

## AIM OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN FOR ASBESTOS AWARENESS AND MANAGEMENT

The aim of the Plan is to minimise exposure to asbestos fibres, in order to eliminate asbestos-related disease in Australia

### PRINCIPLES

- risk management – a proactive and cautious approach to ensure minimisation of risk to the community is paramount in any activities to be implemented
- evidence-based decision making – all decision making based on sound evidence and analysis from national and international sources
- transparency – activities are conducted in an open and transparent manner and all stakeholders have access to the information available
- public participation – with asbestos safety a community issue, consideration is given to the interests and concerns of all Australians

### STRATEGIES

#### AWARENESS

Goal: To increase public awareness of the dangers posed by working with or being exposed to asbestos

#### BETTER PRACTICE

Goal: Nationally consistent better practice in asbestos handling and management

#### IDENTIFICATION AND REMOVAL

Goal: Development and implementation of a prioritised removal program across Australia

#### RESEARCH

Goal: Coordinated national research to minimise the risk of exposure to asbestos for the Australian community

#### INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION

Goal: Australia continuing to play a leadership role in a global campaign for a worldwide asbestos ban

### OUTCOMES

1. Increased community awareness of the risks posed by asbestos  
2. Improved accessibility of information for those who work with asbestos, those who are likely to come into contact with asbestos and the community  
3. Increased community understanding of where to source asbestos-related information

1. Better practice identified in each area  
2. Nationally consistent training for all workers who work with asbestos  
3. Nationally consistent education for those likely to come into contact with asbestos  
4. Adequate numbers of qualified assessors and removalists  
5. Effective and safe handling of asbestos in transport, storage, disposal

1. Nationally consistent systems, processes, policies for identification and removal  
2. Successful prioritised removal pilots conducted in several states/territories  
3. All asbestos safely removed from all Government and commercial buildings by 2030

1. Identified practical and implementable approaches to minimising exposure to asbestos fibres, in order to eliminate asbestos-related disease in Australia

1. Effective coordination of all international issues  
2. Australia recognised as an international voice in the global campaign to ban asbestos  
3. Better practice processes on eradication, handling and awareness shared with Asia-Pacific region



### Strategy one: AWARENESS

**Goal: to increase public awareness of the dangers posed by working with or being exposed to asbestos**

#### OUTCOMES

1. Increased community awareness of the risks posed by asbestos
2. Improved accessibility of information for those who work with asbestos, those who are likely to come into contact with asbestos and the community
3. Increased community understanding of where and when to source asbestos-related information

#### DELIVERABLES

1. Conduct a review of the awareness programs and campaigns available across Australia to ascertain where there are gaps, and where these gaps occur, develop the necessary program or information in consultation with relevant stakeholders.
2. In consultation with state, territory and local governments and relevant stakeholders conduct a review of the current asbestos awareness information with a view of developing a one-stop-shop of information.
3. To assist in ensuring all Australians have access to information that will assist them in times of emergencies, the Agency will develop a range of national emergency/disaster kits targeted at individuals/community, tradespersons and first responders/emergency services personnel.
4. The Agency will work with state, territory and local governments and relevant stakeholders on a campaign to be run during National Asbestos Week.

#### Questions for stakeholders

The Office is interested in receiving your views on:

- whether the current asbestos awareness programs are effective
- who should asbestos awareness programs be targeted at
- what role the Agency should play in asbestos awareness
- what measures/strategies the Agency should undertake
- what positives/negatives would result from a national lead on asbestos awareness



## **Strategy two: BETTER PRACTICE**

**Goal: Nationally consistent better practice in asbestos handling and management**

### **OUTCOMES**

1. Better practice identified in each area
2. Nationally consistent training for all workers who work with asbestos
3. Nationally consistent education for those likely to come into contact with asbestos
4. Adequate numbers of qualified assessors and removalists
5. Effective and safe management of asbestos in transport, storage and disposal

### **DELIVERABLES**

1. Encourage sharing of information between the state, territory and local governments on better practice licensing, education and training and implementation of nationally consistent practices, including:
  - identification of education needs for licensed operators as well as workers in high-risk occupations
  - encouragement and support for the training of adequate numbers of qualified assessors and removalists
  - asbestos education for new workers appropriate for their work, including the development of asbestos education modules for inclusion in trade training packages
  - practical asbestos safety training for workers likely to come into contact with ACMs.
2. Conduct a review into infrastructure across Australia, with particular focus on capacity and potential environmental and community impacts.
3. Research and implement better practice storage and disposal, including:
  - initiatives to encourage safe storage and disposal at licenced facilities
  - support and initiatives for the reporting of illegal disposal sites.

