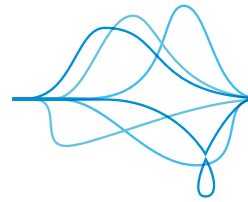




Australian Government

Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency



**Asbestos National  
Strategic Plan**

Implementation  
2019–23

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# How to measure targets under the plan

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# What this guide is about

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This guide explains how to interpret and measure the nine targets of the National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Awareness and Management (NSP) 2019–2023 to ensure a consistent approach is taken to data collection and reporting so that progress against the NSP 2019–2023 can be measured effectively at the national level.

Outlined for each target is:

- Why the target is important
- What is being measured
- What data is needed
- How the target relates to other NSP targets, priorities and actions

As all agencies with asbestos-related responsibilities will have some input, it is recommended that NSP data collection and reporting be managed by the cross-agency coordination group established in each jurisdiction. The reporting template developed by ASEA should be completed and provided to ASEA annually (to coincide with end of the financial year) although jurisdictions may choose to update the template more frequently to track their own progress.

## What will ASEA do with the data?

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The data will not be used by ASEA to compare jurisdictional performance. ASEA will collate and analyse the data it receives from each jurisdiction to provide a national picture of Australia's collective efforts to prevent asbestos exposure.

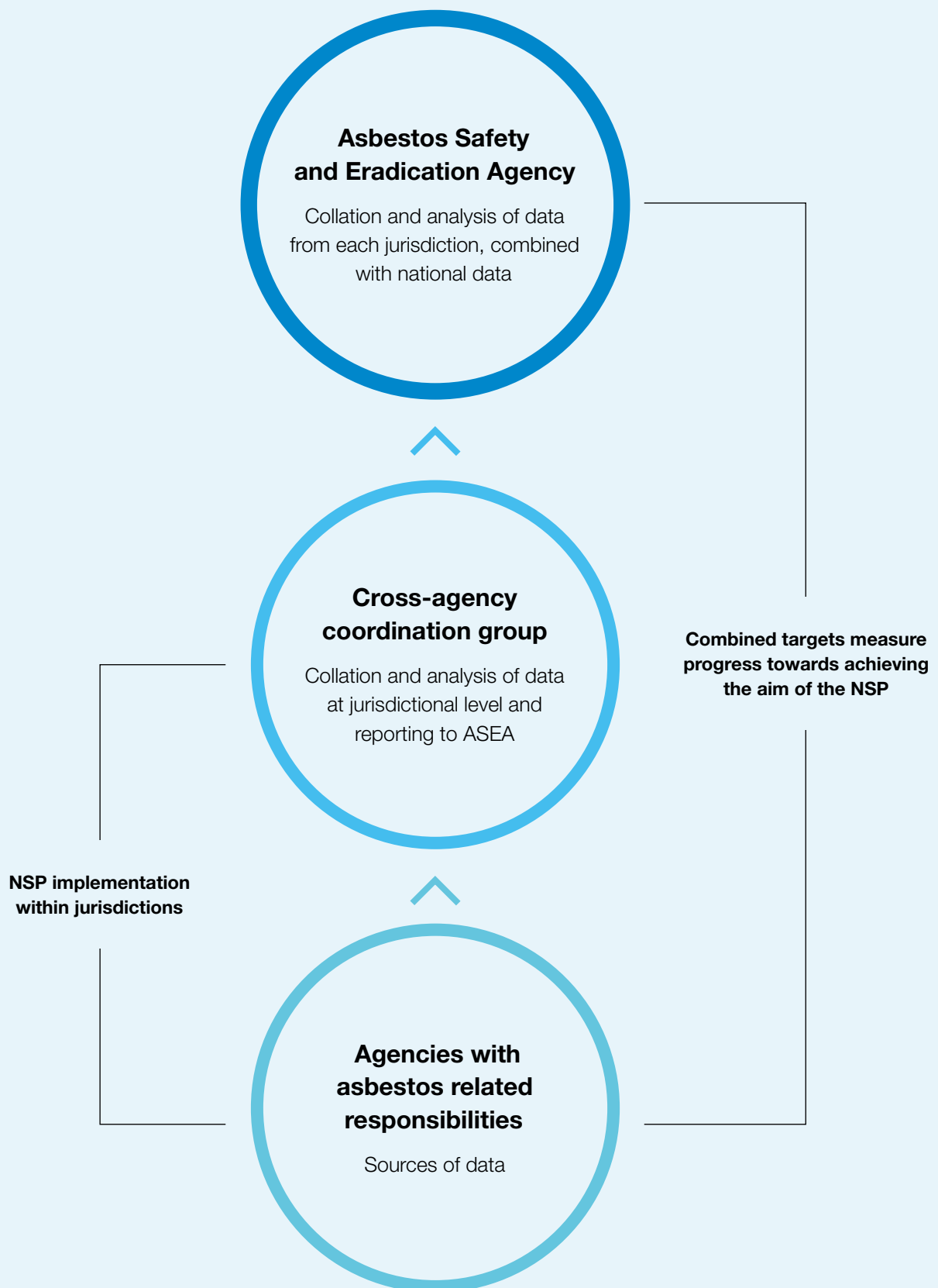
ASEA may overlay the jurisdictional information with national data it collects to measure trends and improvements over the five year period of the NSP 2019- 2023. For example, data from jurisdictions on waste management strategies will be analysed with data collected by ASEA on asbestos waste volumes to assess capacity of waste disposal facilities.

