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Asbestos Council of Victoria (ACV) and
Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support Inc (GARDS)



ASBESTOS

NEWS

INCORPORATING SILICA

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ACV/GARDS Metro based support group opens



Pictured here is the crew from ACV/GARDS and members of Amaroo Neighbourhood Centre.

9th of September our new arm of ACV/GARDS opened in the Melbourne suburb of Chadstone. At Amaroo Neighbourhood Centre – 34 Amaroo Street – Chadstone. ACV/GARDS received sponsorship from 3 organisations to open a support group arm in the metro area for asbestos & silica sufferers and their families – the sponsors are CFMEU, Gordon Legal and Maurice Blackburn.

Our Asbestos & Silicosis Support group was launched at Amaroo Neighbourhood Centre in Chadstone. ACV/GARDS has expanded its services to support those diagnosed with silicosis and their

families. To date over 200 workers' have registered for health check testing with WorkSafe Vic, a lot of those who have registered are from the engineered stone benchtop industry – there have already been cases of silicosis, including the worst form of the disease - progressive massive fibrous. So, both our Metro and Regional support groups will be supporting asbestos and silica sufferers and their families into the future.

We are very pleased to announce that Maitea Lovric, who is a registered nurse, will conduct the support group the second Monday in the month. Maitea and her husband Tony accessed the support of ACV/GARDS 13 years ago when her husband Tony Medina was diagnosed with mesothelioma.

Tony had a lot of involvement with ACV/

GARDS and we held Tony and Maitea in high regard. Along that journey with him and his family we got to know all of them personally through family events in their lives.

When Tony passed away 11 years ago it was a tragic loss to Maitea and the family and it was also a terrific loss to the community Tony had served – he was an organiser with the CFMEU and was highly regarded by his peers.

Maitea knows only too well what sufferers and their families go through after a diagnosis of a terminal disease. She is a perfect fit for the support of sufferers and families who are experiencing an occupational disease.

For info on the group Call Maitea on 0481 987 953.

**MAJOR SPONSOR
OF ACV/GARDS**



**SPONSOR FOR THIS
EDITION**



**GARDS is endorsed as a charity.
Donations of \$2.00 and over are
tax deductible.**



FIND US ON FACEBOOK
You can find our link on the home page of the ACV/GARDS website or at our facebook.com/gardsinc.



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
twitter.com/VickiHamilton@ACV_GARDS

Role call on Asbestos Awareness sessions to TAFE Apprentices

ACV/GARDS have been very busy this second half of the year conducting asbestos awareness sessions and over the entire year of 2019 we will have talked to apprentice Carpenters, Plumbers, Electricians, Motor Mechanics, Fitter & Turners, Engineers, Boiler makers, etc.

It has already been a privilege and honour reaching so many apprentices in their fields to make them asbestos aware. We have a few more in the coming months to conduct and we look forward to meeting more apprentices next year 2020. The conversations have been many and varied with some very controversial subjects

tackled. It is also very warming to us to have their trade teachers chime into some of the conversations that are taking place about their experiences in the trade and what happened to them when they were first starting out and through their careers. As you can see by the pics over the next few pages we have met with many hundreds of apprentices this year and will be meeting many more next year – we hope that we touch their lives enough that it makes a difference to the way they go about their jobs and that they never forgot that asbestos is a carcinogen and harmful to human life. We want them to ask the questions if they think it is asbestos or suspect it might be – is this asbestos? Looking for a register for the site – asking their employers – and remembering that their life is the most important thing and we want them to

go home at the end of the day in the same safe manner they went to work. No one has the right to expose you to asbestos – no one!

The photos are of individual classes be it Carpenters, Plumbers etc on the dates they are labelled – All the apprentices asked many and varied questions, they were thought provoking and evoked many conversations and information sharing. ACV/GARDS went away with a good sense of what is happening in the working space of apprentice tradies.

We wish all the apprentices our very best wishes in their chosen trades and we hope that they are now more asbestos aware!!!

Chisholm TAFE - Frankston *Carpenters*



Chisholm TAFE - Berwick & Frankston *Carpenters*



Make a Donation

DID YOU KNOW?
You can make an online donation to our group at our home page www.gards.org or using the secure engine of GiveNow.com.au



Chisholm TAFE - Berwick Plumbers



Chisholm TAFE - Frankston Plumbers



Bendigo TAFE Painting Decorating Plumbing



Chisholm TAFE - Dandenong *Carpenters*

ASSORTED DATES



Chisholm TAFE - Frankston *Plumbers*





TAFE Gippsland - Newborough *All Trades*



Melbourne Polytechnic TAFE - Epping *Painting & Decorating*



Chisholm TAFE - Berwick Plumbers & Electricians



The Gordon Geelong TAFE Painting & Decorating



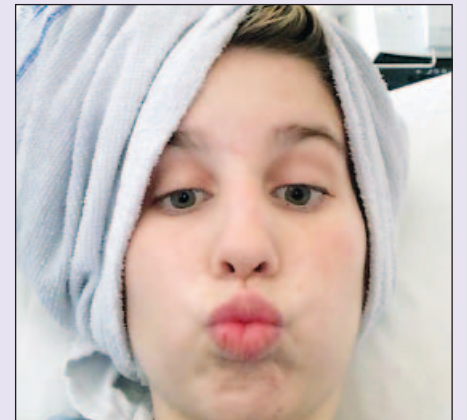
Remember this heading last year? Girl, 14, is one of world's youngest to have asbestos-related cancer

Just an update to tell you that Macie Greening is doing well this last 12 months and has had a 12 hours op for her peritoneal mesothelioma only a few months ago.

She also had her 15th birthday in July 2019 – at this present time Macie is a happy girl – This exert is straight from Macie's Army facebook site 18/10 –

Macie has been having CT scans, MRI's and all the usual check ups. On today's hospital visit she got weighed and amazingly she's now in the 40s! She's 40.1 kg this is so good.

She also went to school yesterday for



a whole day which is another good thing as she's been having a few hours of home tuition and an hour a day at school, went to the college open day last night. Keep eating up girl it's all going in the right direction.

