



16 June 2015



**OVER 35 YEARS OF CARE AND
SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY**

Dear Members and Friends

This year we are in urgent need of your assistance with our petition to the Honourable Members of the Legislative Council. The Petition is in support of the Asbestos Diseases Compensation Bill introduced to the West Australian Parliament by the Hon. K Doust MLC on 21 October 2013. In our March 2015 newsletter we advised that the Attorney General, Hon. Michael Mischin was unwilling to debate the Bill in the Legislative Council in its present form. Therefore the Attorney General referred the Bill to the Law Reform Commission of WA (LRC). Our organisation made a joint submission with Slater & Gordon to LRC WA to highlight the inadequacy of Western Australian Laws to fairly and justly compensate asbestos diseases victims and their families.

No doubt members and friends will agree that it is well known that throughout an often tragic history of worker health and disease, workers and the general community have played a primary role as a catalyst for every significant improvement in factory work safety, compensation, accident prevention and changes to Legislation. At present the asbestos diseases compensation legislation in Western Australia is unfair and detrimentally affects asbestos disease victims and their families. Therefore, the Asbestos Diseases Society of Australia, its members and Committee are calling upon the Western Australian community to support this petition to the Honourable Members of the Legislative Council.

To assist our organisation to achieve just compensation please complete the Petition form included with the Newsletter and send it back to the ADSA office as soon as you can. Or if anyone should require additional Petition forms, please call our office on our toll free number 1800 646 690.

1. FUNDRAISING GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 4 Ball Ambrose Fundraising Golf Day to raise funds for medical research will be held at Meadow Springs Golf Club in Mandurah on 14th February 2016 (more information later in the year).

2. ADSA WALK FOR RESEARCH AND AWARENESS 2015 - ALBANY TO PERTH

This year our walk for research and awareness will start in Albany on 13th September 2015. As you well know, our organisation's Walk for Research and Awareness is an annual event to raise vital funds for medical research into treatment and cures for asbestos caused diseases. Please join if you can in the life saving walk which need not be for the entire duration if you live outside the metro area. The details of the Walk and registration flyer are on the back page which will provide you with actual destinations and places scheduled to walk.

3. ECUMENICAL MEMORIAL SERVICE 2015

The Ecumenical Memorial Service in remembrance of those who have died from asbestos-related diseases will be held on Friday 27 November 2015 at the Redemptorist Monastery, Vincent Street, North Perth commencing at 9:30am. This year will mark the twentieth year that we have held the Ecumenical Memorial Service and we want this to be a very special and memorable service to remember the several thousand members and friends who have passed away.

4. ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK - 23 NOVEMBER 2015 TO 27 NOVEMBER 2015

At this point in time, we are still weighing our options as we have received a number of invitations to provide information on asbestos issues and its consequences. More information later.

5. ADSA CHRISTMAS PICNIC SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2015

Mark off Sunday 6th of December this year for the ADSA Christmas Picnic at Whiteman Park commencing at the usual time of 10:30am to 4:30pm. More details provided in the next newsletters.



6. ASBESTOS DISEASES MEDICAL RESEARCH - NCARD

Recent information from Dr Scott Fisher, Postdoctoral researcher, National Centre for Asbestos Related Diseases (NCARD). The research group at NCARD has been bolstered this year by six new PhD students. Also Rachael Zemek and three other researchers have joined the NCARD research group, to work on the major focus which is to get the immune system, the body's natural defence system, to recognise and destroy cancer cells. We call this cancer immunotherapy. Rachel will be using a recent breakthrough in cancer immunotherapy called 'checkpoint blockade' to manipulate the immune system. Importantly, while this type of therapy has shown success in the clinic, some patients don't respond. Rachael will look into the 'cancer environment' to gain a better understanding about why this therapy works for some patients and not for others. Her project will help identify which patients are best suited for this new type of treatment, and more importantly help us to understand how to improve the response rate to checkpoint blockade. Laura Wainman has come from the UK to NCARD. She will also be looking at the cancer microenvironment, but from a different angle. In many cancers, including mesothelioma, the amount of oxygen available to cells within a tumour can vary dramatically. Areas where low oxygen levels exist are called 'hypoxic', and cancer cells within these areas are generally very aggressive, invasive and are often resistant to current treatments such as chemo and radiotherapy. Our laboratory has recently demonstrated that high levels of hypoxia are present in areas of mesothelioma tumours, which suggests that this could be the likely cause of radio and chemo-resistance in these tumours. Laura's project will investigate whether reducing hypoxia in solid mesothelioma tumours by either increasing the oxygen supply to the tumour or reducing oxygen consumption by tumour cells, can affect how mesothelioma responds to chemo and radiotherapy.

