



State-wide Asbestos Plan – Implementation plan

July 1 2013

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Implementation plan

	Initiative	Key activities	Lead agency/ support agency	Timeframe	2013	2014	2015	2016
1	Provide epidemiological/ research studies and report on trends and risk profiles using data from available sources including Workers Compensation Dust Diseases Board (DDB), the Australian Mesothelioma Registry and the Dust Diseases Tribunal. Seek funding sources including NHMRC to support research.	Commission research. Produce annual report.	HACA	Ongoing		•	•	•
2	Assess the cost/benefit of current screening practices and develop evidence based guidelines for screen and health surveillance monitoring.	Assess cost/benefits of current health surveillance screening/monitoring practices (also see initiative 5). Develop evidence based guidelines.	DDB	2 years			•	•
3	Develop evidence-based guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of malignant Mesothelioma.	Develop evidence – based guidelines. Endorsement of guidelines by Australian Health Ministers Advisory Committee for approval then NHMRC. Publish and promote guidelines.	ADRI/Health	2 years	•	•		
4	Maintain a biobank to provide a research resource for the development of early diagnostic markers and new treatment options for mesothelioma.	Maintenance of biobank. Use of biobank data for research purposes including early diagnostic markers and new treatment options.	ADRI	Ongoing	•	•	•	•
5	Conduct research to develop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> best practice protocols for asbestos-related disease management screening technologies for disease detection. 	Engage a research team over a three period to develop evidence-based guidelines for the screening technology and protocols for the early detection of asbestos related-diseases.	ADRI/DDB	Ongoing	•	•	•	•
6	Review literature, incidents and issues to establish a watch list of emerging asbestos hazard issues to monitor, manage and promote information and learning's.	Commission ADRI to conduct literature review. Produce annual report.	HACA/ADRI	Ongoing	•	•	•	•

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7	<p>Review research priorities into asbestos-related issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exposure assessment and reducing exposure pathways • typical exposure levels for different asbestos activities • the size and extent of asbestos in the built environment • the size and extent of naturally occurring asbestos • efficient disposal methodologies as part of a long term disposal plan • practical control measures • health outcomes. 	Develop a 'roadmap' for future research priorities.	HACA	2 years		•	•	
8	Facilitate NSW government agencies' participation in partnership grants to fund priority research areas. Encourage partnerships and collaboration through interdisciplinary research and centres of research excellence in asbestos.	Develop a 'roadmap' for future research priorities that includes identification of potential research funding sources and opportunities for funding partnerships.	DDB/WorkCover Grants Scheme/ Environmental Education Trust	2 years		•	•	
9	<p>Develop an education campaign with a focus on 'home renovators' by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alerting those people to the dangers of asbestos • alerting those people as to what products may contain asbestos and where those products may be found in existing households or other environments • advising those people as to the steps that ought to be taken by people planning home renovations or who otherwise identify asbestos products in their home or other environment. 	<p>Develop and implement Asbestos Awareness Campaign 2013.</p> <p>Promote Betty the ADRI House throughout metropolitan, regional and rural areas of NSW. Promote asbestosawareness.com.au as a national resource.</p> <p>Initiate annual Asbestos Awareness Campaign through the Asbestos Education Committee.</p>	AEC	Ongoing	•	•	•	•

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10	Encourage media organisations to help promote asbestos awareness through the use of articles and television segments on asbestos risks and safety in relevant shows, magazines and other media.	Promote Betty the ADRI House and asbestos awareness website through magazine articles and other media.	WCA	Ongoing	•	•	•	•
11	Review all current guidance material to ensure accuracy, consistency and completeness.	The Demolition and Asbestos Consultative Committee (DACC) to identify and prioritise asbestos related guidance material requiring review. Review of identified guidance materials.	HACA/DACC	1 year	•			
12	Work with communities in regional, rural and remote regions of NSW, including the Aboriginal Land Councils and communities, to promote the safe management of asbestos.	Initial scoping of project in consultation with Local Government NSW and NSW State Aboriginal Land Council. Development of an action plan. Implement and promote the actions under the action plan (refer to Initiative 49).	HACA/LGNSW	2 years		•		
13	Develop a database of asbestos-containing products to improve knowledge of asbestos-containing materials and provide a reference tool for occupational hygienists, asbestos assessors, industry and the general community.	Develop image gallery database specifications and governance arrangements. Source images and content from agencies, councils and industry. Launch and promote image gallery.	HACA/WCA	2 years	•			
14	Undertake a coordinated government awareness raising campaign during National Asbestos Awareness Week held annually in November.	Refer to initiative 9.	HACA/ADFA/ AEC	Annual	•	•	•	•
15	Develop and issue a Model Asbestos Policy for NSW councils.	Implementation of Model Asbestos Policy launched in November 2012. Issue of Model Policy under Section 23a by Division of Local Government.	LGNSW NSW Councils HACA/DLG	2 years	✓ (2012) •	•		