Dr Ryan Hoy – Occupational Respiratory Physician

Artificial stone and silicosis



*Dr Ryan Hoy
- Respiratory
Physician and
Senior Research
Fellow, Monash
University*

Despite occupational silica dust exposure being one of the earliest recognised causes of lung disease, Australia is currently witnessing an appalling outbreak of silica-related disease.

Artificial stone has become commonplace to produce household benchtops over the last 20 years but there has been a clear failure to recognise the risk associated with this high silica containing material. In 2018, one of the first health screening programs undertaken at two benchtop stonemasonry businesses identified one third of all workers to have silicosis.(1)

Artificial stone (also referred to as engineered, agglomerated or reconstituted stone and quartz conglomerate) is a very high silica containing material. Slabs of stone are manufactured by mixing finely crushed rock with a polymeric resin and pigments, then molded into shape and heat-cured. (2) The silica content of artificial stone is typically over 90%, which is far higher than the natural stones which have traditionally been used to produce benchtops (marble 3%, granite 30% on average).

Artificial stone materials were introduced into Australia in the early 2000s and since then have become an extremely popular choice for benchtops. In comparison to marble, artificial stone is far cheaper, is stain resistant and is available in a wide range of colours.

By 2010 artificial stone accounted for 32% of all new benchtops in Australia, increasing to 45% in 2016.(3) Australian stone benchtop companies import slabs of artificial stone from the manufacturer. The benchtop fabricators will process the slab of stone based on client specifications. Workers cut the slabs to the required size, create cut-outs for sinks and tap wear, and polish the final product. Commonly workers will use high powered hand tools such as grinders. Without controls, this process generated extremely high levels of very fine silica dust in the breathing zone of the worker. A 2015 study noted that cutting artificial stone without water dust suppression (dry cutting) resulted in levels of silica dust 150 times

above the recommended limit of exposure for a 30 minute period.(4) Even with the use of water and local exhaust ventilation during cutting, the level of silica generated was double the recommended limits, reflecting the very high content of silica in the material.

The first case of silicosis associated with artificial stone was reported in Italy in 2010 and subsequently the number of reports internationally have been rapidly growing.(5-7) In 2015 the sentinel Australian case reported by Yates and colleagues was a 54 Vietnamese refugee who developed complicated silicosis due to extremely poor working conditions in Australia.(8) Subsequently an Australian case series described 7 males patients, with an age range as young as 26 (median 44 years). (9) All were involved in dry cutting and ventilation typically relied on ceiling extraction fans or passive airflow through open doors. Only 3 were provided any respiratory protection, which was usually in the form of a disposable mask. None had previously been screened for lung disease through a health surveillance program. The findings demonstrate an exceedingly poor understanding of the risk and regulations associated with working with a high silica containing material.

The case series noted a median duration of work in the industry of 7 years prior to onset of symptoms. (9) Review of lung function results identified a rate of decline 10 times greater than the normal rate. These findings are consistent with the accelerated form of silicosis. In comparison to chronic silicosis (which develops after at least 10 years of silica exposure) accelerated silicosis is described to develop between 5-10 years, is associated with high intensity exposure to silica and a greater risk of disease progression.(10)

Silica is recognised as a hazardous substance under Australian law and regulations require employers to maintain levels of silica below a specified exposure

standard.(11) If there is likelihood that half the standard may be exceeded, health surveillance and assessment of exposure levels must be undertaken. This is in the form of objective measurement of silica dust levels at the workplace, lung function testing and periodic chest radiology. Despite the very high silica content of artificial stone and the clear risk of high-level silica exposure, it appears that these regulations have seldom been adhered to in this industry since its introduction in the early 21st century.

Advocacy by respiratory and occupational physicians since 2016 has resulted in a gradual increase in awareness of silicosis in the benchtop industry and subsequently screening of exposed workers. One of the first screening programs conducted in two Queensland stonemasonry businesses by a senior occupational physician identified one third (12 out of 35; 34%) of the workers to have accelerated or complicated silicosis.(1) WorkCover Queensland confirmed 22 cases of silicosis in just three weeks.

The Victorian Government has recently implemented new regulations banning uncontrolled dry cutting of artificial stone and launched a free health screening program for all current and former stonemasons. The health screening provides workers the opportunity to undergo an in-depth, specialist respiratory assessment. Early identification of respiratory disease is essential to improve health outcomes and all stonemasons are urged to register with the program.

The free health screening program can be accessed through the WorkSafe Victoria Advisory service by calling **1800 136 089** or email healthscreening@worksafe.vic.gov.au

Further details can be obtained at <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/crystalline-silica-free-health-assessments-stonemasons>

Artificial stone and silicosis - Continued...

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Monash University Medical Students Visit Loy Yang Power Station & Mine

**Wednesday 31st July
2019**

Our Monash medical students Roxy and Nesreen along with their Lecturer Prof Margaret Simmons were very privileged to be shown both the mine and the power station.

It is always an eye opener to those who have no idea how big power stations are

nor the mines that supply the fuel for the power station. The students were in awe of the magnitude of the station and the immense size of the mine. This gives the students a good understanding of the type of jobs power industry workers do and the places in which they work.

ACV/GARDS would like to thank Loy Yang and its workers for taking the time to show and explain the workings of the power industry I am sure the students got a lot out of the day and will never forget their visit and what they learned.



Successful ACV/GARDS Office Opening

18th July saw the grand opening of our new office – we were thrilled to see so many people come and help celebrate our new office and take a grand tour.

We were very privileged to have Minister Jaclyn Syme Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Resources who came and unveiled our plaque and

officially opened our new premises. We want to thank Harriet Shing MP Upper House Member for Eastern Victoria for coming along and supporting us. We also want to thank the Latrobe Valley Authority team for making all this possible in being able to make the relevant changes to our new office space to make it user friendly for our members. Thank you to all who helped to make the day a memorable one for all of us and for supporting our organisation. It is greatly appreciated



Diary Dates to Remember

Asbestos Awareness Morning Tea 2019

Date: Wednesday 20th November 2019

Time: 10am

Venue: ACV/GARDS office – 211 Lloyd Street, Moe

Entry fee: Gold coin Donation

On the menu: Scones, Jam and Cream + tea and coffee sponsored by Maurice Blackburn Lawyers

Specialists that will be attending on the day to talk to the public with questions will comprise of Asbestos Litigation lawyers, Environmental Hygienists, Latrobe City Waste Education Officer and Latrobe City Environmental Health Officer – come and have a chat with all these specialists to get as much information that you have always wanted to know.

