


 @AsbestosSafety

 Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency

[www.asbestossafety.gov.au](http://www.asbestossafety.gov.au)



Australian Government  
Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency

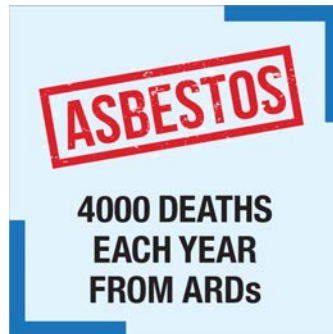
# ASBESTOS SAFETY

Presentation by Justine Ross to The World Plumbing Conference 2019

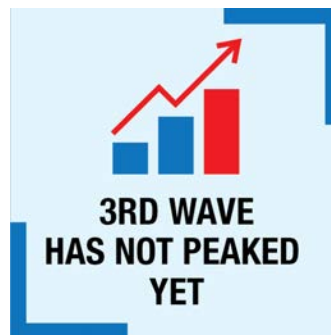
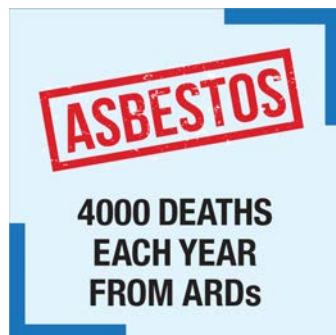
## National strategic plan for asbestos awareness and management

