



# National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness 2014–18

## Strategies and outcomes summary

**AIM:** to prevent exposure to airborne asbestos fibres in order to eliminate asbestos-related disease in Australia.

### PRINCIPLES

- precaution
- evidence-based decision making
- transparency
- public participation
- collaboration

#### GOALS

##### 1. AWARENESS

Increase public awareness of the health risks posed by working with or being exposed to asbestos

##### 2. BEST PRACTICE

Identify and share best practice in asbestos management, education, handling, storage and disposal

##### 3. IDENTIFICATION

Improve the identification and grading of asbestos and sharing of information regarding the location of ACMs

##### 4. REMOVAL

Identify priority areas where ACMs present a risk, identify the barriers to the safe removal of asbestos and review management and removal infrastructure to estimate the capacity and rate for the safe removal of asbestos

##### 5. RESEARCH

Commission, monitor and promote research into the prevention of asbestos exposure and asbestos-related disease.

##### 6. INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Australia continues to play a leadership role in a global campaign for a worldwide ban on asbestos mining and manufacturing.

#### OUTCOMES

- 1.1 Increased community awareness of the risks posed by asbestos and its impact on the health of the community.
- 1.2 Improved access to information for those who work and live with asbestos, including where and when to source information and advice.
- 1.3 Demonstrated cultural and behavioural change within the community as a result of improved understanding of both the health risks and exposure pathways of asbestos in both commercial and residential environments.

- 2.1 Evidence-based best practice to minimise risks in targeted areas.
- 2.2 Model training for workers likely to come into contact with ACMs to increase competency and decrease risk.
- 2.3 Australian communities are supported to manage asbestos risks during natural disasters or emergencies.
- 2.4 Improved transport, storage and disposal practices for ACM.

- 3.1 Evidence-based model for grading in-situ asbestos is developed.
- 3.2 Improved stabilisation and containment practices for ACMs in poor condition.
- 3.3 Improved identification and management of information regarding asbestos contaminated land.
- 3.4 Estimated total presence of ACMs in the built environment is available.
- 3.5 Improved practice in the residential sector to identify and minimise the risk of exposure, in particular for DIY home renovators.
- 3.6 Effective coordinated response when ACMs in imported material are identified.

- 4.1 Priority actions identified support removal of ACMs in poor condition.
- 4.2 Options to remove asbestos in poor condition are practical, evidence-based and targeted towards sources of asbestos-related disease.
- 4.3 Asbestos removal infrastructure can meet the future needs and demands of ageing ACMs without creating increased risk.
- 4.4 The barriers to the safe removal of ACMs are reviewed and options to address the challenges faced by government, commercial and residential sectors are evaluated.

- 5.1 Coordination of key research supports evidence informed policy and practice.
- 5.2 Commissioned research identifies practical and innovative approaches to prevent or minimise risks from exposure to asbestos fibres, and support for people with asbestos-related diseases.

- 6.1 International issues relating to asbestos and asbestos-related disease are effectively coordinated.
- 6.2 Australia recognised as an international voice in the global campaign against asbestos hazards.
- 6.3 Best practice for awareness, management and eradication of asbestos is shared internationally.

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