ACV/GARDS Xmas Lunch Celebrations 2019

Well, the end of year is fast approaching - so we turn our thoughts to a get together for a bit of merriment and mirth.

This year's Annual Xmas party and lunch will take place at the **Morwell Bowling Club, Hazelwood Road, Morwell - 7th December 12 noon** – please do not come any earlier as you will not be able to access the room before this time.

The menu this year will be 3 course meal – soup creamy pumpkin & sweet potato or Home style chunky vegetable (served alternate)

Christmas plate all served the same – Turkey, Ham and Beef with all the trimmings
Dessert will be plum pudding and custard, or Pavlova served with cream and fruit.

Tea and Coffee provided.

Santa will be in attendance to see who has been naughty or nice and we will have a Xmas raffle on the day.

Again, as we have done in previous years: **Everyone is invited to bring a wrapped Chris Cringle present to the value of no more than \$10 (females please bring a present suitable for a female and males please bring a present suitable for a male. These need to be given to the person in charge of tickets so that you get a ticket to pick a Chris Cringle present after lunch.**

We hope to see all our members on this special day so that we can share the joy of Xmas together.

If you would like to join us, here are all the details:

Date: Saturday 7th December 2019

Venue: Morwell Bowling Club, Hazelwood Rd, Morwell

Time: 12 noon Free to Financial Members of ACV/GARDS

Non-Members: \$28 per person Drinks at bar prices

For catering purposes please contact Vicki or the ACV/GARDS office RSVP by no later than the 15th November 2019.

ACV/GARDS Closing Dates over Xmas/New Year

The ACV/GARDS office will be closed over the holiday period. Our office will be closed from: Monday 16th of December 2019 and we will resume full operations on Wednesday 15th of January 2020.

ANY URGENT ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE TO VICKI HAMILTON VIA THE ACV/GARDS PHONE 0407274173 24/7

From all of us here at ACV/GARDS we wish each and everyone of you a Merry and Safe Xmas & A Happy New Year - thank you for supporting ACV/GARDS in 2019

We look forward to seeing you in 2020

Asbestos Awareness Day Event Melbourne 2019

Date: Tuesday 26th November 2019

Time: 11am

Venue: City of Melbourne Bowls Club, Flagstaff Gardens

Speakers:

Halil Ahmet – Senior Occupational Hygienist – WorkSafe Vic
Maitea Lovric and Nadine Medina, mother and daughter – touched by asbestos

Dr Gerry Ayres Ph.D., M.AppSci (OHS), GradDipOHM, - OHS&E Manager - CFMEU C & G Division

Musicians/Singers – The Choir of Hard Knocks Ecumenical Service will be conducted by Canon Matt Williams from St. James Old Cathedral, West Melbourne.

Drinks and finger food provided at the conclusion of ceremony with the compliments of the CFMEU

Asbestos Awareness Day Event Gippsland 2019

Date: Friday 29th November 2019

Time: 11am

Venue: Centenary Rose Garden, Commercial Rd, Morwell

Speakers:

Perdita Dickson - Senior Occupational Hygienist - WorkSafe Vic
Maitea Lovric and Nadine Medina, mother and daughter – touched by asbestos

Steve Dodd – Secretary & Treasurer of the GTLC & union organiser for the AMWU

Musician/Singer – Danny Boothman - Yallourn Madrigal Singers

Bag piper – Richard Harris

Ecumenical Service will be conducted by Canon Jeff Richardson from St James Church Traralgon

Free Community BBQ provided at the conclusion of ceremony with the compliments of Gippsland Trades and Labour Council

ACV/GARDS Annual General Meeting

Date: 25th January 2020 Time: 2pm

Venue: 211 Lloyd Street, Moe Vic. 3825

Election of Positions falling vacant:

President – Treasurer – Committee Member –

Other business to be conducted - Election of Auditor for 2020/2

Returning Officer: Graeme Hamilton -

Nomination forms can be collected from the ACV/GARDS office, or down loaded from the ACV/GARDS web site or forwarded by post on request to ACV/GARDS Secretary -

Completed nomination forms need to be received by the Returning Officer no later than 7 days prior to the election to PO Box 111, Moe, Vic. 3825 or handed in at the ACV/GARDS office – 211 Lloyd Street, Moe.

Please bring a plate to share for afternoon tea.

WorkSafe- Raising awareness during National Asbestos Awareness Week

Prior to the asbestos ban in 2003, it's estimated asbestos was used in more than 3000 common building materials. As a result, approximately 1 in 3 Australian homes contain asbestos. It could be lurking in your walls, hot water services, roof sheeting and even meter boxes.

We know exposure to asbestos fibres may cause diseases such as mesothelioma, lung cancer and asbestosis.

Australia has one of the highest rates of mesothelioma in the world. This cancer has no cure, with almost 700-800 Australians diagnosed every year and predictions we'll reach 18 000 cases by 2020.

Tradespeople are among the most at

risk for asbestos exposure. It's vital we raise awareness and educate Victorian tradespeople about the prevalence of asbestos, and how to identify and remove it safely.

25 November marks the beginning of National Asbestos Awareness Week and we are launching WorkSafe's asbestos campaign to highlight the importance of asbestos safety.

We aim to reach Victorian tradespeople and their employers to ensure people know what to look for and can identify areas with potential asbestos-containing material before work begins.

Tradespeople and those performing DIY – always check for asbestos before starting a job. Review the asbestos register and use the Find and identify tool on asbestos.vic.gov.au to help you.

Asbestos registers - anyone who manages or controls a Victorian workplace where asbestos material is present must identify it, create an asbestos register and keep and distribute an asbestos register. Usually this person is the owner of the workplace or a representative of the owner.

Employers – ensure you provide instruction, training and supervision so your employees can perform work in a way that's safe and without risk to health.

Where necessary, arrange for safe removal of asbestos. Check out asbestos.vic.gov.au to find a licensed removalist in your area.

For further information and tools, please visit asbestos.vic.gov.au

Latrobe Valley Asbestos Task Force

The Latrobe Valley Asbestos Taskforce has representatives from government agencies, local councils, unions and community groups, and is being chaired by the Latrobe Health Advocate, Jane Anderson.

