Malignant mesothelioma in Australia with estimation of new cases to 2020.¹,²

For each case of mesothelioma, it is estimated there are two cases of asbestos related lung cancer, dependent upon the type of fibre exposure.³

Priority disorder action plan: 2016-2018
Asbestos related disorders

Focus areas

¹ Office of Industrial Relations
² Workplace Health and Safety Queensland
³ Priority disorder action plan: 2016-2018
⁴ Asbestos related disorders
⁵ Focus areas
⁶ For each case of mesothelioma, it is estimated there are two cases of asbestos related lung cancer, dependent upon the type of fibre exposure.
### What outcomes will be achieved

#### Short term
Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) inspectors and advisors improve and maintain their knowledge and awareness regarding: identification of asbestos; and controls to prevent exposure to airborne asbestos.

Industry groups and associations, workplaces and the community increase their knowledge and awareness of specific controls to prevent exposure to airborne asbestos.

#### Medium term
People use controls that eliminate or minimise hazards and risks to prevent exposure to airborne asbestos.

#### Long term
Exposure to airborne asbestos is minimised.
Reduced incidence of asbestos related disorders associated with work.

### What we will deliver in 2016 - 2018

- Work related events likely to cause exposure are responded to by WHSQ.
- Education, training, and mentoring programs are provided to:
  - inspectors
  - advisors
  - local council officers who are authorised persons for the asbestos provisions of the public health legislation.
- Partnerships are formed with external stakeholders to identify and promote effective control strategies.
- Responsive regulations, policy and guidance are provided to industry and the community by WHSQ.
- Industry and community engagement is undertaken to promote use of exposure control strategies.
- Compliance verification audits are conducted for:
  - licensed asbestos removalists
  - licensed asbestos assessors
  - workplace asbestos registers and management plans
  - exemption holders.
- Maintain partnerships with manufacturers, suppliers and users of high pressure water equipment to warn about risk of using high pressure water on asbestos containing materials.
- Responses to community concerns regarding asbestos are integrated with local governments and other government agencies as required.

### Action areas

- Hazard areas are eliminated or minimised by design.
- Improved work health and safety through supply chains and networks.
- Improved work health and safety capabilities.
- Leaders in communities and organisations promote a positive culture for health and safety.
- Evidence-informed policy, programs and practice.
- Government improves work health and safety.
- The regulatory framework improves effectiveness by adapting to changing circumstances.

### References:


### Note:
Injuries arising from work-related exposure are significantly under reported in workers’ compensation data for a range of reasons including: lack of awareness of work-related risk factors amongst workers and health professionals; inherent difficulties in assigning a specific case to a work-related cause. Therefore, in order to prioritise work health and safety interventions, other sources of data such as those referenced above, are useful to estimate the extent of exposures.