

**Submission
No 6**

INQUIRY INTO LOOSE FILL ASBESTOS INSULATION

Organisation: Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia Inc

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**ASBESTOS DISEASES FOUNDATION
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15 October 2014

Parliament of New South Wales
Joint Select Committee on loose Fill Asbestos Insulation

**Attention: Revd. the Hon Fred Nile MLC
Committee Chairman**

Dear Mr. Nile,

Re: Inquiry into Loose Fill Asbestos Insulation

On behalf of the Executive Committee of ADFA, we would like to thank you for asking for our opinion on the above inquiry.

Firstly, we support the inquiry that your committee is conducting and provide our comments in relation to the terms of reference of the inquiry.

Of particular interest to ADFA, is the role of State and Local Governments in providing notice where loose fill asbestos has been used, providing advice and assistance to home owners and renovators and the removal and disposal of asbestos.

ADFA has had concerns for some time regarding "the role of State and Local Governments to advise and assist home owners and occupiers to reduce the risk posed by loose fill asbestos insulation" (paragraph (c) of the terms of reference). We believe there should be national standards which all State and Local Governments should agree to regarding reducing the risk posed by loose fill asbestos, as the problem caused by loose fill asbestos is the same across all states and local government areas.

Most people, whether they are home owners, landlords, tenants, renovators (tradespeople or home renovators) or emergency service officers are not aware of what loose fill asbestos is, let alone how to remove or dispose of it safely. We are also concerned that when we talk to younger Australians, they seem to believe the worry of asbestos is over? We of course know that is far from the true and need to get this message across to our younger generations how dangerous the removal of asbestos is, and still as dangerous as it has always been.

With regard to paragraph (d) of the terms of reference, we would like to suggest the legislation be introduced to require Certificates to be issued in relation to the presence of asbestos insulation in houses, similar to that of Building Certificate, Pest Certificate or Pool Fence Certificate, i.e. all homes are required to have an inspection by a qualified professional to certify whether the house has asbestos present and if so, details of its type and location.

ADFA would like to thank you again for considering our opinion regarding the inquiry as we strongly believe the message regarding the dangers of handling asbestos in any form needs to be has told to everyone.

If you would like to discuss our comments or concerns, we would be happy to meet with you or hold a telephone conference at your convenience, please contact our office.

Thank you again.

Yours sincerely,
ASBESTOS DISEASE FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

EILEEN DAY
Secretary