The taskforce is now well underway, and is looking into all areas of asbestos handling, management and disposal across residential, commercial and industrial sites in the wider Latrobe Valley.

Part of the work being undertaken by the taskforce involves increasing awareness about the dangers of asbestos containing materials, particularly targeting the 'third wave' of victims of asbestos related diseases including home renovators and others who have been exposed outside the workplace.

On 8 November, a survey about asbestos in the Latrobe Valley will be launched on www.engage.vic.gov.au and everyone is encouraged



Jane Anderson

to visit the website and fill out the survey. Hard copies will also be available. Please help to spread the word so that we can get as many people as possible participating.

Have you paid your ACV/GARDS Membership Fees?



All fees are due and payable 30th September of each year

The fees are: \$5 for concession & \$15 for employed persons - Joining fee remains the same at \$5

ACV/GARDS membership fees only cover some of the cost associated with being a member of the organisation – it does help us to send out information to you & keep you informed, but we cannot send out personal reminders of fees due as this adds too much to our costs. We thank all those who support us by being a member as this gives us strength and unity to fight for those things in life that our sufferers and their families need and want. Thank you to those members who pay 2 & 3 years in advance, your gesture is greatly appreciated.



Asbestos

lurks in more places than you'd think

...like telecommunications pits, eaves and flooring adhesive.

Think you know?
Find out at asbestos.vic.gov.au

ACV/GARDS Asbestos Awareness Update to Johns Lyng Moe Tradies



11th October saw the ACV/GARDS crew in front of some seasoned tradies to whom we gave a quick refresher on asbestos awareness.

It certainly was a great session and we hope that the tradies that attended the breakfast session got a lot out of it. They were enlightened on what is happening now in the asbestos area and what still

lurks in their workplaces and home environment.

We hope that they have gone away from the session with more knowledge than they came in with – the asbestos arena is always changing – more knowledge is being gained every day on the issues facing tradies, the environmental, the social impacts, the health and the psychological effects of the disease and those who are unfortunate enough to contract it.

Asbestos Awareness Week 2019:

Asbestos lurks in more places than you'd think...

Did you know asbestos was used in more than 3000 common materials before it was banned? And that many are still in homes and workplaces?

You might also be surprised to know that Australia has one of the highest rates of asbestos-related disease in the world, and that some tradies and DIY renovators are among the most at risk for asbestos exposure. What's more, there is no known safe minimum level of exposure.

In a few weeks' time it will be Asbestos Awareness Week, and we encourage everyone to take some time to gain

some knowledge of where asbestos could be found – so everyone can stay safe.

It can be difficult at times to detect what might contain asbestos, as in many cases it is almost impossible to tell the difference between a product that contains asbestos and one that does not, as some companies manufactured identical-looking products after the asbestos ban.

Products around the home that might contain asbestos include:

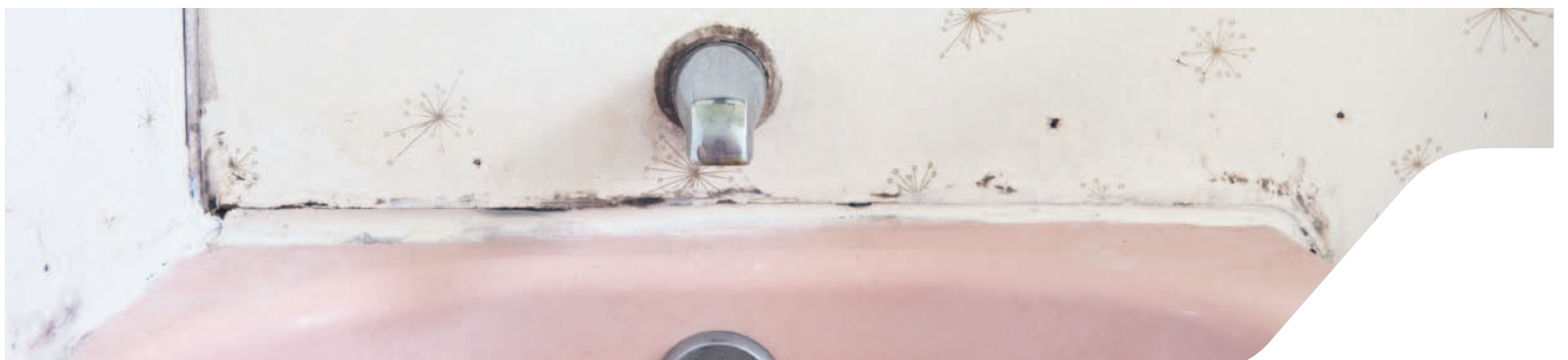
- Roofs, eaves, downpipes and insulation
- Interior walls (often with a non-asbestos covering on the outside)
- Kitchen splashbacks
- Under lino, some carpets, and tiles (and the cement compounds used to affix tiles)
- Lagging around pipes, inside fuse boxes or as part of ventilation shafts
- Fences, garden sheds and small outdoor construction like chicken coops
- As part of bonded cement compounds that make up walls – disturbed when you sand for painting

If you're renovating your own home, built prior to 1990, you need to be especially careful. If you're worried about asbestos in your workplace, your first port of call should be your employer or health and safety representative, and then to your state/territory regulator.

Workers in the building and

constructions trades, vehicle trades and manufacturing, as well as plumbers and electricians, are especially at risk of potentially encountering asbestos. So, know the risks and know the facts. Always take precautions and if you suspect a

product might contain asbestos, don't work with it – seek the help of a trained professional to assist. If you need help of information, including steps to take if you find asbestos, you can visit: www.asbestossafety.gov.au



Tired of retro-chic?

Asbestos

lurks in more places than you'd think.

ASBESTOS SAFETY

Asbestos Snippets

Vale to **SERAFINA SALUCCI**

Serafina Salucci passed away on the 6th Oct 2019.



