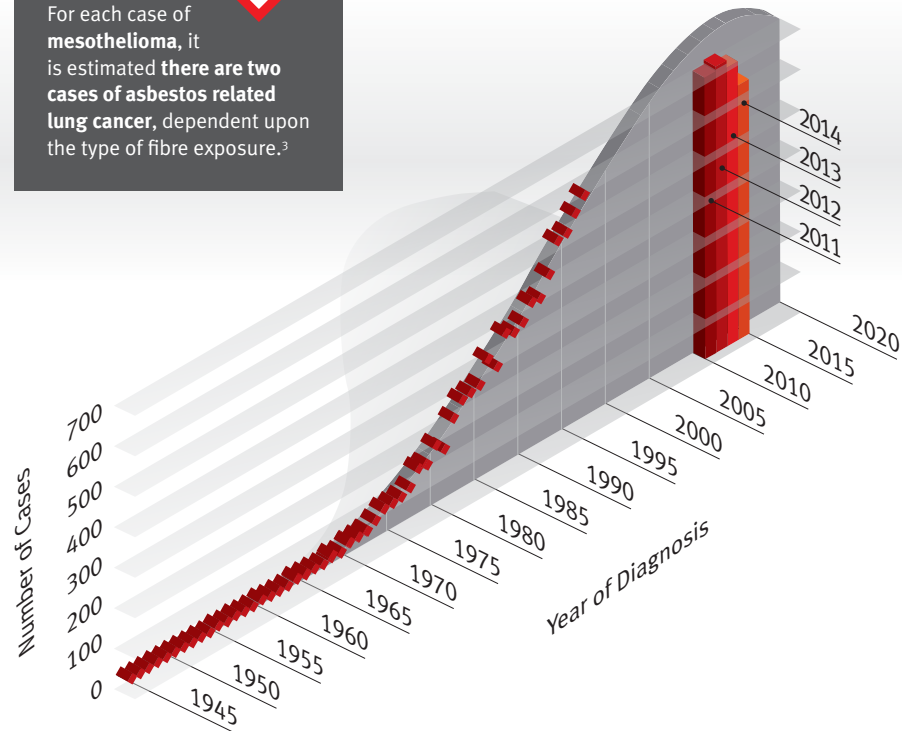


Malignant mesothelioma in Australia with estimation of new cases to 2020.^{1,2}



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



What outcomes will be achieved	What we will deliver in 2016 - 2018	Action areas ⁴
<p>Short term</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Industry groups and associations, workplaces and the community increase their knowledge and awareness of specific controls to prevent exposure to airborne asbestos.</p> <p>Medium term</p> <p>People use controls that eliminate or minimise hazards and risks to prevent exposure to airborne asbestos.</p> <p>Long term</p> <p>Exposure to airborne asbestos is minimised.</p> <p>Reduced incidence of asbestos related disorders associated with work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work related events likely to cause exposure are responded to by WHSQ. • Education, training, and mentoring programs are provided to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — 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. 	<p>Hazard areas are eliminated or minimised by design.</p> <p>Improved work health and safety through supply chains and networks.</p> <p>Improved work health and safety capabilities.</p> <p>Leaders in communities and organisations promote a positive culture for health and safety.</p> <p>Evidence-informed policy, programs and practice.</p> <p>Government improves work health and safety.</p> <p>The regulatory framework improves effectiveness by adapting to changing circumstances.</p>

References:

1. Leigh, Davidson, Hendrie and Berry, 2002 *Malignant Mesothelioma in Australia, 1945-2000*, *American Journal of Industrial Medicine* 41:188-201
2. Australian Mesothelioma Registry, 2014 *Mesothelioma in Australia 2014*, 4th Annual Report
3. McCormack V, Peto J, Byrnes G, Straif K, Boffetta P 2012 *Estimating the asbestos-related lung cancer burden from mesothelioma mortality*. *Br J Cancer*. 2012 Jan 31;106(3):575-84
4. Safe Work Australia. 2012 *Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy 2012-2022*.

Note: Illnesses 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.