The mid-term review will provide further opportunity to refine the data collection, reporting and analysis methodologies and address any gaps in meeting the targets.

## Benefits of both a consolidated jurisdictional and national picture

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Jurisdictions can use their data to measure their own progress at a whole of government level and identify areas for improvement within the jurisdiction, while also demonstrating that the jurisdiction is contributing nationally to the aim of the NSP.



# Target One

Increased awareness of the health risks of asbestos containing materials (ACMs) and where to source information:

- all tradespersons whose work brings them into contact with ACMs;
- all workers in workplaces with ACMs;
- 80 per cent of homeowners and occupiers,
- 80 per cent of property managers and real estate agents.

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## Why is this important?

To influence safe behaviours and practices, in both workplaces and homes, by raising asbestos awareness and knowledge

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## What is being measured?

The level of awareness and knowledge of:

- the risk of exposure to asbestos (including knowing how asbestos is identified),
- the associated health consequences, and
- where to find trusted sources of information on how to manage these risks.

It applies to:

- Tradespersons who are likely to encounter ACMs in the course of their work
- Workers in workplaces with ACMs
- Owners and tenants of residential premises
- Property managers and real estate agents

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## What data is needed?

- Results from the Asbestos Awareness Survey and other surveys conducted by ASEA
- Results from jurisdictional surveys or evaluations of awareness campaigns, training courses and asbestos safety resources

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## How does this relate to other NSP targets, priorities and actions?

Measures the effectiveness of strategic actions under *Priority 1 – Improve asbestos awareness to influence behaviour change* e.g. effectiveness of awareness messages and campaigns, practical guidance material, training courses.

Increased awareness should result in improved compliance with asbestos-related laws and safer practices. Data from this target may be compared with data from targets 4 and 6.

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# Target two

All governments have identified and assessed the risks associated with ACMs in publicly owned and controlled buildings, land and infrastructure.

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## Why is this important?

To help governments better understand the nature of their asbestos legacy and consequently target resources more effectively to manage asbestos exposure risks in a staged and proactive manner.

This target aligns with obligations under WHS laws to create and maintain asbestos registers and management plans.

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## What is being measured?

The extent to which governments have a systematic approach to identifying and assessing asbestos risks in the buildings, infrastructure and land they own and control.

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## What data is needed?

- Format of asbestos registers i.e. whether registers are static paper-based documents (e.g. spreadsheet format such as Excel or other document formats) or database systems
- The extent to which asbestos registers are centralised and accessible
- The overall coordination of information to identify key areas of potential exposure risk (e.g. for example, schools, hospitals, prisons and contaminated sites).
- The degree of consistency in ranking risk levels to enable whole of government assessment of risk and coordinated approach to remediation.