Serafina was a wonderful advocate for asbestos and all its issues - she was passionate about asbestos safety in Australia, having been diagnosed with mesothelioma at 37 years old in 2007. Serafina Salucci battled this disease with radical surgery over many years while raising a family of four children. Her exposure was as a young child while her father built a garage using asbestos-cement sheeting at their house in Sydney. Serafina played happily in the backyard of her parents' home never knowing that the dust created in making the garage while she played would affect her in later life. Serafina was awarded an AM Member (AM) in the general division of the Order of Australia for her significant service to community health, particularly as an advocate for people with asbestos related diseases in 2018. ACV/GARDS held Serafina in high esteem - she was a friend of our organisation and we were proud to have known her. She was a brave soul despite the adversities that she had faced. May she now RIP her job is done. Goodbye good friend we will all miss you. We all hope that we can carry on your important work to the community. A hero beyond words. Our deepest condolences to her family - This news item was in the paper when Serafina was awarded her honour we thought it appropriate to reprint this in honour of our beautiful friend

Australia Day honours 2018: Serafina Salucci, AM for significant service as an advocate for people with asbestos related diseases



JANUARY 26, 2018 - 9:30AM - JIM GAINSFORD - ST GEORGE & SUTHERNLAND SHIRE - LEADER NEWS

After being diagnosed with Mesothelioma and given two years to live Serafina Salucci was determined to raise the public awareness of asbestos-related disease. That was 11 years ago and in that time Mrs Salucci has taken her cause to Canberra to bring the issue to national attention.

For her efforts, Mrs Salucci of Loftus has been appointed a Member (AM) in the general division of the Order of Australia for her significant service to community health, particularly as an advocate for people with asbestos related diseases.

"This disease has happened to me for a reason," she said. "I've had to make a positive out of what is a devastating situation.

Since being diagnosed with Mesothelioma 11 years ago, Mrs Salucci has undergone surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy, while being a mum to her four children.

She has also become an advocate of the National Asbestos Awareness campaign and a member of the consumer advisory panel of the Cancer Institute of NSW, and a member of the Consumer Review Panel for the Cancer Council of NSW.

"I was diagnosed Mesothelioma in April 2007 aged 37 and told that that was asbestos-related," she said.

"I don't know for sure how I encountered asbestos. I've never renovated or worked with it. I used to be a bookkeeper.

"From the time you come in contact to your diagnosis can be 10 to 50 years, so in theory I could have been exposed from the time I was born.

"The most obvious cause was when I was about eight my father bought his first car and built a garage in the backyard at Randwick out of fibro.

"My brothers and I were playing in the backyard at the time and I remember playing with the off-cuts of fibro. I remember picking it up and writing with it on the concrete.

"We just played with it and kicked it around. We were just kids. My brothers were nine and five and the time. They are still healthy now, but it takes as little

as one fibre of asbestos to get stuck in your lungs to cause Mesothelioma.

"I was diagnosed in 2007. I had a cough that wouldn't go away. After about four weeks I went to the GP and she sent me for an X-ray which showed I had Mesothelioma.

"It was a huge shock. I was playing sport and doing a lot of walking. I felt fine. I've got four kids who were 10, 8, 6 and three at the time.

"There is no cure for Mesothelioma and no form of early detection and there are limited treatment options.

"The prognosis for Mesothelioma is pretty bleak. I was told I had two years. That was 11 years ago. "I had a year of chemo and then I had surgery where I had my right lung removed, followed by radiotherapy. "Then it came back. "Over the years I've had my diaphragm, right kidney and half my liver removed. "At the moment I feel fine. I have my ups and down and get tired." Mrs Salucci can say that she has been able to see some positive things come out of her long battle with Mesothelioma. She successfully lobbied for the establishment of a national Asbestos

Safety and Eradication Agency in 2013. "Until then there were state bodies but not a co-ordinated national body. I went to Canberra as a patient-advocate, spoke to the politicians and was able to secure \$10 million to establish the agency. It is the first national body to deal with asbestos."

She will continue her work raising awareness and funds for research into asbestos related disease. "People think asbestos is an old issue, but it is still in many buildings including hospitals and schools," she said. "Australia has the highest incidence of Mesothelioma per capita of any country in the world. Over 700 people are diagnosed every year and thousands more with other asbestos related diseases.

"I want people to be educated that it is still out there. If they are renovating, be cautious and wherever possible call in a professional to deal with it. "I don't want people to get this disease in the future."

<https://www.theleader.com.au/story/5190786/australia-day-honours-2018-serafina-salucci-am-for-significant-service-as-an-advocate-for-people-with-asbestos-related-diseases/>

Asbestos Snippets

Australian and International

Well it is that time of the year again – the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency is hosting its 6th annual conference into all things asbestos and we are looking at the national strategic plan going forward – everyone who is involved and has an interest in asbestos should think about coming. International speakers are coming to inform those gathered on what is happening on the asbestos scene in Europe and the rest of the world. Looking forward to seeing and chatting with like-minded people and organisations. Come and say Hi to the ACV/GARDS crew who will be attending.



Report: Johnson & Johnson CEO 'Believed' Baby Powder Was Asbestos-Free 13 Days Before FDA Found Trace Levels

Oct 23, 2019 – Reporter Lisette Voytko - Forbes Staff Business

Johnson & Johnson CEO Alex Gorsky reportedly said “we unequivocally believe that our talc and our baby powder does not contain asbestos,” 13 days before the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said it found trace levels in a bottle of the product, according to Reuters.

Gorsky reportedly made the comment during a previously unreported October 3 deposition for a case involving an Indiana law professor who alleges his cancer was caused by the company’s baby powder.

The FDA finding asbestos in the baby powder will make it harder for J&J to continue to say it believes its talc powders are asbestos-free

Reuters reported that Johnson & Johnson also said previous FDA tests of its baby powder did not find asbestos.

But Johnson & Johnson did recall a single lot of 33,000 baby powder bottles Friday “out of an abundance of caution,” according to a company spokesperson.

After news of the recall broke, the company’s stock plummeted 6% and as of Wednesday morning had only recovered less than 1%.

Johnson & Johnson did not immediately respond to requests for comment; a spokesperson previously told Forbes it is working with the FDA to “determine the integrity of the tested sample and the validity of the test results.”

Johnson & Johnson initiated the first-ever recall of its baby powder after FDA testing detected trace levels of “chrysotile asbestos” no greater than 0.00002%.

