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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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**Asbestos**  
is dangerous.  
And it could be in your home.



It's important not to damage or disturb asbestos-containing materials.  
Become asbestos aware.

THINK TWICE  
ABOUT ASBESTOS



Asbestos Council  
of Victoria



Find out more at  
[asbestossafety.gov.au](http://asbestossafety.gov.au)  
[asbestos.vic.gov.au](http://asbestos.vic.gov.au)  
[gards.org](http://gards.org)

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# PROFILE ON Monash Med Students

August through to Oct 2023 the Asbestos Council of Victoria hosted the second instalment of our two first year medical students from Monash University at our office – our mission was to introduce them to what support groups do in the community and to enlighten them to asbestos and silica awareness through experiences including meeting sufferers and their families – see what sort of issues our organisation deals with and how we go about making change happen and

supporting people looking for our services. They were able to attend one of our support group meetings and meet some of our members – they sat in on a national meeting about asbestos awareness issues and campaigns and projects that we are involved in, they were treated to seeing how we interact with Mairin OHS&E Consulting firm & issues that they help our org with. They were also shown how they make up the slides for viewing and see real time how they

detect asbestos in material and shown samples of what asbestos was in and still in today. They had a face to face with one our mesothelioma sufferers and his partner – Brian and Karen Healy who were generous with their time and spent many hours discussing and answering questions.

Their days with us were full of new learnings for them to take away. We hope these will be lasting memories when they become doctors or

specialist in their fields. Below is a pic of one of our students – the other one did not wish to be identified – both have written summaries of their time with us. Eliska has written a bio on herself so that you get an understanding of his background. I do hope you read what they have written – this is the first year of their medical journey to realising their dream of becoming doctors. We wish them all the best in their endeavours.



*Hello,*

I'm Eliska, a first-year medical student at Monash University. I grew up in Melbourne, and this is my first time living rurally. It has been a change of pace for me, but I'm glad for the better traffic and tight-knit community. Being surrounded by nature and living a more laid-back lifestyle has greatly eased this change. I'm looking forward to my future rural placements during my course.

My time with the Asbestos Council of Victoria has been challenging, but overall, a positive experience. While learning about how rife asbestos is in our country and hearing personal stories of its impact has been confronting, I am grateful for the opportunity. I greatly appreciate the time and effort others have put to tell their stories and answer our questions. I hope in future to remember the importance of listening to patients and their families, and to keep an eye out for potential exposures.

This experience has also shown the importance of community-based support groups and the comradery gained from them. With my limited time at the council, I have seen the far-reaching support it delivers and the advocacy and change it has achieved and will continue to achieve.

*Eliska*

## Medical students Q & A

Eliska and our other Med student were asked a series of questions on their last day with us about their experiences - here are their answers.

**Eliska -**

**- do you believe your time was well spent being with us**

Time was spent well here, and I am grateful for the opportunity to talk with some members of the council and listen to their stories.

**– now that you have spent time here do you believe you have a good understanding of what we do here .**

I feel now that I have spent time here I have a much better understanding of what the Council does and their work. I also better appreciate

community support networks overall, and the strength they can lend people and their families.

**– Were there any surprises**

I found some people's stories incredibly confronting, but also touching as well. Hearing how many

Monash Med Students continued next page

# Medical students Q & A continued...

young tradies have been exposed with little care from their bosses was upsetting.

## – how will you use this experience in the future.

In future, I'll strive to remember the importance of listening to patients and their families, and to keep an eye out for potential exposures. How important it is to build a rapport with patients over time and know their entire

story, not just their symptoms. This experience has also shown the importance of community-based support groups and I'll aim to learn about the networks nearby to refer patients to.

## – Would you visit the org in the

## future if you were in the area to say hello

Absolutely! I hope to be back in the valley at some point in the future and will pop in to say hi to Vicki and the others.

# ACV/GARDS experience – by 1st year med student – anonymous



## what you learnt

### Any preconceived ideas you had before you got here?

I always thought of Asbestos as more of a technical and resources problem, one that would be found in industry and construction. I truly did not have any idea how Asbestos lingers over the heads of everyday people in the community, quite literally. Learning that 1/3 of homes having asbestos, and that anyone can be exposed, struck me.

### Did you understand what this org was really about before you got here?

Coming from Montreal, Canada, I had always heard about the town called Asbestos, named after the largest asbestos mine in the world. I did not know that it was a very current issue, and so I envisioned an organisation that provided more technical support on materials and removals. Little did I know how much I would learn from the many inspirational people that have been touched by it.

