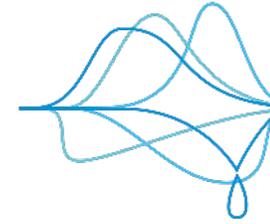




Australian Government

Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency



**Asbestos National
Strategic Plan**

Implementation
2019–23

Annual Operational Plan and Corporate Plan

2023–2024

Who we are

The Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (ASEA) was established in 2013 to coordinate the implementation of the *National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness* (Asbestos National Strategic Plan). The Asbestos National Strategic Plan aims to prevent exposure to asbestos fibres in order to eliminate asbestos-related diseases in Australia.

ASEA is a non-corporate entity under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

What we do

Our key functions under the *Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency Act 2013* are to:

- ✓ encourage, coordinate, monitor and report on the implementation of the Asbestos National Strategic Plan, as well as reviewing and amending the plan
- ✓ commission, monitor and promote research about asbestos safety
- ✓ raise awareness of asbestos safety, including by developing and promoting materials on asbestos safety
- ✓ collect and analyse data required for measuring progress on preventing exposure to asbestos fibres and informing evidence-based policies and strategies, and
- ✓ promote consistent messages, policies and practices in relation to asbestos safety.

Five principles guide the carrying out of our functions



Consultation, collaboration and cooperation

We work with all tiers of government as well as non-government groups to ensure consistent and coordinated awareness messages and asbestos management approaches.



Evidence-based decision making

We identify, analyse and disseminate Australian and international evidence, and where gaps exist, commission national research and data collection.



Transparency

We undertake our activities in an open and transparent manner so that stakeholders have access to all relevant information.



Sharing best practice

Our actions and resources are aimed at reducing duplication across jurisdictions, encouraging innovation and driving continuous improvement in asbestos awareness and management.



Precaution

We take a proactive and precautionary approach to how we consider and address the risks of asbestos exposure.

The Asbestos National Strategic Plan

The Asbestos National Strategic Plan facilitates a consistent and coordinated approach to asbestos awareness, management and removal.

The Commonwealth and all state and territory governments have agreed to implement the Asbestos National Strategic Plan, which commits signatories to develop jurisdictional action plans aligned with the four national priorities and to measure progress against a set of national targets.

This Annual Operational Plan is consistent with the principles and national priorities of the Asbestos National Strategic Plan.



Our priority areas and activities

Influence Government Action

- Develop national policies and standards
- Develop a roadmap for proactive removal action
- Work with government agencies to gauge the extent of asbestos legacy in indigenous communities
- Conduct research on low level asbestos exposure
- Monitor changes to asbestos exposure standards in Europe

Drive Behavioural Change

- Develop asbestos safety guidance material
- Conduct the national asbestos awareness campaign (NAAC)
- Evaluate the NAAC to assess awareness levels
- Promote asbestos removal as part of environmental sustainability

Innovate through Technology

- Support the development of real time accurate identification of asbestos containing materials
- Use data and artificial intelligence to prioritise actions
- Facilitate the adoption of additional asbestos testing methods
- Maintain the National Asbestos Residential Heatmap

Be an International Leader

- Share our experience with other countries
- Develop models for training in disease diagnosis
- Calculate the burden of disease in targeted countries
- Develop models for regulatory reforms in target countries
- Promote reform of the Rotterdam Convention

Coordinate Implementation

Main activity: Develop, seek agreement and launch the third phase of Asbestos National Strategic Plan

BAU activities: Collecting data, evaluation and reporting on the implementation of the Asbestos National Strategic Plan

Measuring our performance

 Priority areas	 Performance measures	 Targets
Influence Government Action	National policies and standards are developed and research is commissioned.	1-2 items by 6 months 2-4 items by 12 months
Drive Behavioural Change	National Asbestos Awareness Campaign is successfully delivered.	Whole of Government advertising campaign benchmarks are met or exceeded. Key message recall benchmark is met or exceeded.
Innovate through Technology	Access to a range of data sets secured.	Minimum of 4 data sharing agreements negotiated or data sets sourced.
Be an International Leader	New partnerships and engagements fostered and model asbestos training, guidance and regulations developed and distributed.	Minimum of 4 engagements or presentations at international asbestos forums. 2-4 model asbestos modules developed and distributed.
Coordinate Implementation	Third phase of the Asbestos National Strategic Plan is developed and implemented.	All jurisdictions have endorsed the third phase of the Asbestos National Strategic Plan.