Overall, the company is facing more than 15,000 legal proceedings from consumers claiming its talc (the main ingredient in baby powder) gave them cancer. And a 2018 New York Times investigation revealed that Johnson & Johnson was aware of possible asbestos contamination in talc for at least 50 years but did not warn consumers.

Johnson & Johnson was ordered by a jury on October 8 to pay \$8 billion for wrongfully pushing doctors to prescribe an antipsychotic drug. The company is also mired in lawsuits involving opioids and vaginal mesh. All told, it’s facing at least 100,000 claims that could cost it up to \$20 billion.

https://www.forbes.com/sites/lisettevoytko/2019/10/23/report-johnson-johnson-ceo-believed-baby-powder-was-asbestos-free-13-days-before-fda-found-trace-levels/?fbclid=IwAR09xNQNpsqD_TDPbCdXWaWdR9_EKicm3YbqExGHikMQViltiKLOYLu6sUE#3aa089b3255f



Johnson & Johnson CEO testified Baby Powder was safe 13 days before FDA bombshell

Chad Terhune, Lisa Girion, Mike Spector - OCTOBER 23, 2019 - REUTERS

LOS ANGELES/NEW YORK (Reuters) - Facing off against a plaintiff’s lawyer for the first time about Johnson & Johnson’s Baby Powder, the company’s Chief Executive Alex Gorsky earlier this month insisted that the company’s iconic brand was safe.

“We unequivocally believe that our talc and our baby powder does not contain asbestos,” Gorsky testified in an Oct. 3 deposition in a case involving a retired Indiana college professor who alleges his cancer was caused by the Baby Powder he used for decades. The deposition has not been previously reported.

Gorsky, citing “thousands of tests and studies” to support his testimony, said: “I’m not aware of our baby powder or talc containing asbestos.”

That’s harder for him to say now. Last Wednesday, just 13 days after his deposition, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration told the healthcare giant it had discovered

asbestos, a known carcinogen, in a bottle of Johnson’s Baby Powder.

On Friday, a day after getting the full FDA test results, J&J recalled 33,000 bottles of Baby Powder in the United States. It marked the first time the company has recalled Baby Powder for possible asbestos contamination and the first time U.S. regulators have announced finding asbestos in the product.

The recall is the latest blow to a healthcare conglomerate that has for many years tried to project an image as a caring company. It is now facing thousands of lawsuits over a variety of products, including legal action by more than 15,000 consumers claiming its talc powders caused their cancers.

Shares in J&J, which in February said it had received subpoenas from the U.S. Justice Department and U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission for documents related to the asbestos contamination allegations, dropped almost 6% on Friday after the recall was announced. The inquiries include a criminal grand jury investigation into how forthright J&J has been about the safety of its powders, according to people familiar with the matter.

In the deposition, Gorsky was pressed again and again to say - without qualification - that the company’s powders were asbestos free. But in answering questions under oath for the first time in the talc litigation, he stuck to his statement that he “believed” J&J’s powders were clean.

The FDA finding will make it much more difficult for Gorsky and the company to continue saying that they “believe” the talc powders are free from asbestos, said Elizabeth Burch, a product liability expert at the University of Georgia School of Law. She said the test result and recall lend credibility to what plaintiffs have been arguing in court for months.

J&J stands behind the safety of its talc and said it’s investigating the FDA test result. The company said it proceeded with the recall “out of an abundance of caution.”

In a statement on Sunday J&J said: “Thousands of tests over the past 40 years repeatedly confirm that our consumer talc products do not contain asbestos, including prior tests by the FDA as recently as last month.” – [if you would like to read more go to this link](#)

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-johnson-johnson-talc-ceo-insight/johnson-johnson-ceo-testified-baby-powder-was-safe-13-days-before-fda-bombshell-idUSKBN1X12GF>



ACV/GARDS would like to thank the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency and Gordon Legal Lawyers for sponsoring us to be able to attend the Asbestos Safety & Eradication Agency Conference in Perth WA in November – we are very appreciative of the support both these entities have shown us to enable us to attend and further our knowledge base

Maitea Lovric & Nadine Medina our Metro Group Co-ordinators with their family

Over the course of the last three months our family has been asked to participate in the establishment of a Metropolitan chapter of ACV/GARDS.

We are grateful for the opportunity to work with a community that we feel a strong connection with through the loss of a loved one.

As a young man of 17 years of age my husband Tony was thrilled to have been employed in construction and demolition. He would playfully brag that he was bringing home a higher wage than that of his father.

For an unskilled migrant worker, the money earned removing Asbestos was too good to be true and indeed it was. Because of this employment and early exposure to Asbestos Tony at the age of 40 was diagnosed with Mesothelioma and would tragically succumb to this terrible disease two years later.

Tony's career in construction led him in many directions; including his positions as a shop steward, Union organiser with the CFMEU, and as an OHS officer. In the course of his employment in these

various positions particularly during his time with the union Tony became acutely aware of the dangers of asbestos and the lack of awareness information and training required to remove asbestos more safely.

He became aware that there is no safe level of exposure and that his own early exposure would potentially have ramification in his later life, which it tragically did.

Tony was much admired and loved within the Chilean community, being a naturally skilled organiser and great communicator. Tony was an active member of several soccer clubs both in the capacity of player and coach. However, it was in his role as a unionist that Tony felt he could contribute the most, he was involved through the CFMEU training unit in instructing in the safe removal of asbestos program educating not only onsite building tradespeople but also work cover officials. In addition to this in 1998 Tony campaigned for the introduction of an improved removal of asbestos code of practice. He also felt indignant at the lack of culpability of employers whose unsafe practices and workplaces contributed to



Pictured from left: Nadine Medina, Jetaime Medina, Maitea Lovric & Javier Medina

workplace injury and death and believed that liability should include mandatory sentencing and not only fines, that inadequately reflected the gravity of these crimes. Despite his diagnosis Tony continued his fight for what he believed was fair and was integral in pressuring for the subsidising of chemotherapy drugs along with the late and great Bernie Banton. Tony's story has been told both in the Melbourne Immigration Museum and through the theatrical

Donna Jackson production "Dust".