**(NSP) 2019–2023**  
Thursday 12 September 2019

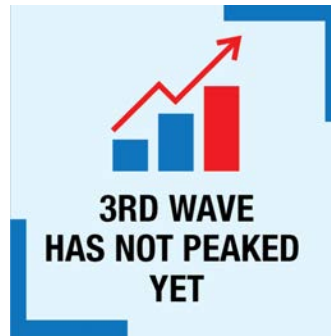
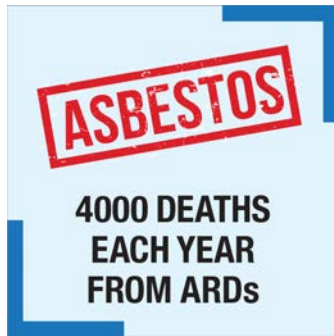
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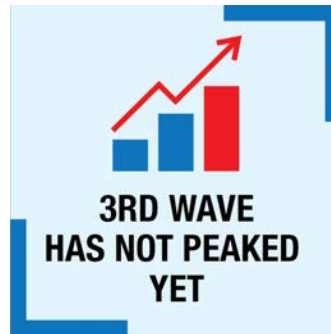
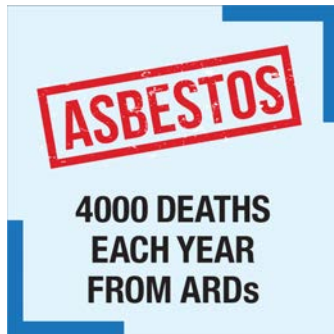
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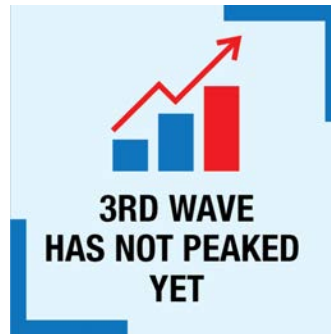
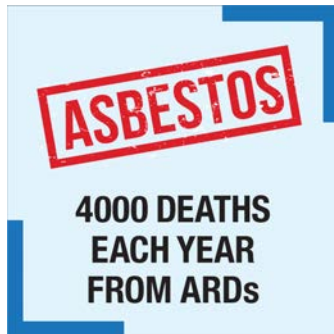
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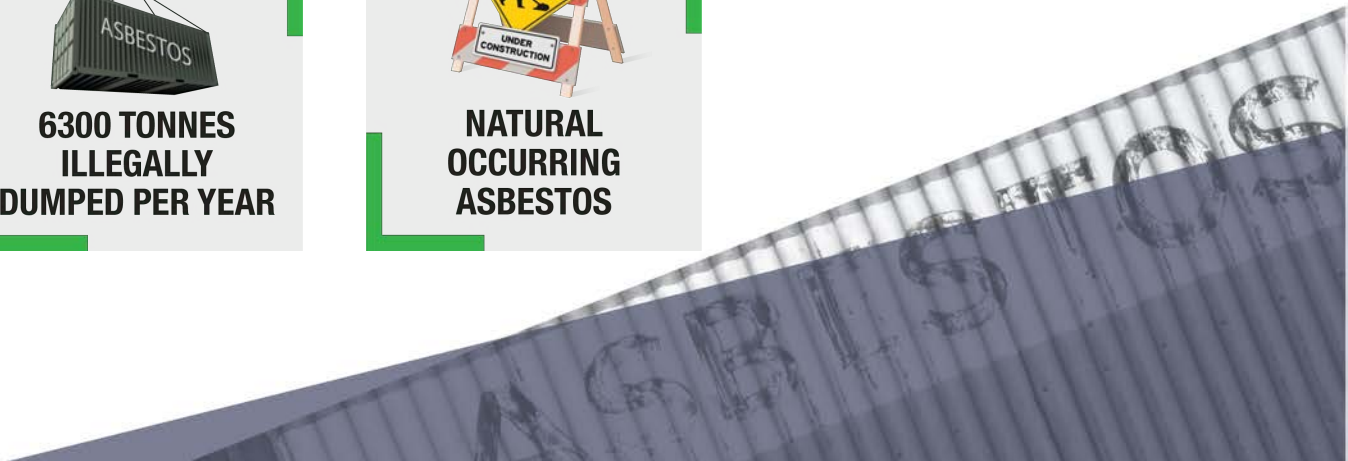
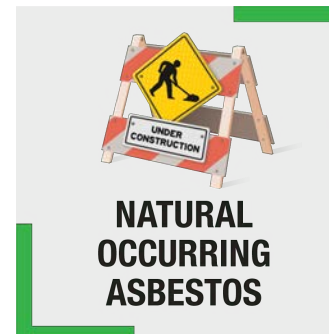
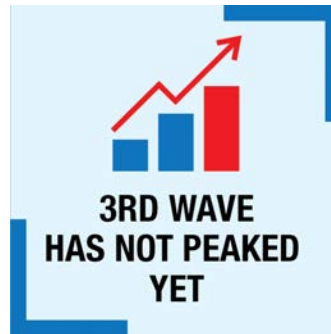
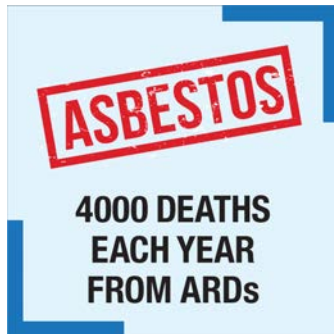
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## ASEA's Aim

To assist the prevention of exposure to asbestos fibres in order to eliminate asbestos-related diseases in Australia by co-ordinating the implementation of the NSP.





# Notable dates – managing asbestos in Australia

**1999:** NICNAS assessment of chrysotile asbestos is completed

**2003:** A national ban on importation and all uses of chrysotile asbestos came into effect

**2005:** Codes of practice for management control and safe removal of asbestos developed by NOHSC

**2011:** Parliamentary Group on Asbestos Related Disease (PGARD) is established

**2011:** Safe Work Australia develops model work health and safety regulations for codes of practice on asbestos



# Notable dates – managing asbestos in Australia

**2012:** Asbestos Management Review is released

**2013:** Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency and Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council are established

**2015:** National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness 2014-2018 is approved

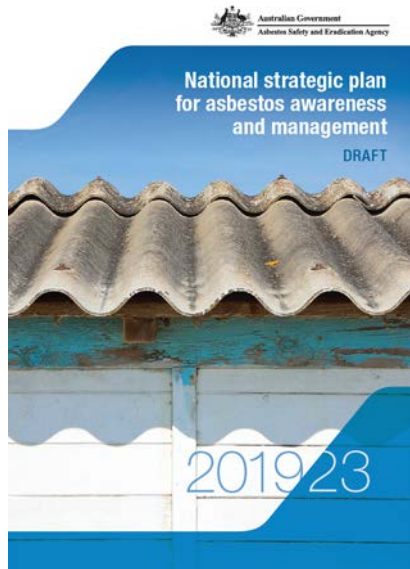
**2017:** National Asbestos Profile is completed