Roxanne Otadoy has worked as a research assistant in our lab for the last year, but has become a student again. Her PhD will investigate the challenging question: 'How does asbestos cause mesothelioma?' Part of Roxanne's project will be to compare the similarities and differences in the genomes (that is the DNA) of different mesothelioma cell lines. She will use cutting edge DNA sequencing technology to see if there are unique patterns of mutations (spelling mistakes in the DNA sequence) between mesothelioma and normal mesothelial cells that are associated with asbestos exposure. Unravelling the genetic basis of mesothelioma by identifying the genes and mutations associated with how asbestos exposure turns a 'normal' mesothelial cell into mesothelioma is a huge task. Roxanne's project will help define the first crucial steps in this process and ultimately help to develop new treatments for mesothelioma.

The above mentioned are just some of the research projects underway at NCARD. As with all projects, we depend heavily on external grant funding, whether they be major grants from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) or donations from support organisations like the Asbestos Diseases Society of Australia. Every bit of funding counts, no matter how small or large. Without support from people like your Society, we would be unable to continue our research into mesothelioma. We are truly grateful for it and will continue to keep you updated as each of the project's progress.

7. PORTABLE OXYGEN CONCENTRATORS AND TRAVELLING WITH OXYGEN

A friend of our organisation, Bernard Somers from Respiratory Supplies has an excellent range of Portable Oxygen Concentrators that are ideal for home and everyday use. When travelling with oxygen Portable Oxygen Concentrators are very convenient. Bernard has units available for hire or purchase and is happy to provide units for free trials.

Pamphlets are available from the ADSA Office or you can contact Bernard on 9349 0799 or go to the website www.respiratorysupplies.com.au

8. ASBESTOS SAMPLING AND ASSESSMENTS

Despite that asbestos products are no longer manufactured and since January 2004 it is forbidden to import or use any asbestos products other than those approved by the Commonwealth Government on the proviso that a non-asbestos substitute material is available. There are thousands of homes and all kinds of buildings both privately or State owned which contain asbestos cement products ('Asbestos Containing Materials' ACM). All these buildings are potentially in a state of decay. The last asbestos products were manufactured by James Hardie 28 years ago (1987). A well researched study by the CSIRO found that ACM commenced decaying and releasing asbestos fibres after 17 years from being manufactured. The most likely catalyst for the release of asbestos fibres is that the bonding of ACM is prone to deterioration by weathering, that is, sun, rain, hail and pollution. Therefore all asbestos products including sheeting and fencing can no longer be deemed as bonded but rather friable.

Lancall is a team of Nationally Licensed Asbestos Assessors (LAA) and NATA Accredited Analytical

Laboratory. Lancall is working across WA, Australia and globally with everyone in Construction & Demolition, Manufacturing, Mining and Oil & Gas, including enthusiastic home renovators and concerned owners of storm damaged fences; and any manner of other at-risk groups. Working with the Asbestos Diseases Society of Australia, Lancall is making fast and affordable testing available to all. For friends of ADSA they offer discounted analysis of samples with clear, concise and understandable reports. Samples can be taken to Lancall who will aim to have the results in your email inbox the same or next day. Lancall will also happily come to your place (Perth Metro coverage from Two Rocks to Mandurah to Mundaring, and Southwest coverage based in Margaret River) to collect a sample, or have one of its friendly, professional inspectors already in your area come to cast an experienced eye over the materials in question. Prices are very affordable, starting from only \$25 per test. Detailed service offerings are available on request to Lancall, and Quotes are free. If you wish ask ADSA for a referral or feel free to contact directly: LANCALL, Occupational and Environmental Consultants, Perth Headquarters & Laboratory, 21 Mills St, Cannington, WA 6107; info@lancall.com.au; www.lancall.com.au Ph: 1300 928 963 - NATA Accreditation No. 19429

9. NEW HEALTH (ASBESTOS) REGULATIONS

The Department of Health is currently overhauling the Health Act and as part of this process the Health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992 (HAR). The plan is to bring the HAR into line with the Occupation Health and Safety Act and current Codes of Practice for the handling of asbestos, the Contaminated Sites Act 2003, and WorkSafe legislation. The changes proposed include definitions of: asbestos and asbestos products, asbestos debris, licensing of asbestos removalists, among others. Much of the work by the Department of Health has focused on developing the new Code of Practice - Managing Public Health Risks from Asbestos. To assist with understanding and managing specific issues with asbestos they are also developing Guidance Notes which will be available to the public through their website. Much work still needs to be done on these changes and although a number of the changes seem more aspirational once the new draft Regulations are ready we will be better able to assess just how effective they will be in protecting the public from the asbestos risk. Unfortunately the new Regulations will be waiting on the roll-out of the changes to the Health Act which are still three years away. The ADSA is making a substantive submission on the matter of the proposed changes to protect the WA community from asbestos fibres.

