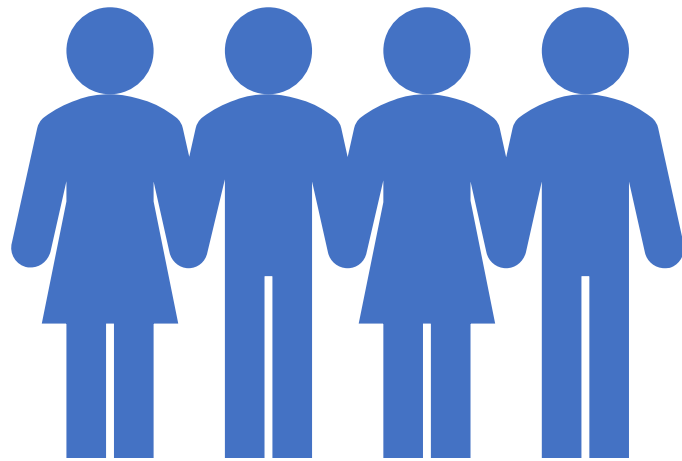




Asbestos Disease
Support Society

Natalie Barber
Social Worker (BSW, Hons)
Ph: 1800 776 412
Email: natalieb@adss.org.au



HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY

The Asbestos Disease Support Society has been running for 25 years and was founded by the late Shirley White OAM. It originally started with 35 members and today has over 700 members made up of sufferers, medical specialists, politicians, union members and legal advocates.



Asbestos Disease Support Society

Our Vision

To be a voice of change for the elimination of asbestos and dust related lung diseases.

Our Mission

To assist sufferers and those impacted by asbestos and dust related lung diseases and eliminate future incidences by preventing exposure.

Strategic Plan 2019 - 2021



Care



Commitment



Service



Integrity



Leadership



Accountability

Support

Provide high quality support services to sufferers of asbestos and dust related lung diseases, their family and carers

Advocacy

Be a leading and respected voice on asbestos and dust related matters

Awareness

Increase awareness of the health risks posed by working with or being exposed to asbestos and dust materials

Education

Work with organisations and individuals to better understand asbestos and dust related lung diseases



BREAKDOWN OF MEMBERS CURRENTLY RECEIVING SUPPORT FROM THE SOCIETY

Pleural Plaques: 149

Asbestosis: 195

Mesothelioma: 106

Asbestos Related Lung Cancer: 19



Asbestos Related Diseases

Pleural Plaques: Patches of fibrous thickening on the pleural membrane which can progress slowly and can calcify.

Symptoms: Generally do not cause any pain.

Asbestosis: refers to asbestos induced fibrosis of the lung that is usually found throughout the lower sections of both lungs, and is not isolated. As the disease progresses, the upper lobes may be affected.

Symptoms: Shortness of breath, coughing, pain in chest or heart related disease

Mesothelioma: is an incurable malignancy which affects the lining of the pleura. It may also affect the abdominal cavity (the peritoneum).

Symptoms: Shortness of breath, coughing, pain

Asbestos related Lung Cancer

Other Cancers: Asbestos exposure has been implicated in other cancers such as oesophageal cancer, kidney cancer and laryngeal cancer.



ASBESTOS FIBRE



MESOTHELIOMA

700-800 people are diagnosed with Mesothelioma each year.

In 2018, 699, died from this rare and aggressive form of cancer, based on the Australian Mesothelioma Registry (AMR) data at 1 May 2019.

Australia has one of the highest measured incidence rates of Mesothelioma in the world (Bray et al. 2017).

'Average' Australian with Mesothelioma:

- male
- diagnosed at 75 years of age.
- exposed to asbestos in both occupational and non occupational settings.
- Lived for around 11 months after diagnosis.



ON AVERAGE IT TAKES 38.7
YEARS TO DEVELOP
MESOTHELIOMA ONCE
EXPOSED TO AN ASBESTOS
FIBRE
(AUSTRALIAN MESOTHELIOMA
REGISTER, 2019)

WHAT CAN A FIRST PHONE CALL TO THE SOCIETY SOUND LIKE?



- Am I going to die from this disease?
- I have been told to go home and get my affairs in order
- There must be a cure, can you help me find any trials that I can participate in?
- I am not going to let this kill me, I will be a lucky survivor
- I am so angry this has happened to me, I don't understand how this happened, all I did was go to work
- I use to be active and now I can no longer do the things I used to enjoy
- I feel breathless all the time, it makes me panic
- Will my quality of life ever be the same again?
- The specialist has just told me I have got six months to live, what should I do?
- Do you know anyone who has lived longer than five years?



- Home visitations
- Psychological support (telephone, face to face at social support groups/morning teas)
- Referrals (Qld Community Care Services, Legal, exercise programs, My Aged Care, Occupational Therapists, Dieticians, mental health support services, Cancer Council Qld)
- Welfare Assistance (Carers Allowance, pension allowances)
- Understanding entitlements (heating and cooling concession, medical aids subsidy scheme, continence schemes)
- Grief and Loss (anticipatory grief, family grief support, bereavement)
- Palliative Care (deliver counselling/support in hospital setting, information on community based palliative care services)
- Cancer treatment information (chemotherapy, radiotherapy, immunotherapy)
- Advocacy (hospitals, My Aged Care, Department of Housing)
- Transport (Disability Parking Permit, ½ price taxi subsidy vouchers, patient transport subsidy scheme, ambulance transfers)
- Medical Aids Loan Scheme (portable oxygen concentrators, personal alarms, Airvo 2 Humidifiers)

Social Work Services

MEMBER SERVICES

- Ecumenical service
- Support Groups (9 in Qld)
- 32 morning teas a year from Northern NSW through QLD and Darwin
- Quarterly newsletter
- Annual Symposium
- Free consultation with ADSS Lawyers
- Free Dietetics and Occupational therapy assessment and support
- Telephone support from volunteers
- Medical Aids Loan Scheme