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## How does this relate to other NSP targets, priorities and actions?

Measures the effectiveness of actions under *Priority 2 – Identification and effective legacy management*.

The identification and assessment of asbestos exposure risks under Target 2 should be used to determine the schedules and processes for prioritised safe removal under Target 3.

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# Target three

All jurisdictions have schedules and processes for the prioritised safe removal according to risk of ACMs from public buildings and infrastructure, and safe disposal of that material.

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## Why is this important?

To ensure governments have a proactive and planned approach to removal, consistent with WHS risk management duties.

The size of the asbestos legacy in government owned property requires a long term, planned and systematic approach to the safe removal of ACMs (i.e. it is prioritised according to the level of risk and done in a way that prevents further exposure).

A planned and staged approach to asbestos removal is safer and more cost effective than ad hoc removal or when removal occurs in emergency situations where ACMs have already been damaged or disturbed.

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## What is being measured?

The actions governments are taking to prioritise ACM removal in government owned properties based on the risks assessed under NSP Target 2.

These actions include establishing timeframes for removal, preparing work plans, allocating funds and setting up systems to engage appropriately qualified external contractors.

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## What data is needed?

Asbestos management plans and removal programs developed by Commonwealth, state and territory governments at an agency or whole of government level

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## How does this relate to other NSP targets, priorities and actions?

Target 3 is directly linked to the outcomes of Target 2.

Measures the effectiveness of actions under *Priority 2 – Identification and effective legacy management* and *Priority 3 – Safe prioritised removal and effective waste management* particularly in relation to developing and sharing jurisdictional policies on prioritised removal of ACMs from government-owned and controlled buildings, land and infrastructure.

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# Target four

All regulators have in place and have implemented asbestos compliance programs

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## Why is this important?

To help the regulated community understand their obligations under the laws and encourage duty holders to voluntarily comply with the law. This target recognises that under an effective and enforcement regime (often illustrated as a pyramid) the most frequent compliance and enforcement activities are providing information, education and advice with the imposing of sanction occurring less frequently and often reserved for serious breaches.

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## What is being measured?

The regulatory activities that encourage and assist duty holders comply with asbestos-related laws and best practice, e.g. providing information, education, guidance and advice. It may also include targeted regulator inspections, audits and other verification activities. Data relating to enforcement activities is collected as part of measuring Target 6.

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## What data is needed?

Information on compliance activities from regulators responsible for providing asbestos-related compliance support:

- Work health and safety
- Environment protection
- Public health
- Consumer protection
- Building standards
- Customs and border protection
- Mining and quarrying authorities

ASEA will use secondary data sources including:

- SWA Comparative Performance reports
- Updates from the Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities and Heads of Environment Protection Authorities
- Ombudsman's investigations and reports
- Mediareports

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## How does this relate to other NSP targets, priorities and actions?

Measures the effectiveness of actions under all four priorities.

Data from this target will be used in combination with Target 1 and Target 6 to assess whether regulator's compliance programs improve the level of awareness and influence changes in behaviour.

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# Target five

All commercial buildings which are required by law to maintain asbestos registers, have up-to-date asbestos registers and management plans that are actively being implemented

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## Why is this important?

To ensure asbestos registers and asbestos management plans are used to prevent asbestos exposure by alerting workers to the presence of asbestos and are also used to drive decisions on asbestos management and removal.

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## What is being measured?

The extent of compliance with duties to maintain asbestos registers and management plans under WHS laws.

This target applies to all buildings that are used for commercial purposes, including offices, warehouses and shopping centres. These buildings are also classified as workplaces under WHS laws.

Measuring progress will require new approaches in collecting data as currently, apart from WHS regulator compliance activity, no other means to ascertain if all commercial buildings have an up-to-date asbestos register and management plans are known to be available in any jurisdiction.