10. PERIODIC EXAMINATIONS OF PERSONS EXPOSED TO ASBESTOS

The most important part of the periodical examinations is to detect early onset of malignant asbestos diseases, lung cancer and malignant mesothelioma. Early detection of lung cancer can lead to successful outcomes and remission. Malignant mesothelioma still remains a lethal disease, which however when detected at an early stage, can be treated with a multidisciplinary approach leading to a reasonable longevity of survival. Regrettably, a large number of our members and friends with occupational or domestic exposure to asbestos appear to be complacent and are not taking the opportunity of periodic examinations made available by our organisation. Dr Deleuil is available at our Osborne Park office for medical check-ups and referrals on every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00am. To make an appointment to consult Dr Deleuil, please call our office number on 9344 4077 or country members and friends can call our toll free number 1800 646 690.

11. BEYOND BANK FUNDRAISING FOR THE ADSA

Beyond Bank is offering a unique saving opportunity to the ADSA members by opening a Community Reward Account at Beyond Bank. Beyond Bank pay additional interest on this account which is donated to the ADSA annually. For more information contact Carryll Start at Beyond Bank on 0408 939 432.

12. FUNDRAISING RAFFLE

The Winter fundraising raffle will be drawn on Wednesday 9th September 2015. Tickets are now available and we would greatly appreciate assistance from members and friends to disseminate at least a book of ten tickets amongst their friends and acquaintances. The funds raised are used exclusively for the benefit of the ADSA Members, their families and to support medical research.

With best wishes and kindest regards,

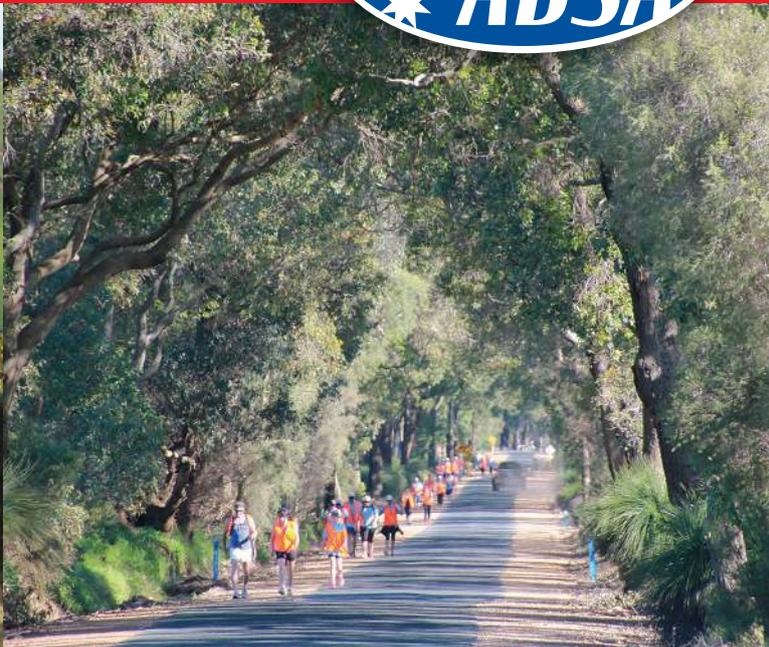


Robert Vojakovic AM JP
PRESIDENT

**WALK FOR RESEARCH & AWARENESS
2015 ALBANY TO PERTH**



ADSA Walkers near Bridgetown 2014



Dowdell's Line - Burekup 2014

Welcome to the Asbestos Diseases Society Walk for Research and Awareness 2015 - Albany to Perth. The ADSA Walk is an annual event to raise lifesaving funds for medical research into a cure for asbestos caused cancers and to raise awareness of the risks of asbestos exposure.

To join us on the ADSA Walk 2015 OR to Sponsor a Team or a Walker contact Simone at the ADSA office on 9344 4077 or email simone@asbestosdiseases.org.au

To make a donation online go to www.asbestosdiseases.org.au

DATES & LOCATIONS OF THE 2015 ADSA WALK

Sat 12 Sept	We leave Perth
Sun 13 Sept	ADSA Walk Around Town Albany
Mon 14 Sept	Albany to Gnowangerup
Tue 15 Sept	Gnowangerup to Woodanilling
Wed 16 Sept	Woodanilling to Cuballing
Thur 17 Sept	Cuballing to Armadale
Fri 18 Sept	Armadale to Parliament House arriving at 11:00am

Stay in touch via [facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

**ASBESTOS DISEASES SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA
ALBANY WALK AROUND TOWN
SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2015 - 10AM TO 2PM**

The ADSA Albany Walk Around Town is the official start of the ADSA Walk 2015. Walk with us on a 2km circuit starting and finishing at the Albany Town Hall between 10am and 2pm to raise lifesaving funds for medical research into a cure for asbestos caused cancers.

To be part of the Albany Walk Around Town contact Simone on 1800 646 690 or email simone@asbestosdiseases.org.au



Albany Town Hall, York Street Albany