### **Questions for stakeholders**

The Office is interested in receiving your views on:

- what role the Agency should undertake in relation to state and territory regulated responsibilities
- if you find the current legislative requirements and practices for the above areas sufficient, and if not, what could a national Agency address
- what are examples of better practice in asbestos licensing, education and training



- what are examples of better practice in asbestos storage and disposal

### Strategy three: IDENTIFICATION AND REMOVAL

**Goal: to increase public awareness of the dangers posed by working with or being exposed to asbestos**

#### OUTCOMES

1. Nationally consistent systems, processes, policies and procedures for identification and removal
2. Successful prioritised removal pilots conducted in several states/territories
3. All asbestos safely removed from all Government and commercial buildings by 2030

#### DELIVERABLES

##### Government and commercial buildings

1. Examine the feasibility of the development of a rating or grading system for the condition of asbestos containing material (ACM).
2. Develop a framework which will include policies and procedures to undertake a review of government buildings and structures to identify the location, quantity and condition of ACMs in government infrastructure.
3. Undertake a review of all government buildings and structures to ascertain the location, quantity and condition of ACMs.
4. Work with state, territory and local governments to develop procedures for the immediate stabilisation and containment of ACMs considered dangerous or in poor condition prior to removal.
5. Consider the development of a renewable exemption certificate for ACMs in good condition except in certain circumstances such as renovations, major refurbishments, at the end of lease etc.
6. Develop a two-staged prioritised removal program (PRP). Stage one government buildings and structures, stage two commercial buildings and structures.
7. Conduct pilots in several states/territories under a PRP.

##### Residential

8. Examine current ACT laws that require sellers and lessors of residential premises to provide an Asbestos Advice with a contract for sale/residential tenancy agreement for practicality of adopting these arrangements in other states/territories. The evaluation could consider a range of factors including the success or failure of the scheme, costs and benefits, impacts on residential market value.
9. Consider the development of an Asbestos Content Report for residential properties from a licensed assessor prior to the sale or lease of the property or when the property is subject to substantial renovation that would require building approval.
10. Examine the feasibility of a future PRP for residential properties.

#### Questions for stakeholders

The Office is interested in receiving your views on:

- if you find the current legislative requirements for the safe management of in situ asbestos are sufficient, and If not, what you think needs to be addressed
- are the potential deliverable activities practical and implementable

Deliverables	
1. Identified research and implementation activities to reduce exposure to asbestos in order to minimise asbestos-related deaths in Australia	Outcome
2. Commissioning and promoting of research that identifies research and implementation needs to reduce asbestos exposure	
3. Analysis and promotion of national and international information to reduce asbestos exposure	
The Office is interested in receiving your views on:	
Questions for stakeholders	
The Office is interested in receiving your views on:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• if you find the current legislative requirements for the safe management of in situ asbestos are sufficient, and If not, what you think needs to be addressed</li><li>• are the potential deliverable activities practical and implementable</li></ul>	
Goal: Coordinated national research to minimise the risk of exposure to asbestos for the Australian community	
Strategy focus: RESEARCH	



### Strategy four: RESEARCH

**Goal: Coordinated national research to minimise the risk of exposure to asbestos for the Australian community**

#### OUTCOME

1. Identified practical and implementable approaches to minimising exposure to asbestos fibres, in order to eliminate asbestos-related disease in Australia

#### DELIVERABLES

1. Commissioning and promoting of research that identifies practical and implementable ways to reduce asbestos exposure
2. Analysis and promotion of national and international innovations in asbestos research

#### Questions for stakeholders

The Office is interested in receiving your views on:

- whether the research areas identified in the strategies are the right place to start
- areas other than those identified that could/should be targeted
- research that could be undertaken to inform improvements to current management approaches

### **Strategy five: INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION**

**Goal: Australia continuing to play a leadership role in a global campaign for a worldwide asbestos ban**

#### **OUTCOMES**

1. Effective coordination of all international issues
2. Australia recognised as an international voice in the global campaign to ban asbestos
3. Better practice processes on eradication, handling and awareness shared with Asia-Pacific region

#### **DELIVERABLES**

1. Pursue opportunities to actively lobby for improvements in international arrangements for asbestos eradication, awareness and management with the objective of achieving a worldwide ban in the production and trade of asbestos and asbestos-containing products.
2. Be a coordination point of contact on asbestos matters for national and international organisations to enable information sharing and consistent responses.
3. Better practice processes on eradication, handling and awareness shared with Asia-Pacific region.

#### **Questions for stakeholders**

The Office is interested in receiving your views on:

- what role the Agency could play in international coordination
- where Australia's efforts in achieving improvements in international asbestos eradication, awareness and management should be concentrated