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16	Assist councils to adopt and implement the Model Asbestos Policy.	Monitoring and assistance provided to NSW councils for adoption of Model Asbestos Policy. Liaise with NSW councils through specifically designed workshops, circulars, LG Weekly and relevant conferences and forums in metropolitan, regional and rural NSW. Respond to queries with advice and contacts for councils.	LGNSW/HACA	2 years	•	•		
17	Develop specific educative tools for training and workshops for local councils.	Deliver presentations to council staff members at conferences and forums and circulate presentations. Prepare information resources for councils such as guides, flow charts or flyers.	LGNSW/WCA/ EPA	1 year	•			
18	Develop a fact sheet for persons undertaking an exempt development that has identified asbestos is present.	Development of fact sheet.	DPI	1 year		•		
19	Promote the local council asbestos fact sheet for inclusion on local council websites.	Liaison with NSW councils to ensure local council fact sheet is uploaded or incorporated into the council website.	HACA	1 year	•			
20	Coordinate and disseminate information to local government through contact with individual councils and LGNSW to assist local government to ensure consistent information and advice is available to the public.	Provide information and educational resources for councils to offer the public.	LG NSW	2 years	•	•		
21	Provide awareness initiatives for relevant government agencies, local government planners, council and private certifiers, environmental health and building personnel and environmental regulators/educators on roles and responsibilities in relation to asbestos issues.	Liaise with professional institutes such as Environmental Health Australia and the Planning Institute of Australia to deliver targeted workshops that earn Continuing Professional Development Points.	WCA/DPI	2 years			•	•

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22	Review the role of private and council certifiers in relation to the certification of building works where asbestos is present through consultation with the Building Professionals Board.	Liaison between DPI and WorkCover.	WCA/DPI	2 years	•	•		
23	Develop practical guidelines/ protocols for the control of the risks of naturally occurring asbestos during excavation, building, mining and road works.	Liaison between WCA, EPA and DTRIS to develop guidance material.	WCA/EPA/ DTRIS	1 year		•		
24	Develop a practical guide for safe management of soil contaminated with asbestos-containing materials.	Liaison between WCA and EPA to develop guidance material.	WCA/EPA	1 year	•			
25	Provide improved mapping of naturally occurring asbestos and contaminated land sites in NSW to assist councils with land use planning.	Develop improved mapping and disseminate to NSW councils. Maintain up-to-date maps based on current knowledge.	DTRIS/EPA/ WCA	1 year	•			
26	Manage the stabilisation and risk mitigation works for the Woods Reef Mine site.	Public and council consultation on closure of Mine Road. Species Impact Statement and Environmental studies required to determine impact on large pie eared bat. Engage a consultant to develop and implement the Air Monitoring and Health Risk Assessment Project on site. Remediation work according to schedule.	DTRIS/ Woodsreef Taskforce	Ongoing	• • •			• • •
27	Alert importers and suppliers to the risks and control measures to prevent the illegal import of asbestos goods.	Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities (HWSA) Imported Materials with Asbestos Working Group to develop a rapid response protocol and other strategies for the detection and control of prohibited asbestos containing imports.	WCA/HWSA/ Australian Customs and Border Protection	Ongoing	•	•	•	•

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28	Identify high risk imported goods that could contain asbestos including the purchase of asbestos products online.	Establish liaison protocol between Australian Customs and Border Protection and state jurisdictions through the HWSA Imported Materials with Asbestos Working Group for improved communication of imported/exported detection issues.	WCA/HWSA/ Australian Customs and Border Protection	Ongoing	•	•	•	•
29	Promote implementation of workplace asbestos <i>Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011</i> and codes of practice which commenced from 1 January 2012.	Asbestos and demolition Webinars. Industry liaison through the Demolition and Asbestos Consultative Committee.	WCA	Ongoing	•	•	•	•
30	Develop and maintain a comprehensive demolition and asbestos strategy to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of workers is protected.	Develop and implement Demolition and Asbestos Consultative Committee (DACC) Work Plan 2013. Revise and implement Demolition and Asbestos Consultative Committee (DACC) Work Plan (refer to initiative 34).	WCA/DACC	Ongoing	•	•	•	•
31	Target high risk occupations such as asbestos removalists, building, construction and electricity industry supply workers, waste and landfill operators, carpenters, plumbers, electricians and automotive mechanics to improve awareness, knowledge and skills in the safe handling of asbestos-containing materials.	Establishment of Electrical Industry Asbestos Safety Working Group to ensure the effective management and control of asbestos in the NSW electrical industry and to secure good practice management of workers with asbestos-related diseases. Review training requirements and conduct compliance audit of Electrical Industry and develop improvement plan. Incorporate trade information on asbestos awareness website to increase asbestos knowledge across all construction and building trades. Promotion of trades information (refer to initiative 33).	WCA	Ongoing	✓ (2012) •		•	•