This year marks the 11th anniversary of Tony's passing, and our family has experienced a difficult journey. ACV/GARDS advocacy, education and empathy shone a light during a very difficult period. Moreover, it is an honour to be asked to be a part of this organisation and help families like ours when a devastating diagnosis is made.

Maitea Lovric.

CFMEU Victoria workers at Engie's Hazelwood Power Station and EBAC Morwell Power Station join ACV/GARDS

Over the last couple of months, we have been privileged and honoured to have met hundreds of workers at both power station demolition sites in Latrobe Valley.

We also were overwhelmed to have most of these workers in the demolition crews and support staff join ACV/GARDS. It has been a pleasure talking with some of these workers and finding out the various jobs through their work history.

We wish them all well in the work they are doing on these sites – it is important work that needs to happen in demolition



OUR NEW LOOK MEETING DATES

INCORPORATING OUR NEW ASBESTOS/SILICA SUPPORT GROUPS IN GIPPSLAND & METRO

ACV/GARDS SUPPORT GROUP MEETING FOR 2020

GIPPSLAND - MOE

Last Tuesday of the month -
1.30pm to 3.30pm

Meetings are held at ACV/GARDS Premises
211 Lloyd Street, Moe

- Tuesday 25th February
- Tuesday 31st March
- Tuesday 28th April - **International Workers Memorial Day, Gippsland Heritage Park, Moe**
- Tuesday 26th May
- Tuesday 30th June
- Tuesday 28th July
- Tuesday 25th August
- Tuesday 29th September
- Tuesday 27th October
- Friday 27th November - **Asbestos Awareness Day, Gippsland Heritage Park, Moe 11am**
- Christmas Break-up - TBA

ACV/GARDS SUPPORT GROUP MEETING FOR 2020

METRO - CHADSTONE

Second Monday of the month -
1.30pm to 3.30pm

Meetings are held at Amaroo Neighbourhood
Centre – 34 Amaroo Street, Chadstone

- Monday 10th February
- Monday 9th March – Public holiday
- Monday 13th April – Public Holiday
- Monday 11th May
- Monday 8th June – Public holiday
- Monday 13th July
- Monday 10th August
- Monday 14th September
- Monday 12th October
- Monday 9th November
- TBA Nov - **Asbestos Awareness Day, TBA**
- Christmas Break-up -TBA

ACV/GARDS NIGHT MEETING – OPERATIONAL/BUSINESS FOR 2020

GIPPSLAND - MOE

7.30pm to 9.30pm

Meetings are held at ACV/GARDS Premises
211 Lloyd Street, Moe

- Tuesday 18th February
- Tuesday 17th March
- Tuesday 21st April
- Tuesday 19th May
- Tuesday 16th June
- Tuesday 21st July
- Tuesday 18th August
- Tuesday 15th September
- Tuesday 20th October
- Tuesday 17th November
- Christmas Break-up - TBA



Avocado not your thing?

Asbestos

lurks in more places
than you'd think.

**ASBESTOS
SAFETY**

Special People and Organisations

Regular donations made to us by these generous companies

Latrobe Plumbing & Asbestos Specialists Pty Ltd – John Delost, Gary Carolan, Steve Day & we would also like to thank Paul Erbs, Sam Erbs & Darren Carman and all the team at **Mairin OHS&E Consulting**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank individuals who have donated to us in different ways over the last few months:

- Karen & Brian Healy,
- Barbara Lynette Harrison,
- Jack Fawcett,
- Cyril & Enid Hibbert,
- Marian & Bert Carrigy,
- Anonymous Engie Worker

Petra Webster

Thank you so much for your lovely donation of a hand crafted rug – it is very much appreciated.

Karen and Brian Healy

Thank you so much for the wonderful preloved outdoor setting of table and two chairs – it makes a great addition to our outside area.

Sponsorship grant from Latrobe City 2019/20

ACV/GARDS was very pleased to be notified that they had been successful in a small community grant from Latrobe City. The money that we have gained goes into one edition of our newsletters and as you can see we have put it into this one by the logo on the front page as our major sponsor for this edition. We thank those very much who granted us this small community grant as this helps us to deliver our message and news to the community and keep the very people we support connected to each other, so they know what is happening in the asbestos area.

Gippsland Water Social Club

ACV/GARDS thanks all those at GWSC for their terrific donation – we also appreciate workers in workplaces supporting the work we do in the community – means a great deal to us

THANK YOU!

Donations made in Memory of - Peter Fenech

- Sharyn, Michelle and Jason Fenech

Donations made in Memory of - Elise Reilly

- Bill Reilly

Donations made in Memory of - Martyn Newman

- Gail Morgan

Donations made in Memory of - Kerry Wandmaker

- Vicki Hamilton

Donations made in Memory of - Barney Evans

- Jean Evans

Donations made in Memory of - Jim Sargeant

- Hazel Sargeant

A big thank you to Harry from Zealmore Australia P/L Williamstown for your donation. It is greatly appreciated.

Online Donations – GiveNow Platform - A big Thank You To

- Advice line injury lawyers – ■ Marilyn Reid,
- Michael Hutchinson, ■ Chris Healy,
- Malcolm Fabiny, ■ Mark Waltham,
- Jane Mersey, ■ Chris Badger, ■ Hazel Sargeant,
- Glenn Morgan

Rossmore Hotel Yallourn North Bowling Club

We would like to thank the Rossmore Hotel publicans, staff and patrons and the Yallourn North Bowling Club Mal Paulet and club members for supporting the ACV/GARDS org by allowing us to fundraise at the hotel and the bowling club.

We have made some great acquaintances and the Yallourn North community make us feel very welcome.

Thank you for your support so far in 2019 and we look forward to talking to everyone and catching up on all the news. See you at the pub!

