



**Australian Government**

**Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency**

# National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Awareness and Management 2013-2018

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# National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Awareness and Management: the essentials

## Aim

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

## Principles

- Precaution – a proactive and cautious approach to ensure there is no increase in risk to the community in any activities to be implemented under the Plan.
- 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 workplace and community issue, consideration is given to the interests and concerns of all Australians.
- Collaboration – with regulation of asbestos the responsibility of all tiers of government, activities must be planned and delivered through effective coordination between agencies.

## Strategies and Outcomes

STRATEGIES	AWARENESS	BEST PRACTICE	IDENTIFICATION	REMOVAL	RESEARCH	INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP
<b>GOALS</b>	Goal: Increase public awareness of the health dangers posed by working with or being exposed to asbestos leading to long term behavioural change	Goal: Best practice in asbestos handling and management identified and shared nationally	Goal: Location and condition of all ACMs in government and commercial buildings known and recorded	Goal: Development and implementation of an asbestos removal program across Australia, which prioritises the removal of high risk ACMs	Goal: Coordinated national research on asbestos exposure, and prevention and treatment of asbestos related diseases.	Goal: Australia continuing to play a leadership role in a global campaign for a worldwide asbestos ban
<b>OUTCOMES</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increased community awareness of the risks posed by asbestos</li> <li>2. Improved accessibility of information for those who work with asbestos, live with asbestos, those who are likely to come into contact with asbestos, and the community</li> <li>3. Increased community understanding of where to source asbestos-related information</li> <li>4. Demonstrated behaviour change, over the long term, by community members as a result of improved understanding of both the health dangers and exposure pathways of asbestos.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Best practice identified in each of the key areas</li> <li>2. Nationally consistent training for all workers who work with asbestos</li> <li>3. Nationally consistent education for those likely to come into contact with asbestos</li> <li>4. Adequate numbers of qualified assessors and removalists</li> <li>5. Adequate numbers of regulatory officers</li> <li>6. Effective and safe handling of asbestos in transport, storage, disposal</li> <li>7. Effective and coordinated regulation of asbestos handling and management.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nationally agreed grading for in-situ asbestos in government and commercial buildings</li> <li>2. All ACMs identified and graded by 2018</li> <li>3. Condition of all high risk ACMs reviewed in line with work health and safety framework</li> <li>4. All asbestos registers reviewed in line with work health and safety framework</li> <li>5. Development of measures to assist the residential sector minimise the risk of exposure.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nationally uniform systems, processes, policies and procedures for the removal of ACMs from government and commercial buildings.</li> <li>2. Improved ACM removal systems, processes, policies and procedures based on successful pilots</li> <li>3. All government occupied and controlled buildings to be free of ACMs by 2030</li> <li>4. All high risk ACMs safely removed from all commercial buildings by 2030.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identified practical and implementable approaches to prevent exposure to asbestos fibres</li> <li>2. Identified practical and implementable approaches to the prevention and treatment of asbestos-related diseases.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Effective coordination of all international issues</li> <li>2. Australia recognised as an international voice in the global campaign against asbestos hazard.</li> <li>3. Best practice processes on awareness, handling and education shared internationally.</li> </ol>

## Introduction

### Asbestos and its usage in Australia

Asbestos is a term for a group of six naturally occurring mineral fibres belonging to two groups:

- Serpentine Group – comprised of only chrysotile (white asbestos)
- Amphibole Group – comprised of anthophyllite, amosite (brown asbestos or grey asbestos), crocidolite (blue asbestos), tremolite, and actinolite.

Asbestos was long viewed as one of the most versatile minerals because of its flexibility, tensile strength, insulation from heat and electricity, chemical inertness and affordability.

The versatility of asbestos made it attractive to many industries and is thought to have more than 3000 applications worldwide. Australia was one of the highest users per capita in the world up until the mid-1980s. Approximately one third of all homes built in Australia contain asbestos products. The widespread use of asbestos has left a deadly legacy of asbestos material.

Asbestos, predominantly chrysotile and crocidolite, was mined in Australia until late 1984. Records also show that between 1930 and 1983, approximately 1.5 million tonnes of all forms of asbestos was imported into Australia.