**2018:** National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness 2018-2023 developed

**2014-2019:** Annual international conferences on asbestos awareness and management



# What is the NSP?



- > The NSP ensures there is a nationally consistent and coordinated approach to asbestos awareness, management and removal.
- > It outlines a phased approach to eliminating asbestos-related diseases in Australia.

NSP 2019–2023 contains **four national priorities** which meet the requirements in the Act.



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**1. Improve asbestos awareness to influence behavioural change**



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**2. Identification and effective legacy management**



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**3. Safe prioritised removal and effective waste management**



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**1. Improve asbestos awareness to influence behavioural change**



**2. Identification and effective legacy management**



**3. Safe prioritised removal and effective waste management**



**4. International collaboration and leadership**





# NSP 2019–2023

> contains **eight new national targets** to measure progress against the national priorities. These targets reflect how effective our combined strategic actions under each of the four national priorities will be.

1

Increased awareness of the health risks of ACMs and where to source information: all tradespersons whose work brings them into contact with ACMs; all workers in workplaces with ACMs; 80 per cent of homeowners and occupiers, 80 per cent of property managers and real estate agents

2

all governments have identified and assessed the risks associated with ACMs in publicly owned and controlled buildings, land and infrastructure

3

all jurisdictions have schedules and processes for the prioritised safe removal according to risk of ACMs from public buildings and infrastructure, and safe disposal of that material

4

all regulators have in place and have implemented asbestos compliance programs

5

all commercial buildings have up-to-date asbestos registers and management plans, which are actively being implemented

6

all regulators are investigating, prosecuting and penalising serious known breaches of asbestos-related laws including of illegal waste disposal and importation

7

easier and cheaper transport and disposal of asbestos waste

8

bans of asbestos production and use in South-East Asia and the Pacific have been influenced and progressed.