Our Corporate Plan

Section 5A(2) of the *Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency Act 2013* states that the Asbestos National Strategic Plan is taken to be ASEA's corporate plan for the purposes of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

However, the Asbestos National Strategic Plan is designed to be implemented by all governments across Australia and does not include the requirements of a corporate plan as described under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014*.

Until such time that the *Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency Act 2013* is amended, this part includes the additional matters that must be included in corporate plans.

Our operating environment

The 31st December 2023 marks twenty years since Australia imposed a total ban on the mining, importation, manufacture and use of asbestos but today many public and commercial buildings, homes and infrastructure still contain large amounts of ageing asbestos-containing materials.

Ensuring the safe management, removal and disposal of asbestos involves governments at all levels, across a range of areas, as well as a network of organisations and people that can influence and assist in achieving the aims and targets of the Asbestos National Strategic Plan.

As the national coordination body, ASEA plays a critical role in working with all these stakeholders to prevent exposure to asbestos fibres by coordinating practical and targeted actions across Australia.

Our capabilities



Data

Become a more data-driven agency and continue developing our data management capability to establish an evidence base and measure progress against the national targets.

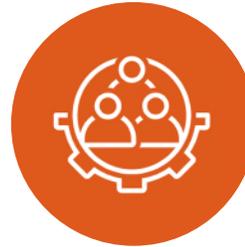
We will continue to improve our data literacy and maturity of our data governance arrangements as a responsible Australian Government data custodian. We will curate new datasets, and forge partnerships with other data holders.



Communication

Deliver asbestos-related messaging that is nationally consistent, coordinated and targets groups most at risk of asbestos exposure.

Through the conducting of the National Asbestos Awareness Campaign and targeted engagement activities, such as meetings and summits with our stakeholders, we will raise awareness and be the trusted source of asbestos information at the national level.



Workforce

Attracting and developing a workforce of highly skilled, diverse, dynamic, outward looking and resilient employees is central to achieving our key functions.

We are building human capital with relevant expertise to ensure we meet the expectations of our stakeholders. We will invest in tailored learning opportunities to strengthen skills and assist staff to work more efficiently and effectively.



Engagement

We proactively engage and collaborate with new and existing stakeholders.

We will continue to work with our consultative committees consisting of representatives from government and non-government sectors to assist in the performance of our functions. We will also continue to work closely with local government on their asbestos challenges and support councils with asbestos awareness and management.

Governance and risk management

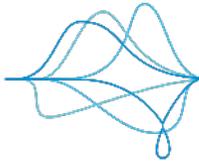
Our corporate governance structure and risk management processes are consistent with requirements in the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 (PGPA Act)* and the *Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency Act 2013 (ASEA Act)*.

Our risk management framework ensures that risks can be identified early, assessed thoroughly and actively controlled. The management of risk is incorporated into our day-to-day business activities, discussions and decisions. The executive oversees the risk management framework and corporate compliance and consults with staff at weekly meetings. We consult and cooperate with our stakeholders to actively manage our shared risks.

Our Audit and Risk Committee's role is to provide independent advice and assurance to the CEO on ASEA's control framework, including risk oversight and management. Regular reporting on our risk profile is provided to the Audit and Risk Committee. Risk management activities are also reported in our annual report.

In addition, the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council (ASEC) established under the ASEA Act provides advice and makes recommendations to ASEA's Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

During 2023-24, we will continue to integrate, strengthen and embed our risk management framework in order to deliver on our priorities. We will regularly review our risk register to ensure ratings give a realistic appraisal of the risk profile and align with ASEA's risk management framework. Any high risks will be actively managed.



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