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32	Undertake an annual compliance and enforcement monitoring and targeted audit program for licensed asbestos removalists and asbestos assessors with a focus on training, health monitoring, safety management systems and safe disposal (checking of landfill receipts).	Conduct planned and targeted audits on licence holders and asbestos assessors with a focus on training, health monitoring, safety management systems and safe disposal of asbestos waste.	WCA	Annually	•	•	•	•
33	Ensure ongoing inclusion of information on asbestos safety in training for apprentices in the building, construction, automotive and electrical supply trades.	Liaise with National Skills Council to seek incorporate asbestos awareness training into apprenticeships for all construction and trades courses. Report on incorporation of asbestos awareness in trades courses.	WCA	Ongoing	•			
34	Develop and foster industry networks such as the Demolition and Asbestos Consultative Committee to promote the safe management of asbestos.	Work and liaise closely with the Demolition and Asbestos Consultative Committee (DACC) to identify annual Work Plans to help promote the safe management of asbestos within their industry (refer to initiative 30).	WCA/DACC	Ongoing	•	•	•	•
35	Require NSW government agencies to be exemplars of asbestos management and ensure that all government buildings, including government owned housing, have current asbestos management plans and asbestos registers.	Liaison with Government Property NSW to establish program to identify and assess status of government properties asbestos registers and asbestos management plans. Develop action plan to address any areas of non-compliance. Follow up action plan with government agencies as required to ensure asbestos registers and asbestos management plans are in place.	WCA/GP NSW	Ongoing	•			
36	Ensure sufficient procedures are in place for the approval of asbestos assessor licenses responsible for air monitoring and clearance inspections/certificates for friable asbestos removal work.	Asbestos Assessor Applications Forms released. A guide to completing the asbestos assessor application forms released. Develop standard criteria and procedures to the asbestos assessor approval process. Compliance program for asbestos assessors (refer to initiative 32).	WCA	Ongoing	• • •			• • •

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37	Develop guidance material to assist asbestos assessors for undertaking the assessment of friable asbestos removal work.	Develop guidance material for asbestos assessors (refer to initiative 11).	WCA	1 year	•			
38	Publish a listing of licensed asbestos removalists, demolition contractors and asbestos assessors on the WorkCover website.	Development and implementation of asbestos and demolition licence holder web search facility. Promotion of web search facility to all asbestos and demolition contractors.	WCA	1 year	✓ (2012) •			
39	Increase the awareness of the homeowners when purchasing or renovating/ maintaining a property that may contain asbestos.	Promotion of Betty the ADRI House and the asbestos awareness website throughout NSW and at key events such as the HIA Sydney Home Show.	AEC	Ongoing	•	•	•	•
40	Implement a pilot program of home renovator asbestos removal kits similar to a program implemented by La Trobe Council, Victoria to promote the safe removal of asbestos in small home renovation jobs.	Launch of Waste Less, Recycle More Initiative through the EPA. Development and scope of pilot project for home asbestos kits. Conduct Pilot Program.	HACA/EPA	3 years	•	•	•	
41	Develop guidance material for the laundering of asbestos contaminated clothing and equipment for emergency personnel.	Liaison with emergency services and current laundry facilities authorised to accept contaminated clothing and equipment to develop accurate and consistent guidance material.	WCA in consultation with emergency services organisations	2 years	•	•		
42	Promote bi-annual exercises to test current emergency guidelines to ensure appropriate response levels for asbestos incidents.	Review learning from 2013 emergency responses and develop an approach for biannual emergency exercises. Conduct bi-annual exercise.	HACA/ Emergency Services/LG NSW. Emergency Services.	Bi-annually	•	•		•
43	Promote asbestos-related emergency response plans through relevant government and council websites.	Review learning from 2013 emergency responses and develop a template of asbestos-related emergency response plans. Promote template through LGNSW. Update Asbestos Blueprint to reflect agreed arrangements.	HACA	2 years	• •	•	•	

