## Action on illegal disposal of asbestos: A Guide for Local Government





## FACTSHEET 1: Barriers to safe and lawful disposal of asbestos

Sometimes people do not always act safely and lawfully when dealing with asbestos-containing materials (ACMs).

The COM-B model for behaviour change\* cites capability (C), opportunity (O), and motivation (M) as three key factors capable of changing behaviour (B). Understanding this framework can help councils to identify and understand the barriers that get in the way of safe and lawful disposal of asbestos.

### **BARRIER**

### **CAUSES**

## **SOLUTION**

**CAPABILITY** barriers exist when people do not have the awareness, knowledge and skills to act safely and lawfully.

#### Lack of:

- Knowledge about asbestos
- Awareness of ACM prevalence, location and risk
- Awareness of ACM handling and disposal requirements
- Practical skills to identify and safely handle ACMs

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## **Expand CAPABILITY**

Boost community understanding

# **OPPORTUNITY** barriers exist when the physical and social context does not support people to act safely and lawfully.

#### Lack of:

- Information about ACM removal and disposal costs
- Options to safely and quickly dispose of ACMs
- Social, workplace and media focus on asbestos risks and safety
- Need to prove safe and lawful ACM disposal



## Increase OPPORTUNITY

Support the right action and set expectations



- Overconfidence in knowledge or capabilities when it comes to handling ACMs
- Mistaken and incorrect attitudes and beliefs about risks, requirements and likelihood of being caught illegally disposing ACMs



## Build MOTIVATION

Reduce enticements and excuses, appeal to personal and social responsibility



## How council actions can change behaviour

Prevent illegal disposal happening in the first place

Asbestos awareness – educate about the risks in handling and disposal



Break down barriers – make it easier for people to do the right thing

Encourage the use of licenced professionals – they have the right training, equipment and experience to minimise asbestos exposure risks

\* Michie, S., van Stralen, M., and West, R. (2011) The behaviour change wheel: A new method for characterising and designing behaviour change interventions. Implementation Science, 6 (42). https://doi.org/10.1186/1748-5908-6-42



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