### Bans

In the 1980s, Australian governments began banning asbestos, due to concerns about asbestos-related deaths and disease. Most jurisdictions introduced a ban on the mining of raw asbestos and the manufacture, importation and installation of products containing crocidolite and amosite from 31 December 1984. By the late 1980s, the use of asbestos in building products was banned in many states. On 31 December 2003, a national ban on all uses of chrysotile asbestos came into effect. The ban also extended to the import and export of asbestos products.

There were a few permitted exemptions, including undertaking bona fide research; handling and storage prior to removal or disposal; disturbance of naturally occurring asbestos that is incidental to operations not related to the extraction and processing of asbestos; and the use of products with asbestos containing materials (ACM) that are in situ.

Despite the bans on mining and industrial use, many asbestos products that were used in the past are still present in our built environment today in many government, public, commercial and residential buildings. This means the health effects of asbestos exposure will continue to be felt for years to come.

### Risk

ACMs can be categorised as friable and non-friable. Non-friable asbestos, where it is mixed with other materials like cement, is the type most commonly found in our built environment. Friable asbestos is more likely to become airborne.

Both friable and non-friable asbestos pose a significant health risk to all workers and others if the materials are not properly maintained or removed carefully. In the built environment, potential health risks are posed where there is:

- the presence of ambient levels of asbestos



- weathering of ACMs
- the presence of damaged ACMs
- building and/or maintenance work involving ACMs; and
- demolition and/or removal of ACMs.

The risk of exposure from the built environment is broad, with the potential to impact the entire Australian community.

## Human cost

Asbestos is a known carcinogen, and the inhalation of asbestos fibres is associated with increased incidences of a number of diseases including pleural disease, asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma. Even limited or short-term exposure to asbestos fibres can be dangerous but exposure does not make development of an asbestos related disease (ARD) inevitable. There is still much unknown about why some people are susceptible to asbestos related diseases, while others who have been regularly exposed to asbestos may avoid contracting an ARD.

Australia has the highest reported per capita incidence of asbestos-related disease in the world, including the highest incidences of mesothelioma. The main risk factor of mesothelioma is asbestos exposure. In 2010, 642 Australians died from mesothelioma. It is estimated that for every death attributed to mesothelioma, two more people die from lung cancer caused by asbestos.

Due to the long period between asbestos exposure and the onset of the disease, the numbers of diagnosed cases of ARDs will continue to rise. In the next 20 years, an estimated 30000 to 40000 Australians will be diagnosed with an ARD<sup>i</sup> - and these diseases are not forecast to peak until 2020.

## The changing face of asbestos sufferers

Workplace exposure has been the most common cause of mesothelioma and other ARDs to date. However an increasing number of Australians are being diagnosed who do not have documented workplace exposure.

Those sufferers who were exposed to asbestos in the course of their work are often referred to as the first and second wave of asbestos sufferers. The first being those who mined, milled, manufacture or transported asbestos and the second, construction workers who were exposed during the building process.

Due to the presence of significant levels of ACMs in Australia's built environment, including many houses, those who renovate are the next group in our community who may be at risk.

## The role of governments

Asbestos issues cut across all levels of government, and all sectors of the community. There are matters that relate to the workplace but also matters of public health and the environment. Addressing asbestos issues requires the concerted and coordinated efforts of all Australian governments.

While the responsibility for the regulation of asbestos spans all levels of government, the Australian Government is responsible for the regulation of import and export laws as they apply to asbestos, with state and territory governments carrying primary responsibility for the regulation of asbestos within their respective jurisdictions. Local governments have an important role to play in implementing state and territory regulation.



## Asbestos Management Review

The Australian Government established the Asbestos Management Review (the Review) in 2010. The Review's Terms of Reference had a broad scope and encompassed asbestos management issues beyond work health and safety, including environmental and public health issues. The Review also looked at relevant local and international initiatives that could be considered best practice.

The [Asbestos Management Review Report](#) (the AMR Report) was released on 16 August 2012. The findings of the Asbestos Management Review made it clear that Australia's legacy of asbestos use is a matter of national significance that many people have made significant efforts to address.

