



OVER 30 YEARS CARE AND SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

8 November 2013

Dear Members and Friends

ECUMENICAL MEMORIAL SERVICE

As mentioned in our previous newsletter the 2013 Ecumenical Memorial Service will be held at the Redemptorist Monastery 190 Vincent St, North Perth on **Friday 29th November**, commencing at **9:30am (Please take note of the new time)**. The purpose of the Memorial Service is to remember and pay respect to the many men and women from all walks of life that have tragically passed away as a consequence of exposure to asbestos and reflect upon the thousands of Australians who are presently experiencing pain and suffering from asbestos caused diseases.

This year's theme is Faith and Hope. The power of faith can move mountains and we believe that is what drives the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital medical scientists and doctors to find a cure to save lives. To remove the mountain of incurability of diseases like mesothelioma and lung cancer **faith** and **hope** are the essential elements.

It was always and still is our organisation's motto **"THERE IS NO MEDICINE LIKE HOPE"** and therefore we strongly believe that a cure for mesothelioma and lung cancer will be eventually found but only when serious commitment has been made by both State and Federal Governments to fund the asbestos diseases medical research to save lives.

Your attendance to the Memorial Service at the Redemptorist Monastery in remembrance of the thousands of Australians who have sadly died from asbestos caused diseases will be greatly appreciated. Also join us to light a candle in memory of a loved one or friend.

There is no need for street parking as there is plenty of parking available in the Redemptorist Monastery grounds car park. For assistance with transport please call our office on 9344 4077.

CHRISTMAS PICNIC

In our Spring Newsletter, we cordially invited our members and friends including their families to our Christmas Picnic. The picnic will take place at Whiteman Park on Sunday, 8 December from 9:30am until about 4:30pm. Please see the back of this Newsletter for a detailed map of Whiteman Park showing the location of the ADSA Christmas Picnic in the Mussel Pool Complex between the Shelters Q and W. As already mentioned in the Spring Newsletter a delicious roast lunch (roast beef and roast pork), including gourmet salad and fruit will be provided. Non-alcoholic refreshments i.e., coke, lemonade, etc will be available a can per person only. We would respectfully suggest that everyone bring additional drinks. **HOWEVER, COFFEE AND TEA INCLUDING PURIFIED DRINKING WATER WILL BE AVAILABLE ON A SELF-SERVE BASIS AT THE FOOD SERVICE SHELTER W.**

For dessert Christmas Figgy Pudding with custard is available. However, you may wish to bring your own desserts. **Entertainment will be provided by Rhythm n Groove with music for all ages including well known Christmas carols for everyone to join in singing.**

Father Christmas (Santa) will also make an appearance to charm the junior brigade and parents. Also he will have plenty of sweets for the children. Parents can bring a present for their child or children to be placed under the Christmas tree and Father Christmas will be pleased to present the gifts. To assist our caring volunteers with the catering arrangements please ring our office and advise the exact number of adults and children attending the picnic. Vouchers will be issued at the picnic for the lunch and cool drinks. Please collect your food and drink vouchers from **"Table A"** as soon as you arrive at the picnic. **"TABLE A"** is marked on the map of the park (see back page).

Please don't forget to bring your own blankets, chairs, tables, sunscreen, hats, caps or any other items that may provide you with comfort to enjoy the day in beautiful Whiteman Park.

Our Christmas Stocking is very popular and assists our organisation with fundraising. If you can contribute in any way towards the Christmas Stocking or give something for the Odds and Ends stall it would be greatly appreciated. This will contribute to our fund raising for asbestos diseases research.

Whiteman Park Map Follow the arrows to the ADSA Christmas Picnic at Mussel Pool



Whiteman Park has two entries one on Lord Street and one on Beechboro Road. Mussel Pool can be accessed from either entry.

Follow the red arrows on the map from the Lord Street entry or the Beechboro Road entry to Mussel Pool Road.

Follow the red arrows on the map along Mussel Pool Road to the ADSA Picnic area and park in the Overflow Carpark.



ASBESTOS CAUSED DISEASES LEGISLATION

At present Western Australia is the worst State in Australia in the matters of achieving fair and just compensation for asbestos caused injuries. Currently legislative reform are being sought to allow asbestos victims and their families to be compensated on a fair and just basis to bring Western Australia in line with other States. On the 31st October 2013 the Honourable Kate Doust MLC introduced a Bill to the Upper House of the Western Australian Parliament to enact Provisional Damages and to restore the Sullivan vs. Gordon Damages in Common Law Damage matters.

In our Spring Newsletter the matter of Sullivan vs. Gordon was reasonably explained with a sad example of the hardship and anxiety facing one of our members who is suffering from mesothelioma whilst caring for family members. On the 1st November the West Australian Newspaper published an article, on pages one and three, relating to our member who is at present facing a similar predicament to Mr Smythe. The Hon. Kate Doust MLC in her second reading speech relating to Sullivan vs. Gordon and provisional damages said "the move was long overdue in WA which bore the brunt of the asbestos legacy" and the Hon. Kate Doust was hoping to get a strong support from all MP's to give greater justice to asbestos victims. "This has been a huge problem for people in this State and isn't over by any means because we're still seeing the epidemic. Yet there have long been concerns about the limitations of payouts and the absolute struggle families go through to get them", said the Hon Kate Doust.

