges should be included and addressed in the draft Guidelines?

*(box will expand as you type)*

1. A key challenge in asbestos risk communications is describing **the nature of the risk**. Do you agree with how risk has been described in the draft guidelines? If not, how could the nature of the risk be better described?
2. Another key challenge is describing risk levels. Often visual aids are used to describe the risk of disease; however, people can interpret visual information in different ways.

Do you agree that the challenge of describing or illustrating risk level is clearly expressed in the draft guidelines? If not, do you have suggestions for how to better describe or illustrate risk levels?

**Principles to address the challenges**

1. The draft guidelines provide principles to address the challenges of asbestos communications, which should be read in conjunction with the ASC NEPM, a nationally consistent approached to the assessment of sites contaminated with hazardous substances.

Do you agree the principles are tailored enough to asbestos communications? If not, how can these principles be improved upon?

**How to craft a preventive message**

1. The draft guidelines aim to empower communicators, tasked with crafting preventative messaging, to develop strong awareness messages using behavioural objectives. There are also comparisons with other hazards, including sun exposure and smoking.

Do you find this section easy to understand and provide clear guidance in crafting preventative messages? Does this section give you tools to better frame future communications? If not, how could this section be improved?

**How to communicate in response to potential asbestos exposure**

1. Responding to a potential asbestos exposure, especially one involving the general public, can be a complex challenge.

Do you agree that this section covers all the steps that need to be taken when responding to potential asbestos exposure? If not, how could this section be improved?

**Accessibility, format and design**

1. Are there any comments you would make about the design or format of the draft guidelines?

Did you find the draft guidelines accessible in design and easy to read? Are there any aspects you would recommend for improvement or change?

**Communicating Asbestos Facts and Figures Guide**

1. The *Communicating Asbestos Facts and Figures* G*uide* sets out statements that are based on established scientific facts; asbestos safety research; and legally accepted authoritative information on the Australian history of asbestos mining, manufacture, and use. Do you find the facts and figures guide clear and easy to use? Do you have any suggestions for improvements?
2. Are there any other areas or information you would like to see covered in the *Communicating Asbestos Facts and Figures Guide?*

**Other comments**

1. Are there any other comments you would like to make on these guides?