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44	Encourage the use of economic incentives through the waste levy scheme to support the safe handling and disposal of small (household) quantities of asbestos waste.	Launch of Waste Less, Recycle More Initiative. EPA to consult with HACA members on the design and delivery of actions relating to asbestos in the Illegal Dumping Strategy. Development and scope of actions contained in the Illegal Dumping Strategy of the Waste Less, Recycle More Initiative.	HACA/EPA	Ongoing	•			
45	Promote and expand the existence and use of the Regional Illegal Dumping Program in regional and rural areas to improve appropriate disposal of asbestos waste.	Launch of Waste Less, Recycle More Initiative through the EPA. Establish, monitor and report on RID Programs.	EPA/LGNSW	Ongoing	•			
46	Promote the piloting of waste tracing technology.	Launch of Waste Less, Recycle More Initiative through the EPA. Promote and report on the piloting of waste tracing technology.	EPA	Ongoing	•			
47	Provide public land managers with information and technical support.	Launch of Waste Less, Recycle More Initiative through the EPA. Develop and promote information and provide technical support to public land managers in regard to Illegal Dumping Strategy. Report on activities (refer to initiative 45).	EPA/WCA	Ongoing	•			
48	Consider and plan to accommodate future expected needs of disposed asbestos materials and reduce barriers for safe disposal.	Launch of Waste Less, Recycle More Initiative through the EPA. Review and consider implications from the Office of Asbestos Safety research into capacity of landfill sites in Australia. Develop, plan and implement agreed landfill site management initiatives contained in the Illegal Dumping Strategy of the Waste Less, Recycle More Initiative.	EPA/LG NSW	Ongoing	•			

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49	Undertake an annual regulatory campaign focussing on illegal dumping in regional, rural and remote regions of NSW, including the aboriginal communities, to help promote the safe management of asbestos.	Plan and conduct annual targeted audit program.	EPA	Annually	•	•	•	•
50	Undertake an annual regulatory campaign focussing on recycled waste products such as aggregate, green waste and concrete to assist industry with meeting their regulatory obligations.	Plan and conduct annual targeted audit program.	EPA	Annually	•	•	•	•
51	Undertake an annual regulatory campaign focussing on the transport and disposal of asbestos removalists to assist industry with meeting their regulatory obligations.	Plan and conduct annual targeted audit program.	EPA	Annually	•	•	•	•
52	Review the <i>Guide: Management of asbestos in construction and demolition waste</i> (catalogue no. WC02772) to incorporate other forms of recycling products such as concrete, green waste and compost.	Liaison between WCA, EPA, DACC to review and amend the <i>Guide: Management of asbestos in construction and demolition waste</i> (catalogue no. WC02772) to incorporate other forms of recycling products such as concrete, green waste and compost.	EPA/WCA/ DACC	1 year	•			
53	Provide education to landfill operators on the requirements relating to the disposal of asbestos waste.	Liaison between WCA and EPA to develop guidance material to assist landfill operators with the safe disposal of asbestos waste, including operators of council operated landfills (refer to initiative 48).	EPA/WCA	1 year	•			
54	Identify opportunities for improved coordination and a national approach to asbestos issues, including participation in the National Asbestos Management Review.	Representation on cross jurisdictional working party to assist with the development of the National Strategic Asbestos Plan. Participate and assist with initiatives outlined in the National Strategic Asbestos Plan as required.	HACA	Ongoing	•			
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55	Monitor and review the NSW State-wide Asbestos Plan.	Conduct an annual review of the initiatives outlined in the State-wide Asbestos Plan to ensure the outcomes are met within the set timeframes and to identify if any further amendments or inclusions are required. Release Annual Review in July.	HACA	Annually		•	•	•
56	Review and promote the Asbestos Blueprint which outlines the roles and responsibilities of local government and state agencies.	Liaison with NSW Councils to promote the roles and responsibilities outlined in the Asbestos Blueprint (refer to initiatives 16 and 17).	LG NSW/HACA	2 years	•	•		
57	Monitor and review the implementation of the Model Asbestos Policy for NSW councils.	Survey councils to determine the number of councils to have adopted an asbestos policy or refined an existing policy based on the Model Policy.	LG NSW	1 year	•			
58	Work with other state and national jurisdictions to encourage consistency in compensation arrangements for victims of asbestos-related disease.	Provide policy input into the Select Council of Workplace Relations Minister's consideration of this issue.	DDB	Ongoing	•	•	•	•
59	Promote collaborative information, advice and regulatory services across agencies.	Conduct regular meetings of the HACA and HACA Working Group to promote collaboration and consistency in approaches. Provide Year in Review Report on HACA activities (refer to initiative 6).	Cross agency	Ongoing	•	•	•	•
60	Identify, develop and progress partnerships with stakeholders, local councils and government agencies.	Maintain a database of stakeholders contacts including NSW Councils, industry, unions and government agencies to promote HACA activities and partnership opportunities.	HACA	Ongoing	•	•	•	•
61	Undertake coordinated monitoring and enforcement of asbestos removal and disposal work.	Report on monitoring and enforcement programs (refer to initiatives 32, 35, 36, 49–51)	WCA/EPA/ Health/NSW Councils	Ongoing	•	•	•	•
62	Strengthen cross agency information sharing of regulatory monitoring, enforcement actions and statutory breaches of work health and safety, and environmental legislation.	Develop a HACA database of asbestos enforcement actions – notices, prosecutions etc. Provide an annual report on compliance and enforcement actions.	WCA/EPA/ Health/NSW Councils	Ongoing	•	•	•	•

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