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## What data is needed?

Data from WHS regulators on enforcement activities associated with failure to comply with duties relating to asbestos registers and management plans including:

- Results of inspections, audits and surveys
- Imposing regulatory sanctions
  - prohibition notice
  - improvement notice
  - infringement notice
  - enforceable undertaking
  - prosecutions

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## How does this relate to other NSP targets, priorities and actions?

Measures the effectiveness of actions under *Priority 2 – Identification and effective legacy management* and *Priority 3 – Safe prioritised removal and effective waste management* particularly in relation to prioritising the removal of ACMs by commercial premise owners.

Target 5 is closely tied to progress made towards Targets 2 and 3. If governments are willing to lead by example, the commercial sector will be more inclined to follow suit.

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# Target six

All regulators are investigating, prosecuting and penalising serious known breaches of asbestos-related laws including of illegal waste disposal and importation

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## Why is this important?

To ensure those who breach the laws are held to account and that the imposing of sanctions provide an effective deterrent. Sanctions are important elements in an effective responsive regulatory approach.

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## What is being measured?

The number of investigations, prosecutions (successful and unsuccessful) and other penalties of serious breaches will be collected.

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## What data is needed?

Data from regulators responsible for providing asbestos-related compliance support:

- Work health and safety
- Environment protection
- Public health
- Consumer protection
- Building standards
- Customs and border protection
- Mining and quarrying authorities

ASEA will use secondary data sources including:

- SWA Comparative Performance reports
- Updates from the Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities and Heads of Environment Protection Authorities
- Ombudsman's investigations and reports
- Media reports

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## How does this relate to other NSP targets, priorities and actions?

Data from this target will be used in combination with Targets 1 and 4 in order to understand whether any improved awareness or changes in jurisdictional compliance programs or regulatory policy reflect trends in the numbers of enforcement actions and prosecutions.

Measures the effectiveness of actions under *Priority 2 – Identification and effective legacy management* particularly in relation to ensuring effective compliance and enforcement of relevant laws by regulatory agencies.

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# Target seven

Easier and cheaper disposal of asbestos waste.

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## Why is this important?

To prevent illegal dumping and ensure the on-going availability and accessibility of waste disposal facilities.

The risks of asbestos exposure will remain if asbestos waste is not properly disposed at facilities licensed to accept asbestos waste. It is also predicted that asbestos waste quantities will continue to rise and there is a need to ensure this waste can be disposed of conveniently. Given the key drivers of illegal dumping of asbestos waste are convenience and cost, a way to encourage proper disposal is to make asbestos disposal easier and cheaper.

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## What is being measured?

The incidence of illegal dumping and the location and disposal fees of licensed landfill facilities in each jurisdiction (noting differences for domestic and commercial disposal).

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## What data is needed?

Data from EPA's and local councils on:

- Number of illegal dumping cases reported
- Number, location and disposal fees of licensed landfill facilities
- Asbestos transport and disposal requirements for commercial and non-commercial loads ASEA research on waste management systems and asbestos waste volumes.

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## How does this relate to other NSP targets, priorities and actions?

The amount of asbestos waste will increase with prioritised removal and incentives to encourage removal under Priority 3 of the NSP. This will increase the need for convenient disposal facilities.

The residential heatmap under Target 9 may be used to highlight shortages in disposal capacity and locations.

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# Target eight

Bans of asbestos production and use in South-East Asia and the Pacific have been influenced and progressed.

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## Why is this important?

To prevent an increase in the disease burden caused by asbestos exposure in our region.

The phased ban of asbestos in Australia provides valuable lessons and resources that can be shared with South East Asia and the Pacific to help these countries end the production, use and trade of all forms of asbestos more quickly and effectively.

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## What is being measured?

The steps each country is taking towards a total ban of asbestos. A phased approach to banning asbestos may cover a number of years and progressively include all types of asbestos in a range of uses. Bans may be measured in relation to:

- Asbestos type, production, use and trade

This target applies to the following countries:

- South East Asia: Brunei, Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam.
- The Pacific: Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu.