The AMR Report recommended the development of a national strategic plan to improve asbestos awareness and management arrangements across all sectors of the Australian community. It noted that asbestos issues are regulated by each level of government in Australia, and highlighted the need for a measure to improve coordination between government agencies. The AMR Report proposed the establishment of an independent national agency to coordinate and implement a national strategic plan.

## Government response to Asbestos Management Review

On 4 September 2012, the Minister announced the Australian Government's plan for responding to the recommendations of the Report and created the interim Office of Asbestos Safety (the Office) in the Department of Employment, Education and Workplace Relations. The Office was tasked with responding to the Review's recommendations in consultation with state, territory and local governments.

The Office also consulted with unions, industry, researchers, hygienists, asbestos advocacy groups and others to ensure the responses to the Review recommendations were practical, able to be implemented and focused on the best outcomes possible.

The Office was also tasked with undertaking a number of research projects, including examining the development of systems and processes for the prioritised removal of in-situ asbestos and a study into the current and future capacity of infrastructure dealing with asbestos waste, as well as community awareness of, and attitudes to, asbestos.

In March 2013, the Australian Government accepted recommendations 10 and 11 of the Report, which relate to research on asbestos matters and asbestos related diseases and Australia's international leadership role in the call to ban the use of asbestos world-wide.



# Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency

## Establishment

In March 2013, the Australian Government introduced legislation into the Parliament of Australia to establish an independent statutory authority, the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (the Agency). The Agency will provide a focus on issues which go beyond work health and safety to encompass environmental and public health issues and ensure asbestos issues receive the attention and focus needed to drive change across all levels of government. The Agency will replace the Office of Asbestos Safety and will continue to progress work done to date.

## Governance

The Agency will be led by a Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The Agency will have expertise and authority to coordinate activities across all tiers of government.

The activities of the Agency will be informed by an Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council (the Council), whose members experience, knowledge and roles will reflect the broad remit of the agency and number and diversity of stakeholders.

The Council will be made up of a Chairperson and 9 members. Members are selected for their experience and expertise with asbestos safety, public health, corporate governance or the representation of people with ARDs and their families. One position will be reserved for a Commonwealth representative and 4 positions will be reserved for a state, territory or local government representative.

The Council will provide advice to the CEO, including through written guidelines, and the Minister on the National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Awareness and Management (the Plan) and other asbestos safety matters.

## Functions

The broad functions of the Agency include advocating, coordinating, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Plan including:

- a) to encourage, coordinate, monitor and report on the implementation of the Plan
- b) to review and amend the Plan as required by the Plan or at the request of the Minister
- c) to publish and promote the Plan;
- d) to provide advice to the Minister about asbestos safety, if requested to do so by the Minister;
- e) to liaise with Commonwealth, State, Territory and local and other governments, agencies or bodies about:
  - i. the implementation, review or amendment of the Plan; or
  - ii. asbestos safety; and
- f) to commission, monitor and promote research about asbestos safety.



## National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Awareness and Management

Stopping asbestos exposure is the responsibility of all levels of government. While jurisdictions have taken steps to minimise exposure, predominantly in the workplace, this is the first time a national approach to asbestos eradication, handling and awareness is being pursued.

The National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Awareness and Management (the Plan) has been developed in consultation with Commonwealth, state and territory and local governments and a range of non-governmental stakeholders. It is a high level document that establishes a framework within which jurisdictions work both cooperatively and independently to achieve set objectives.

This Plan is aspirational – the outcomes set out in this Plan are undoubtedly challenging. Given the absence to date of a nationally coordinated approach to asbestos safety and eradication, the five year period of this Plan will provide greater insights into the dimensions of the asbestos safety and eradication task than are currently known at this time. These insights will be considered in future reviews of the goal to remove all asbestos from all government occupied and controlled buildings by 2030.

In developing the Plan, the findings and recommendations of the AMR Report have been considered. The Plan will be supported by annual operational plans which will be approved by the federal Minister with responsibility for workplace relations. The Plan, Agency operational plans and Agency annual reports will be shared with the Select Council on Workplace Relations prior to being made publicly available on the Agency's website.