Kuiper Australia Pty Ltd

ACV/GARDS thanks this organisation for donating to us to help with our work

ACV/GARDS would like to thank the

CFMEU
VICTORIA

For supporting our metro support group

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For supporting our metro support group

Asbestos

lurks in more places than you'd think

Think you know?
Find out at asbestos.vic.gov.au



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Vice President:

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Mobile 0427 271 427

CEO/Secretary:

Vicki Hamilton OAM
Mobile 0407 274 173

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Mobile 0403 319 520

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Sharyn Fenech
Mobile 0423 587 363
Ray Whittaker
Mobile 0427 801 292

ACV/GARDS Fees

Joining Fee: \$5.00

Annual Fees:

Pensioner/Concession

Unemployed \$5.00

Employed persons \$15.00

Meetings

GIPPSLAND - MOE

SUPPORT:

Last Tuesday of month,
1.30pm - 3.30pm
211 Lloyd St, Moe

METRO - CHADSTONE

SUPPORT:

2nd Monday of month,
1.30pm - 3.30pm
Amaroo Neighbourhood
Centre - 34 Amaroo St,
Chadstone

ORGANISATIONAL/ OPERATIONAL

EVENING:

3rd Tuesday of month,
7.30pm - 9.30pm
211 Lloyd St, Moe

Office Hours

Monday to Thursday
10am - 4pm

Friday - By appointment

**CALL IN FOR A CHAT
AND CUPPA**

ACV/GARDS Inc. Membership Form

Asbestos Council of Victoria/Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support Inc.

ABN: 77 687 118 554 - Inc. No. A0042386U

Name:

Address:

Postcode: Telephone: Email:

Occupation:

ACV/GARDS NEW MEMBERS Joining Fee Initial Fee of: **\$5.00**

PLUS Concession or Full Rate below in first year – each year after only annual fee

ACV/GARDS Annual Subscription 20

1. Concession (Pensioner/unemployed) **\$5.00**

2. Full Rate (employed) **\$15.00**

All membership prices include GST

Upon my admission as a Member, I agree to be bound by the rules of ACV/GARDS Inc.

Signature: Date: ____/____/____

Please return to ACV/GARDS Inc. with payment, PO Box 111, MOE, Vic. 3825

Office Use Only

I, a Member of the ACV/GARDS Inc. nominate the Applicant for Membership of the Association

Signature of Proposer: Date: ____/____/____

I, a Member of the ACV/GARDS Inc. second the nomination of the Applicant for Membership of the Association

Signature of Seconder: Date: ____/____/____

UP AND COMING EVENTS 2019/20

■ WEDNESDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2019

Asbestos Awareness Morning Tea

Our office – 211 Lloyd Street, Moe
10am – noon – gold coin donation
Sponsored by Maurice Blackburn Lawyers

■ TUESDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2019

Asbestos Awareness Day event

City of Melbourne Bowls Club - Flagstaff Gardens
11am - 2pm

■ FRIDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2019

Asbestos Awareness Day event

Centenary Rose Garden, Morwell, Commercial Road
11am – 2pm

■ SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2019

Members Xmas Lunch

Morwell Bowling Club, Hazelwood Road, Morwell
12 noon – 2.30pm

■ SATURDAY 25TH JANUARY 2020

AGM

Our office – 211 Lloyd Street, Moe
2pm

■ TUESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2020

Gippsland Support Group meeting -

Speaker: Horseman & Sim Lawyers –
Wills & Power of Attorney Medical & Financial
Our office – 211 Lloyd Street, Moe

■ MONDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2020

Metro Support Group meeting

Speaker TBA
Amaroo Neighbourhood Centre, 34 Amaroo Street,
Chadstone

**Are you nursing a loved one
with a terminal illness?
WE ARE HERE
FOR YOU!**

The Latrobe Valley Palliative Care Fundraising Association
“provides financial assistance to patients and their families”
By paying for equipment hire needed in the patient’s home to
help them be more comfortable and make it easier for their carer.
If necessary, we can assist with financial help for medication and
oxygen.
This service operates with the hard work of volunteers and the
generous public who help us raise the funds needed to run the
service, thereby making a big difference to numerous lives. Would
you care to join us? Call the number listed below.

**CALL 0429 689 827 OR
0351 273 283**

**To discuss how we can assist with the comfort
of your loved one and
make it a little easier for you.**





We are situated at:
211 Lloyd Street, Moe
Victoria Australia
PO Box 111,
Moe, Vic. 3825

On line donations
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Website: www.gards.org
SKYPE: VickiGARDS
Email: gards@wideband.net.au

 Find us on Facebook
[facebook.com/gardsinc](https://www.facebook.com/gardsinc)

 Follow us on Twitter
twitter.com/@ACV_GARDS

ACV/GARDS INC. SUPPORT

ACV/GARDS provides support and information to asbestos & silica sufferers, their families and carers. This includes a telephone information/support service 24 hours, 7 days a week. ACV/GARDS has an office, which is open for sufferers, their families, carers and the general community to access at the times listed in the information section.

ACV/GARDS INC. Support also conducts a 2 x monthly meeting (1.30pm – 3.30pm) one on the last Tuesday of the month in Gippsland at 211 Lloyd Street, Moe & one on the 2nd Monday of the month at Chadstone – Amaroo Neighbourhood Centre – 34 Amaroo St, Chadstone) where guest presenters are invited to provide information about support services of all kinds and any other topics of interest that the members might find of relevance.

The meetings also provide a gathering place for experiences; ACV/GARDS Support is open to anyone

whose lives have been affected by asbestos or silica, their families and the public.

ACV/GARDS loans out free of charge to asbestos & silica sufferer's members – (Gippsland only) - oxygen bottle regulators, conserving devices, oxygen home concentrators wheelchairs, oxygen bottle carriers, nebuliser, walking frames & walking sticks, shower & toilet chairs

We also have an extensive library of books, DVDs and CDs on asbestos & silica issues, health, social and environmental that we loan free of charge to those wishing to improve their knowledge

ACV/GARDS can provide professional counselling with a qualified psychologist free of charge for those who have been diagnosed with asbestos or silica related diseases and their family members. If preferred telephone counselling can be arranged.

ACV/GARDS INC. ORGANISATIONAL/ OPERATIONAL EVENING MEETING



ACV/GARDS has an organisational, activities and advocating arm. Interested financial members can come along to evening meetings, which are, conducted 7.30pm – 9.30pm on the third Tuesday of the month at our office.

These meetings provide a focal point for information sharing and problem identification.

The aim of this group is to focus on improving health and support services and any other issues deemed relevant to improving overall outcomes to asbestos & silica sufferers, their families and the public. Thus, ensuring asbestos & silica related issues are kept in the public eye and trying to rid our built environment of these carcinogens



ACV/GARDS Inc. would like to thank these sponsors and supporters



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