The new proposed legislation will reinstate Sullivan v Gordon damages and allow asbestos victims to recover damages for loss of capacity to perform domestic services for another person such as for a young child, elderly parent or partner with a disability.

PROVISIONAL DAMAGES

At present in Western Australia sufferers of asbestos related diseases can only claim Common Law compensation on a once and for all basis. This means if someone gets compensation for asbestosis, and they later develop mesothelioma, they can get no further compensation. The proposed legislation will allow sufferers to receive provisional damages for their progressive disease and make a further claim if they go on to develop a more serious illness. This will remove the current agonising dilemma facing asbestos sufferers in having to gamble on whether to claim now and to lose the right to later compensation for a more serious disease ie, mesothelioma.

We believe the above proposed legislative amendments are of extreme importance to the growing number of asbestos diseases sufferers in Western Australia. By virtue of the Wittenoom Blue Asbestos Mining and indeed two James Hardie Factories producing millions of square metres of asbestos building products and asbestos water pipes, Western Australia is sadly the world leader as to the numbers of asbestos caused diseases ie, Mesothelioma, Lung Cancer, Asbestosis and Pleural Diseases.

ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK - 25th to 29th NOVEMBER 2013

For Asbestos Awareness Week this year we have been invited to provide information on the dangers of asbestos and the diseases asbestos causes. The first event which is being held the week before Asbestos Awareness Week is the Pinjarra High School Health Expo on Wednesday 20th November 2013 from 10:00am to 2:30pm where we will be speaking with High School children from Pinjarra and surrounding schools. Also from 25th November 2013 to Friday 29th November our organisation will display information regarding risk of asbestos exposures and its consequences at Royal Perth Hospital.

MEDICAL RESEARCH

In our last newsletter we have mentioned several important conferences on Lung Cancers and Malignant Mesothelioma. Our organisation was invited to attend the fifteenth World Conference on Lung Cancer and a couple of days earlier we also attended two very important meetings of international and domestic experts on Malignant Mesothelioma Research and Treatments. It would appear that the research for both Mesothelioma and Lung Cancer are being taken very seriously in many countries around the World. Regrettably funding for Mesothelioma and Lung Cancer Research seems to be on a very low priority by both State and Federal Governments and for this very reason the epidemic of asbestos caused diseases will continue for years to come.

The establishment of the National Centre for Asbestos Related Diseases (NCARD) in Western Australia is continuing on the right path to create a positive influence on health care and social policy by adopting a multidisciplinary, collaborative approach to asbestos related research. The eminent NCARD researchers like Prof B. Robinson, Prof A.W Musk, Prof A. Nowak, Prof J. Creaney, Prof R. Lake, Prof G. Lee and many others are working hard to abate the epidemic of Mesothelioma and Lung Cancer in Western Australia, but their efforts are being hampered by lack of funding to continue their noble work to save lives.

CHANGES TO THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The changes will be made sometime early next year upon receipt of the submissions which are closing on the 7th February 2014. It is proposed that the new statute clarifies the asbestos diseases lump sum to workers suffering pneumoconiosis, mesothelioma, lung cancer and diffuse pleural fibrosis, the Schedule 5 lump sum payments will be abolished and will be replaced with a payment reflecting 30% of the prescribed amount. Also the recipients of such payments will be able to pursue common law entitlement subject to the relevant level of impairment ie, from 15% restricted and 25% unrestricted. At present Schedule 5 Clause 1A deems asbestos caused diseases as being a successive disease for the purpose of Schedule 5 (which will be removed). However, it is likely the definition of successive diseases may be included in Section 33 of the Act and that may be somewhat troublesome and in this regard we are seeking advice which will form part of our submission to WorkCover WA in regard to the 2014 review.

ADSA WALK FOR RESEARCH AND AWARENESS 2014

The 2014 walk is already being chartered and will commence on Monday 5th May 2014, however the walkers will leave on a coach on Sunday 4th May 2014 and spend their first night in a beautiful South West town. The walk will commence the following day going through Manjimup and many other beautiful places, then through Armadale arriving in Perth about noon Friday 9th May at the rear of Parliament House (Solidarity Park). Anyone wishing to participate in this noble cause to fundraise for medical research and awareness please call our office on 08 9344 4077 or alternatively email Simone on simone@asbestosdiseases.org.au and mobile 0400 922 542.

PERIODICAL MEDICAL REVIEW

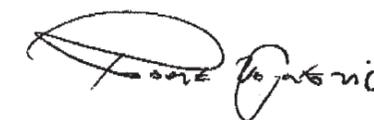
Again we are strongly suggesting to members and friends to have annual check-ups which are provided by Dr Deleuil at our premises every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00am to 1pm. Please phone or email regarding the arrangement of an appointment.

FUNDRAISING CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

The Christmas raffle is now in progress and there are still some tickets left to be disseminated and we would greatly appreciate any help from our members and friends with dissemination of the raffle tickets to assist our organisation and medical research. Please call our office should you be able to assist.

THE FESTIVE SEASON OFFICE HOURS

Our office is closed from 12noon on Fri 20th Dec 2013 and reopens on Mon 6th Jan 2014 at 9.00am. However, for all urgent enquiries please ring these numbers: (08) 9344 4077, 0400 922 542, 0409 883 594, 0417 175 244 & 0419 931 687 or email adsinc@iinet.net.au



With best wishes and kindest regards,
Robert Vojakovic AM JP **PRESIDENT**