The Plan will mark an historic step in Australia becoming the first nation to progress towards the ultimate elimination of ARDs.

### Intersection with state, territory, local government asbestos management plans

The Plan will not duplicate the content of any state, territory or local government plan. However, where there is a common focus, it will look at the coordination or support of efforts rather than duplication. The Plan will also facilitate information sharing by state, territory and local governments.

### Future steps

The issues around asbestos safety, awareness and management are complex and multi-faceted. Many of the issues covered by this Plan, in particular identification and removal, will require all levels of government to work together to determine the best approach to this task.

The legislation introduced to establish the Agency requires the Minister to review the Agency's role and functions five years after the new laws commence.

This Plan will be in place for five years until 30 June 2018 and will be reviewed at the same time as the Agency is reviewed. In view of further insights into the dimensions of the asbestos safety and



eradication task which are expected to emerge under this Plan, the review of this Plan will examine, among other things, the continuing achievability and cost effectiveness of the Plan's outcomes.

## Working with governments

The issues around asbestos are significantly broad and encompass a range of areas such as work health and safety, environment, public health, planning and emergency response.

It is important that all levels of government work together and take an active role in the eradication, handling and awareness of asbestos to assist in reducing the incidence of ARDs.

To achieve this objective, two government stakeholder groups have been established to advise and assist in the decision making process. The two groups are the:

- Asbestos Interdepartmental Committee comprising representatives from Australian Government departments and agencies
- National Asbestos Safety Reference Group comprising representatives from state and territory government agencies and a representative from the Australian Local Government Association.

These two groups will meet several times a year to participate in the ongoing development and implementation of the Plan. The development of the Agency's annual operational plans will be informed by consultations with these groups.

## Working with stakeholders – stakeholder forum, broader connections

Safe asbestos management and awareness is a matter of interest to a broad range of stakeholders. To ensure that the community's concerns are heard and addressed, the Agency will work in partnership with its stakeholders to ensure the priority areas in the Plan reflect the needs of the community.

The Plan is not a static document, and in the ongoing development of the Plan, the Agency will undertake a leadership role and facilitate a whole of community approach that addresses community concerns about asbestos.

To achieve this, the Agency will engage and work in partnership with industry, unions, organisations that advocate asbestos safety and the community in general to achieve the aims of the Plan. Such consultation will be an ongoing part of this Plan and aims to identify opportunities to improve outcomes. Further, the development of the Agency's annual operational plans will be informed by consultations with these groups.



## Aim

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

## Principles

Underpinning the Plan are guiding principles which affirm the intent of all governments in Australia to improve asbestos eradication, handling and awareness. These principles are:

- precaution – a proactive and cautious approach to ensure there is no increase in risk to the community in any activities to be implemented under the Plan
- evidence-based decision making – all decision making is based on sound evidence and analysis from national and international sources
- transparency – activities are conducted in an open and transparent manner and all stakeholders will have access to the information available
- public participation – with asbestos safety a workplace and community issue, consideration is given to the interests and concerns of all Australians
- collaboration – with the regulation of asbestos the responsibility of all tiers of government, activities must be planned and delivered through effective coordination between agencies.

## Strategies rationale

Under the Plan, the Agency will work with the state, territory and local governments to improve asbestos safety through six strategies. The Agency will deliver on these strategies through either direct action where it has responsibility for a strategy or through identifying and encouraging improved practices where state, territory or local governments are responsible.

1. **Awareness** includes ways of coordinating awareness-raising across Australia, to avoid duplication of effort and ensure activities are consistent and cost-effective.
2. **Best practice** focuses on achieving best and consistent practice across Australia in
  - a. education
  - b. licensing
  - c. transport
  - d. storage and
  - e. disposal
3. **Identification** focuses on the identification and recording of the location, quantity and condition of asbestos
4. **Removal** is an approach to prioritised removal of asbestos in the built environment.
5. **Research** focuses on practical, implementable activities that will prevent the risk of exposure to the broader community
6. **International leadership** includes ways the Australian Government can continue to play an international leadership role as well as ways to coordinate Australia's international activities relating to asbestos.



