

Mr Shorten said.

“This Labor Government has a consistent track record of action to tackle the scourge of asbestos.”

Wednesday 10th April 2013

Re Submission to Asbestos National Strategic Plan

My name is Angela Phillips. I live in Brisbane in the family home. It was built in the late 1950s. It is a high set weather board house with a fibro roof. When we had a peeping tom, my Father replaced some of the wooden battens on ground level with fibro sheeting. I can still picture him cutting the sheets. He died of lung cancer at the age of 57. He was a heavy smoker as were many of that generation. Nothing would convince me that the asbestos exposure played no part in his death.

In 1971, as part of first year science studies at Queensland Institute of Technology in Brisbane, I took part in a geology field trip to Northern NSW. One of the places we visited was Baryulgil (a chrysotile mine). All the students went home with samples for our rock collections.

I have read the Asbestos Management Review Report and I appeal to you to “get this right”. The costs of monitoring, removing, storing etc asbestos containing materials will be enormous. The costs of not doing it will be even higher. I appeal to you to minimise costs to householders so that people will have incentive to come forward for safe removal of asbestos by licensed tradesmen. If we don’t get it right, then we will see the rise of more “shonky” removalists and further illegal dumping. Please don’t have a campaign like we’ve had with roofing insulation, water tanks and solar panels. In my opinion, they do not work and they feed poor work practices and greed.

I’m not sure what the Government’s track record is that Mr. Shorten is referring to above. Please let this be an opportunity to do better, without party politics, for the people of Australia.

Yours faithfully,

Ms Angela Phillips BSc (App), MECH