

Draft Phase Three Asbestos National Strategic Plan (ANSP) Consultation summary



Comprehensive communication strategy



1065 emails
to stakeholders



16 social media posts



15,919 impressions



352 reactions



19 reposts



Consultation process

- ▶ Public comment ran from 4 September to 13 October 2023.
- ▶ **15 workshops** held in September to October - 12 in person and 3 online webinars with **192 online**, **106 in person** totalling **298 attendances**.
- ▶ **38 submissions** - 25 individual survey responses and 13 written submissions.



Participants

- ▶ Federal and State government agencies and regulators across a range of areas
- ▶ Local Government
- ▶ Employer and industry representatives
- ▶ Unions
- ▶ Advocacy and support groups
- ▶ Asbestos professionals
- ▶ Researchers



Common themes that emerged were:



Training

Quality training is needed for workers in a wide range of occupations where asbestos exposure is a risk. This includes specific tailored training programs for CALD and Indigenous workforce.



Disaster Events

Responding effectively to disaster events when asbestos-containing materials are involved.



Waste Tracking

Nationally consistent waste tracking systems integrated with removal processes.



Point of Sale Disclosure

Point of sale and rent disclosure for commercial and residential properties.



Indigenous, Regional and Remote

Focus on asbestos removal and disposal in regional and remote areas including Indigenous housing.



Action on Removal

A more proactive approach to removal consistent with the hierarchy of control is imperative.




Workforce Capacity

Ensuring there is a trained and competent workforce available to perform assessment, removal and disposal.




What we heard


General

 The ANSP should include more background, contextual and statistical information.


Principles

 The five principles were generally accepted however it was suggested that best practice, commitment to prioritised action, education, and engagement be included.


Priorities

 The priority areas to prevent exposure to asbestos fibres have been identified, however there should be a shift in language from management to risk control and prioritised removal. The ANSP should include an additional aim regarding supporting workers and others impacted by disease.


Enablers

 Key enablers were identified, however participants indicated that jurisdictional coordination and collaboration could also be included as an enabler. Participants also identified that barriers to achieving change could be included such as removal and disposal costs, workforce capability and lack of awareness about asbestos and legal requirements.


National Action Plan

 The actions contained in the National Action Plan were also seen as important and necessary with several suggestions for wording changes and further inclusions, however concern was expressed about whether governments had the resources to implement them.

Performance Measures

 Many participants highlighted the need for target setting against jurisdictional action plans with some suggesting jurisdictions should set their own targets. It was proposed there should be headline targets that can be measured using national data. It was also suggested to align the performance measures with aims or priorities of the ANSP.

Roles and Responsibilities

 Some of the key themes that emerged from the consultation was participants desired an understanding of who was responsible for the implementation of the actions and performance measurement reporting. Many participants identified further inclusion of emergency services, health and safety representatives, real estate agents, recycling, and waste industry. It was a common suggestion that the National Action Plan includes a column which identifies the lead for particular actions. Another common suggestion was that roles and responsibilities be specified upfront in the plan.

“
A very thorough National Action Plan.
Shire of Waroona”

“
A lot of passionate people progressing necessary changes. Keep up the good work.
Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade - Northern Territory”

“
We have the opportunity with this NSP to choose a higher road and faster removal path that will see Australia asbestos free sooner. This will save lives.
Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU)”