

G.A.R.D.S. INC. NEWSLETTER

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DID YOU KNOW

- 99.7% OF PEOPLE WITH UP TO 10 YEARS EXPOSURE WHO WORKED AT THE SEC & WHO DEVELOP ASB. LUNG CANCER NEVER CLAIM FOR COMPO.
- AT MINISTER JOHN LENDER'S MEDIA CONFERENCE HE SAID THERE WERE 40 CLAIMS ON THE SEC BOOKS INSTEAD OF THE REAL NUMBER OF 402.
- GARDS & LV STORY WENT GLOBAL THRU AAP REUTERS & BBC (LIVE)

LOSS, GRIEF AND BEREAVEMENT COURSE

GARDS has arranged a short course in Loss, Grief and Bereavement with Gilead Downs Family Therapy Centre, Trafalgar for some of our executive and anyone else who may be interested in doing the course.

The director Dr. Harvey Miller has taught counseling and family therapy and practiced as a family therapist both here in Australia and overseas since 1981. Dr. Miller is also an accredited counsellor, counselling supervisor and educator with the National Association for Loss and Grief (NALAG), and for eleven years was the Campbell Edwards Lecturer in Pastoral Studies at a national Theological College in Melbourne.

The course will consist of 4 x 3 hour sessions. The course is for people who want to

develop a sound understanding of the nature of loss and grief, and gain skills in caring for people who have experienced loss and bereavement and become more confident in offering support to grieving and bereaved people.

The course will cost approx \$120 per person (we have applied for funding and hope to be able to off set this cost for participants). The course will be conducted at the GARDS premises on 4 consecutive Fridays which will commence at 1.00pm—4.00pm If you are interested in doing this course it will be conducted in approx May-June. If you would like to know more about this course and would like



Understanding Loss, Grief and Bereavement

some brochures on this you can contact Vicki Hamilton at the GARDS office or at home on 51278219.

This course is for anyone who wants a better understanding of people who are in grief and loss.

GARDS Inc. Goes West!

GARDS Inc. is setting up a Melbourne-based chapter to provide information, referral and support about asbestos. Called Asbestos Information and Referral-GARDS Inc. (or AIR-GARDS), the initiative will aim to provide a basic

level of support and information. Over the next three months, we hope to have a shared office and meeting space in the Melbourne-CBD (near Flinders St.), establish a support group, and a telephone advisory

service

(1 day per week). Financial support for AIR-GARDS is being sought from the State government and other organisations.

Continued page 3

First-year Monash Medical Students Learn about the Latrobe Valley

As reported in the March edition of *GARDS Inc. Newsletter*, first year Monash medical students were about to learn about the asbestos problem in the Latrobe Valley, the result of an initiative by Dr. Tony LaMontagne, Monash Medical School. On Tuesday, 9th April, Lyle Seear & Cheryl Wragg (GARDS Inc.) and Peter Gibbons (AMWU) travelled out to Monash Clayton, where we met other 'resource people' for the ten groups of students: occupational physicians, government officers, medical researchers, media, as well as GARDS. We were taken to

meet our students, forty-four in all, and we spent the next two hours talking with them, and answering questions about the LV asbestos problem from a worker/union/survivor perspective.

Student response has been very positive, feed-back from Monash tutors is that they have never seen first year students so engaged! Lyle Seear said "I think it was valuable, they seemed to get a lot out of it and so did we. We want good doctors and we are very pleased at the opportunity to help them become good doctors. It's a very positive step".



'Visiting Law Professor addresses GARDS' Inc.

Visiting Professor of law, Harry Glasbeek, has been invited as the guest presenter at the next GARDS Advocacy meeting, Tuesday May 21st.

(We will send out a notice to confirm his attendance and remind you about this event).

Professor Glasbeek, from York University in Canada, specialises in corporate criminality including industrial murder and manslaughter, and corporate social responsibility.

This includes knowledge of occupational exposure to asbestos and related disease and death with a particu-

lar focus on North America.

Professor Glasbeek is also familiar with the Latrobe Valley situation - in the 1950s when he was a student he worked for the SECV at Yallourn power stations over two summer seasons!

This should be a special event and we invite you to come along.

Reminder: Guest presenter at the June GARDS Advocacy meeting is David Pargeter, Director, Social Justice Unit, Uniting Church. David will speak about the role of his Unit and his time as industrial chaplain in the SECV, Latrobe Valley.

' News Special: Coming Soon - GARDS reveals government numbers

By now, most people would be aware of FOI documents requested by GARDS from the Victorian Managed Insurance Authority and the SECV.

They begin to reveal the size of the asbestos problem in the Latrobe Valley.

We are compiling a special hand-out showing and summarising the information for GARDS members .

We will send this on to GARDS members via a special mail-out.



FOI documents start revealing the real picture

LEGAL LINE - GAYE TREVAN

I have worked in the area of asbestos litigation almost exclusively for the past 13 years. In upcoming editions of this newsletter, I intend to give you some examples of the types of legal cases that are now presenting in relation to asbestos disease. However, I first want to try to dispel some myths about the bringing of claims because it seems that the statistics of those diagnosed with asbestos disease don't correlate with the numbers of people receiving compensation.

Did you know that it is possible to bring a claim against a company that is no longer in existence? You can. Investigations are undertaken to identify the workers' compensation insurer at the time, and once found, the claim proceeds just as any other.