## Monitoring and evaluation

### Operational plan

The Plan will be supported by annual operational plans which detail specific activities, timeframes and targets. The operational plans will be approved by the federal Minister with responsibility for workplace relations prior to implementation. Operational plans will be published on the Agency's website.

The Agency will consider what outcomes, targets and/or performance indicators may be included in its operational plans.

### Annual Report

An annual report will be published by the Agency, and tabled in Parliament, on progress against the operational plans. Following tabling, annual reports will be published on the Agency's website.



## Strategies

### Strategy One: Awareness

Many different government and community bodies have sought to increase public awareness of the dangers posed by working with or being exposed to asbestos. The multiple sources and divergent responsibilities of those agencies or bodies may reduce the effectiveness of any communication efforts.

#### Goal

Increase public awareness of the health dangers posed by working with or being exposed to asbestos leading to long term behavioural change

#### Outcomes

1. Increased community awareness of the risks posed by asbestos.
2. Improved accessibility of information for those who work with asbestos, live 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.
4. Demonstrated behaviour change, over the long term, by community members as a result of improved understanding of both the health dangers and exposure pathways of asbestos.

#### 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 campaigns to be run, targeted at a range of groups with the Australian community, including during National Asbestos Week.



## Strategy Two: Best practice

In recent years there have been some movement towards national consistency in education, training and licensing around Australia. The Plan does not advocate compelling the states and territories to undertake this task, it encourages discussion, information sharing and promoting best practice in these areas. The Agency will have responsibility for facilitating further discussion with states, territories, local governments and relevant stakeholders to achieve the outcomes.

### Goal

Best practice in asbestos handling and management identified and shared nationally.

### Outcomes

1. Best practice identified in each of the key areas.
2. Nationally consistent training for 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 and disposal.
6. Effective and coordinated regulation of asbestos handling and management.

### Deliverables

1. Encourage sharing of information between the state, territory and local governments on best practice licensing, education and training and implementation of nationally consistent practices, including:
  - identification of education needs for licensed operators as well as high-risk workers
  - 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 (transport, storage and disposal) across Australia, with particular focus on capacity and potential environmental and community impacts.
3. Coordinated cross agency regulatory monitoring programs.
4. Identify, develop and implement best 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.



## Strategy Three: Identification

There is currently an absence of reliable data available in relation to the precise location and condition of ACMs and therefore the effective identification of the location, quantity and condition of asbestos-contaminated materials (ACMs) in Australia is of importance.

### Goal

Location and condition of ACMs in government and commercial buildings identified and recorded.

### Outcomes

1. Nationally agreed grading for in-situ asbestos in government and commercial buildings.
2. All ACMs identified and graded by 2018.
3. Condition of all high risk ACMs reviewed in line with work health and safety framework.
4. All asbestos registers reviewed in line with work health and safety framework.
5. Development of measures to assist the residential sector minimise the risk of exposure, in particular for DIY home renovators.

### Deliverables

#### Government and commercial buildings

1. Develop a rating or grading system for the condition of asbestos containing material (ACM).
2. Develop a model framework which will include policies and procedures to undertake a review of government buildings to identify the location, quantity and condition of ACMs in government infrastructure.
3. Undertake a review of all government buildings 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 in government and commercial buildings except in certain circumstances such as renovations, major refurbishments, at the end of lease etc.
6. Facilitate discussion with Safe Work Australia through the Review of the WHS framework in 2014, about the current requirements to undertake five yearly reviews of asbestos registers.

#### Residential

1. Examine current ACT laws that require sellers and lessors of residential premises to provide an Asbestos Advice with a contract for sale and with a residential tenancy agreement. The evaluation to consider a range of factors including the success or failure of the scheme, costs and benefits, impacts on residential market value.
2. 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.



## Strategy Four: Removal

Any development and implementation of a Prioritised Removal Program (PRP) across Australia will require careful consideration and planning in consultation with state, territory and local governments and relevant stakeholders.

