

Submission  
No 4

## INQUIRY INTO LOOSE FILL ASBESTOS INSULATION

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date received:** 29/10/2014

---

Partially Confidential

As of 2013 My fiancée and I had been together for 13 years and had decided to start a new family in the Canberra region. We have both traveled over 25 countries together and found Canberra to be one of the cleanest and safest cities we have been to and this is why we wanted to begin this family and new chapter in our lives here. Luckily for us both My partner fell pregnant in January 2013 with twins and we had a deposit for a home and found a beautiful old house in Queanbeyan N.S.W to begin what i thought would be an amazing start for our new family.... I was Wrong.

We purchased the house and the building inspection stated no thermal insulation installed, but there was a small amount of termite damage which was our most major concern. This would soon be the least of our worries. Within a few months of moving in I went in to the roof cavity to see if there was any form of insulation or anything because it was bitterly cold in the house during winter. There was remnants of a substance in and around the beams of the house which I picked up and looked at. It was a fibrous looking material which I had never seen before and now wish I had never seen in my life. Unfortunately after a few inquiries and an official Asbestos diagnosis of what sort of insulation it could have been it turns out that it is Amosite asbestos. Loose fill, by mr Fluffy. A name that is now etched in my mind every day I walk into this house. Prior to purchasing this house I had never even heard of this.

I feel conned by our real estate agent and previous landlords. I personally believe they knew of its existence in the roof and were so eager to sell the house, accepting an offer so quickly of \$10k less than they were asking. Seemed good to us at the time but it makes sense now why they allowed such a quick sale. Who would not want to get rid of this!!

We approached the city council about what we had found in our roof cavity and was deeply saddened by the fact that there is no set legislation or anything in place to helping with the removal of it and no legislation that pre 1980 homes that could be affected to be sold with a full asbestos report. The council did not even have our house on the register for mr Fluffy. So if we were not on the register who removed the vast majority of the loose fill asbestos from our roof cavity and where did it go? Local tip probably in garbage bags would be my guess. Probably now blowing around in the wind. If you read the asbestos report I have attached there is a section where it states and i quote " If removal has taken place, it has clearly been performed improperly given the material remaining". So would this not mean previous owners must have known it was up there? With no help from the council it seems I had just purchased someone elses problem.

Now I am not a highly educated person yet would it not seem common sense that if a house is sold in an area that has been deeply affected by mr fluffy that an asbestos report must be obtained prior to sale?? Would it not seem common sense that this report is to protect the health of the future owners and occupiers of the house, tradespeople, friends visiting, relatives staying & neighbors. Oh yes, Neighbors let me touch base on that topic. Our roof when we moved in had 2 very large sections big enough to crawl through on the underneath of the eaves of the house that led straight in to the roof cavity. Hmmm asbestos blowing around in the wind anyone?? Sorry neighbors.

An option might be to sell the house to get away from this problem now, but i see two problems with this. 1. Morally I could not do this to a fellow citizen without notifying them what is in their roof void which would undoubtedly kill any chance of a sale of the house and 2, who is to say I do not move in to a house with a neighbor that has holes in their eaves and is blowing mr fluffy right through my front door!!!!

Not meaning to be too negative, sarcastic or anything with this email but please understand the frustration that I feel purchasing this house, the governments knowing about this issue nearly my whole life and it is still unresolved, and especially the news I read today that the ACT is getting \$1bn help from the commonwealth to fund the buyback and demolition of these affected homes once and for all and the same does not come across the border. Really??

Please, Please push for this in N.S.W for no other reason in my opinion than to fix this problem for the future health of Australian citizens, my Children, and there Children.

Many Thanks,

I have sent a picture of Myself with my family, here is the reason - These are the real people Mr Fluffy and this whole situation affects.