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## What data is needed?

Local sources:

- Australian government departments and agencies (Environment, DFAT, NICNAS)
- Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA
- Asbestos Disease Research Institute

International sources:

- South East Asian Ban Asbestos Network (SEABAN)
- Asia Ban Asbestos Network (A-BAN)
- International Ban Asbestos Secretariat (IBAS)
- Country BAN groups (Vn-BAN, CAMBAN, LaoBAN etc)
- Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

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## How does this relate to other NSP targets, priorities and actions?

Measures effectiveness of *Priority 4 – International collaboration and leadership* in relation to:

- continuing to present the Australian Government's position on banning asbestos mining, manufacture and use to relevant international bodies, and
  - sharing best practice approaches to asbestos at international events.
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# Target nine

Develop an evidence-based national picture that assesses the likelihood of asbestos containing materials being present in the residential environment.

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## Why is this important?

To inform policy development and initiatives such as identifying optimal locations for future disposal facilities, disaster recovery planning and targeted home renovator awareness campaigns.

This target is focused on the residential sector because, unlike workplaces, there is no requirement for homeowners to keep asbestos registers so less is known about the location and amounts of ACMs that still exist in homes.

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## What is being measured?

The concentration of residential buildings containing asbestos within geographic regions in Australia.

Using trusted and authoritative data sources ASEA will develop a residential asbestos 'heatmap' by predictive modelling.

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## What data is needed?

ASEA is seeking data from sources that include:

- ACMCheckapp
- social housing associations
- asbestos assessors and occupational hygienists
- Latrobe Valley Taskforce data
- Publicly available satellite imagery
- Geoscience Australia National Exposure Information System (NEXIS)
- CoreLogic
- Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)
- Council redevelopment history of properties

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## How does this relate to other NSP targets, priorities and actions?

The outcome of this target will help progress strategic actions of national priorities one, two and three, i.e. asbestos awareness, identification and removal.

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# Meaning of key terms

<b>All governments</b>	Refers to Commonwealth, State and Territory governments that have signed up to the NSP 2019–2023.
<b>Cheaper disposal</b>	Means that charges and levies are set at price that discourages illegal dumping of asbestos waste. Prices should be seen as reasonable and proportionate to the quantity of waste being disposed.
<b>Compliance</b>	Means a state where the regulated community is following laws, rules and established standards. Compliance programs are activities undertaken by regulators to encourage organisations and individuals to follow laws and standards.
<b>Easier disposal</b>	Means a facility that is located within reasonable driving distance from the removal site and is open reasonably often. Access is considered convenient if less than 40 minutes in off peak traffic for small loads and two hours for large loads.
<b>Investigating</b>	A regulator's formal and systematic response to a complaint or an incident to discover and examine the facts
<b>Penalising</b>	A regulator responding to a breach by issuing warnings, notices of contravention, improvement and prohibition notices, infringement notices, infringement notices, clean up orders, or suspending or cancelling authorisations.
<b>Prioritised safe removal</b>	A planned and systematic approach to the removal of ACMs prioritised according to the level of risk and done in a way that prevents further exposure
<b>Property managers</b>	A person who is hired by a landlord or property investor to manage the day-to-day operations at a rental property, which may be a workplace, a residence or vacant land.
<b>Prosecuting</b>	A regulator instituting or conducting legal proceedings against a person or organisation.
<b>Publicly owned and controlled buildings, land and infrastructure</b>	Means buildings, land or infrastructure owned and controlled by government, thereby excluding assets the government may own but don't control, and those the government control but don't own.
<b>Real estate agents</b>	Means agents who assist persons to buy, sell or rent commercial or residential property or land.
<b>Serious breaches</b>	An offence under a law that exposes a person to a risk of death or serious injury.
<b>Tradespersons whose work brings them into contact with ACM's</b>	Builders, plumbers, electricians, painters, carpenters, tilers, plasterers, cabinet maker/joiner, concreter, roofer, construction workers, mechanics

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