Over the five years of this plan, the activities undertaken in the identification and removal strategies will inform on the practicality of achieving the aspirational target date of 2030 for removing asbestos from government occupied and controlled and commercial buildings.

### Goal

Development and implementation of an asbestos removal program across Australia, with priority given to the removal of high risk ACMs.

### Outcomes

1. Nationally uniform systems, processes, policies and procedures for the removal of ACMs from government and commercial buildings.
2. Improved ACM removal systems, processes, policies and procedures based on successful pilots.
3. All government occupied and controlled buildings to be free of ACMs by 2030.
4. All high risk ACMs safely removed from all commercial buildings by 2030.

### Deliverables

#### Government and commercial buildings

1. In consultation with state, territory and local governments, review currently planned (and funded) renewals, refurbishments or removal programs for existing Government occupied and controlled buildings.
2. Develop in consultation with state, territory and local governments a model prioritised removal program (PRP) that can be adopted by all levels of government to remove ACMs in government occupied and controlled buildings which will not be removed as a result of currently planned renewals, refurbishments or removal programs.
3. Conduct pilots to guide the development of a PRP. The pilots to include a variety of buildings for example: single storey, multi-storey, schools etc in different regions.
4. In consultation with state, territory and local governments, identify all high risk ACMs and develop a model PRP that can be adopted by all levels of government for the removal of these high risk ACMs by 2030.

#### Residential

1. Examine the feasibility of a future PRP for residential properties, including the potential impact on home owners.
2. To investigate measures to assist the residential sector minimise the risk of exposure, in particular for DIY home renovators.



## Strategy Five: Research

There has been a significant amount of research and information regarding asbestos and asbestos-related disease conducted in Australia and internationally. However this research has not very often focussed on practical, implementable activities that will minimise the risk of exposure to the broader community.

### Goal

Coordinated national research on asbestos exposure, and prevention and treatment of asbestos-related diseases.

### Outcome

1. Identified practical and implementable approaches to prevent exposure to asbestos fibres
2. Identified practical and implementable approaches to the prevention and treatment of asbestos-related diseases.

### Deliverables

1. Identify and consolidate national and international research in a central repository to enable better sharing of information.
2. Identify gaps in current research activities.
3. Identify mechanisms and opportunities for coordination of research efforts.
4. Commissioning and promoting of research that identifies practical and implementable ways to prevent asbestos exposure and prevent and treat asbestos-related diseases.
5. Analysis and promotion of national and international innovations in asbestos research.
6. Continued support for the work of the Australian Mesothelioma Registry
7. Administer the National Asbestos Exposure Register



## Strategy Six: International leadership

### Goal

Australia to continue 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 against asbestos hazard.
3. Best practice processes on awareness, handling and eradication shared internationally.

### Deliverables

1. Pursue opportunities to actively lobby for improvements in international arrangements for asbestos awareness, handling and eradication.
2. Be a coordination point of contact on asbestos matters for national and international organisations to enable information sharing and consistent responses.
3. Proactively share knowledge, tools and information on best practice with other countries and relevant international organisations.



## Definitions

**Asbestos containing material (ACM)** – means any material or thing that, as part of its design, contains asbestos.

**Asbestos removalist** – means a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) who is licensed under the Work Health and Safety (WHS) Regulations to carry out Class A or Class B asbestos removal work.

**Assessor** – means a person who holds an asbestos assessor licence under the Work Health and Safety (WHS) Regulations.

**Commercial building** – refers to a building used for commercial purposes.

**Government occupied and controlled** - Refers to a building that is occupied and controlled by either a Commonwealth, state, territory or local government.

**“Those likely to come into contact”** – means a worker that is not involved in asbestos-related work, but may come into contact with ACMs as an incidental part of their work such as during maintenance work, installation of air-conditioning, tradespersons including electricians, plumbers, carpenters, mechanics, etc.

**“Workers who work with”** – means a worker responsible for undertaking asbestos-related work.



## Endnotes

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<sup>1</sup> Leigh, J, Davidson, P, Hendrie, L, Berry, D, 'Malignant mesothelioma in Australia, 1945-2000', 2002, *American Journal of Industrial Medicine* 41: pp. 188-201