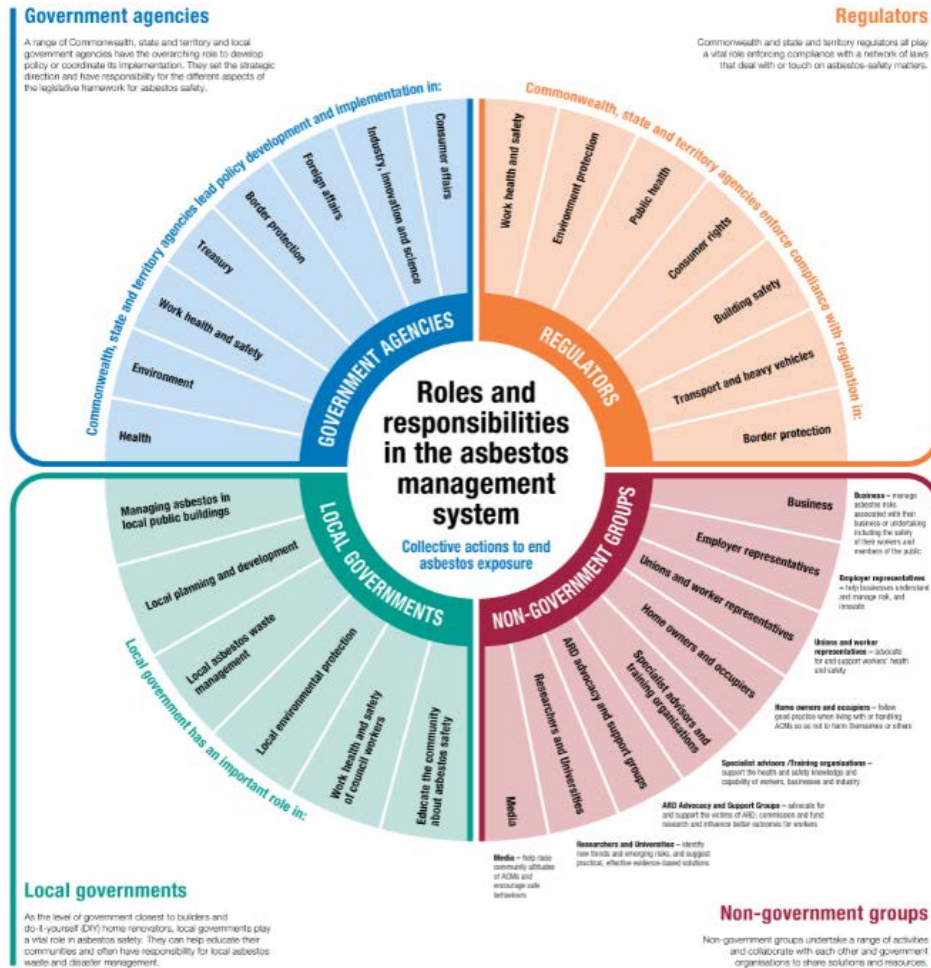


### Government agencies

A range of Commonwealth, state and territory and local government agencies have the overarching role to develop policy or coordinate its implementation. They set the strategic direction and have responsibility for the different aspects of the legislative framework for asbestos safety.

### Regulators

Commonwealth and state and territory regulators all play a vital role enforcing compliance with a network of laws that deal with or touch on asbestos-safety matters.



# Roles and Responsibilities

- > NSP 2019–2023 details the roles and responsibilities in the asbestos management system.

## Why is it important for plumbers to be aware of asbestos before beginning work?

- It is important to know whether the property you are working on contains ACM and how to avoid disturbing it
- In Australia, if a property was built before 1990, it is likely to contain some form of asbestos-containing material
- Asbestos is a known carcinogen and even short term exposure can be dangerous and in some cases fatal
- There are legal requirements regarding asbestos management, its removal and disposal which can vary between the different states or territories.



# Some common locations plumbers might find ACMs – commercial:

Pipe



Asbestos rope



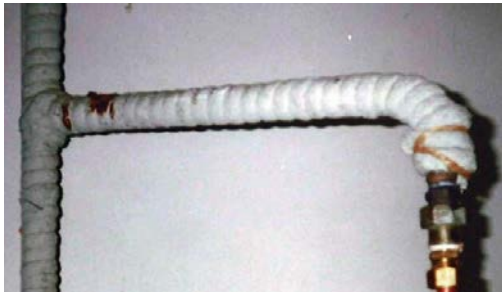
Water and drain pipes and the connecting sealant between sections



# Some common locations plumbers might find ACMs -

## residential:

Asbestos



Drain trap surrounds and water meter covers



Asbestos cement sewer vents and flue pipes



## Risk for plumbers

- Is the ACM non-friable?
- Is the area less than 10 square metres?
- Will the removal task take less than 1 hour?
- Do I have handling/working with asbestos training?
- Has PPE decontamination and waste collection/disposal been addressed?



# Safety information for plumbers working with asbestos



If you have to handle or work with the ACM, it is important to remember:

- **DO NOT** use power tools
- **DO NOT** use abrasive cutting or sanding discs
- **DO NOT** use compressed air
- **DO NOT** use a high-pressure water hose
- **DO NOT** walk on corrugated asbestos-cement roofs as you may run the risk of falling through the roof
- **DO NOT** leave ACMs where they may be broken or crushed allowing fibres to escape into the air or into the environment
- **DO NOT** cover it over as this only hides it which could result in someone accidentally cutting into it
- **DO** get the material tested by a NATA-accredited laboratory if you are unsure if it contains asbestos
- Always ensure the ACM is thoroughly wet down and kept wet during your work to minimise the release of asbestos fibres and/or dust

For more information contact the work health and safety regulator in your state or territory.

## Training

- Work health and safety laws contain requirements to ensure workers are trained
- For 'asbestos-related work' training is required in the identification, safe handling and control measures for asbestos containing materials
- ASEA is looking at options to improve quality of content and delivery of asbestos awareness training





# Contact details


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Thank you.