If you were self employed, you might think you'd have no one to sue. Wrong. A claim could be brought against the manufacturer of the asbestos products worked with, or the occupier of the premises where the exposure occurred. Smoking in conjunction with asbestos exposure, greatly increases the risk of contracting lung cancer. If a diagnosis of lung cancer is made,

provided there are medical indicators of asbestos exposure, there is an entitlement to claim compensation, regardless of a smoking history.

It's also worthwhile noting that:

- Involvement for the person who brings the claim can be greatly minimized.
- Resolution of claims is quick, usually between three and six months.
- 99% of asbestos claims settle out of court.
- Compensation is usually in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.
- A claim should be initiated during the persons lifetime.
- You should not be asked to fund the case.

Gaye Trevan is a legal executive with Maurice Blackburn Cashman. Register your exposure on their asbestos specific database by telephoning (03) 9605 2729, or contact GARDS Inc.

A Prayer from Les Medley, industrial chaplain.

Source of all life,

We are grateful for the cherished memory of our loved ones: *Yet we hope their memory finds an appropriate place in the rest of our living.*

Their dying has left unfinished business: *Give us the inspiration and passion to fulfill dreams.*

We realize the physical death is an inevitable part of living: *Urge us to live life to the full with eager expectation.*

Death confronts us with an ultimate mystery: *Help us to respect life with humility, sacredness and awe.*

Remembering, thanksgiving and hope heals our grief, from it new hope is born: *Affirm us as new selves, help us to embrace a new and authentic future, faithfully and in peace.*

It is the power of love that enables us. It transcends time and space and the boundaries between life and death: *Steadfast love and hope never ceases. It is faithfully there, anew every morning, May we be at Peace.*

The Lord Bless you and watch over you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look kindly on you and give you peace.

'GARDS Inc. Goes West' from page 1

While the Latrobe Valley has the highest concentration of asbestos-related disease in the State, asbestos was used in buildings and other infrastructure all over Victoria. Much of this asbestos is still out there dispersed across the community just like the asbestos disease occurring in Melbourne but spread

across a far bigger population than the Latrobe Valley. This makes it much harder for asbestos disease sufferers to find each other and develop networks of mutual support. Through AIR-GARDS we hope to create a much needed contact point.



AIR-GARDS will provide a telephone information service

GIPPSLAND ASBESTOS RELATED DISEASES SUPPORT INC.

36-38 Darlimurla Avenue
Newborough 3825

PO Box 111
Moe
VICTORIA 3825

Phone: 51281218
Fax: 51273844
Email: gards@datafast.net.au

GUARDING THE COMMUNITY

G.A.R.D.S. INC.

GIPPSLAND ASBESTOS RELATED DISEASES SUPPORT INC.

GARDS Inc. SUPPORT

Provides support & information to asbestos sufferers, their families & carers. This includes home visits by GARDS volunteers, a telephone advice service, & drop-in service at GARDS office. GARDS Inc. support also conducts a monthly meeting (1.30pm-3.30pm on the last Tuesday of the month) where guest presenters are invited to provide information about regional support services, and other areas of interest & assistance. The meetings also provide a gathering place for experiences. GARDS Support is open to anyone exposed to asbestos or suffering from asbestos disease.

GARDS Inc. ADVOCACY

Is the organizational, activities & advocating arm of GARDS Inc. GARDS Advocacy meetings are 7.30pm-9.30pm on the third Tuesday evening of the month providing a focal point for information sharing, problem identification & campaign development. People interested in becoming active in GARDS Inc. ADVOCACY & have voting rights are required to take out GARDS membership & annual. GARDS Inc. ADVOCACY is focused on improving health support services & compensation arrangements to asbestos sufferers, & their families, ensuring asbestos-related issues are kept in the public eye, & ridding our environment of asbestos.

ABOUT G.A.R.D.S. INC.

EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT:

Lyle Seear Ph. 51671376

VICE PRESIDENT:

Trevor Callow Ph. 51342208

SECRETARY:

Cheryl Wragg Ph. 51273790

ASSISTANT SECRETARY/ TREASURER:

Vicki Hamilton Ph. 51278219

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS:

Dorothy Roberts Ph. 51274174

Fay Needham Ph. 51272038

GARDS MEMBERSHIP FEE:

\$4.95

GARDS ANNUAL FEE:

\$11.00 (EMPLOYED)

\$2.75 (PENSION/CONC.)

THE GARDS OFFICE IS OPEN

MONDAY: 9.30AM-2.30PM

TUESDAY: 1.00PM-3.00PM

THURSDAY: 12 NOON-3.00PM

FRIDAY: BY APPOINTMENT

Call in for a chat and cuppa

GARDS SUPPORT MEETINGS:

Last Tuesday of the month, 1.30pm-3.30pm

GARDS ADVOCACY MEETINGS:

3rd Tuesday evening of the month, 7.30pm-9.30pm

UP AND COMING EVENTS

GARDS SUPPORT:

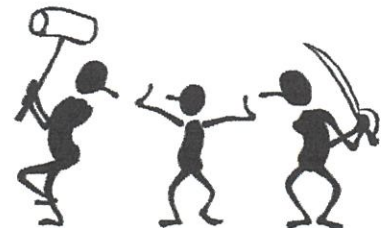
April: Palliative Care

May: To be announced

GARDS ADVOCACY:

May: Professor Harry Glasbeek, York University, Canada (to be confirmed)

June: David Pargeter, Director of Social Justice Unit, Uniting Church



ALL FOR ONE, ONE FOR ALL