We learn about abstract concepts related to social and community issues and how they need to be taken into consideration in the medical approach. It really helps, however, to put a name, story, action, or emotion to these concepts, especially ones that last for a long time in the mind. The issues GARDS tackles can be quite confronting, and I feel privileged to be imbued with information about asbestos/silica in such a well-rounded manner, through participation rather than didactic learning.

### Do you believe this org is a valuable asset to those it supports and the work it does?

Of course! What makes it so valuable is the respect for humanity in everything that GARDS does. I think that any org needs a heart to be effective, and it is all the more important when issues such as asbestos are forgotten. Asbestos sufferers need people like Vicki and her team to be passionate

about what they want to achieve, and stand up for what is right. Her desire to educate, and save, as many people as possible is absolutely relentless. I can imagine a very different outlook for the people who would not have benefited from GARDS talks, workshops, and support groups. It also makes me wonder how long it would take before I personally would have understood the dangers, if I had not been placed at this organisation. Who else would have told me about this?

### Do you believe your time was well spent being with us?

The opportunity to speak with Brian and Karen, who shared their touching experiences in such an open way, gave me a renewed perspective on medical communication and the importance of empathy and respect. Learning about asbestos through a book or website is truly not the same as learning about it through human stories. Vicki was also very engaging and enthusiastic about teaching us, and her words were filled with vivid imagery and real emotions. The five sessions I had will likely resonate with me throughout my medical journey, as I can draw from the knowledge to make better decisions in other domains.

### Now that you have spent time here do you believe you have a good understanding of what we do here

I can see that GARDS handles a multitude of different things, 'wearing many hats at once,' to further its mission. I was impressed at how much can be accomplished by one small organisation, without the backing of a larger group of employees. It may be small but it certainly has a big heart! From giving important educational talks, to having groups, to advocating for anybody and everybody touched by asbestos or silica in one way or another, ACV/GARDS literally does it all. It also made me reflect on the idea that the battle against serious health issues often begins in the community.

### Were there any surprises?

When Vicki told me she answers the phone 24/7, she wasn't kidding. I don't recall ever seeing that level of commitment from any community organisation I've visited. I was also surprised to hear from up-and-coming tradespeople that their work placements involved recent asbestos exposure, and they had not been duly warned and protected. For example, a young woman realised that she got exposed due to her supervisor's negligence and concealment during our presentation.

### Did you get a good understanding on how the org is run and how it is financed?

I came to understand that negotiating funding for a community organisation is hard work and requires skill and creativity. I always thought that it was a simple form for the government to provide funding, but it is actually a complex process. It must take a lot of determination to secure this crucial funding, since it became apparent that many decision-makers and people in the community are not always aware of the impact these agencies have and how necessary they are for the people that rely on them, or how much money they actually need.

Have you any recommendations to the CEO going into the future

I loved the fact that ACV/GARDS does so many talks and collaborations with higher education, and I think it's important to continue the progress. I was informed of several cases from my time here where physicians have said some disrespectful and unusual things to patients. I think it would be a good idea to create a guide on positive and negative communication for terminal diagnoses and considerations for families, with reference to specific conditions like mesothelioma. I'm sure such handbooks might exist, but there could be one specific to the conditions managed at GARDS using real-life examples. I think it would be a good method of distributing awareness and promote the agency.

### How will you use this experience in the future

I think it is helpful to visualise the lasting impact that the words we use can have on somebody, especially as doctors. If I've learned anything from members of GARDS, it's that our words and actions can inspire hope or despair, and change perspectives in a powerful manner. I would be excited to also discuss my experiences with colleagues that I meet, especially how we can handle difficult topics in a way that inspires strong and positive connections with patients. I also realise just how important teamwork with community agencies can be in addressing patient and family needs: going beyond a healthcare setting is appropriate since healthcare can be beyond just a treatment or appointment. Anytime someone will mention renovating their home, the first thing I'll ask them is if they are aware of asbestos.

### Would you visit the org in the future if you were in the area to say hello

Looking forward to it – chatting with Vicki and Tanya would be a great way to spend a trip out in the Gippsland region. I really enjoyed my time with everyone I have met, and hope to see them again!

### – did you find it interesting seeing some of the relationships ACV/GARDS has with gov, businesses & community areas dealing with Asbestos and Silica

True, I can see how having a strategic network can make ACV/GARDS have a broader scope of activity. Even something as simple as having signs in front of a drive-thru can really drive the point home! I think we all have something we can learn from each other, so it makes sense that ACV/GARDS would act in tandem with related organisations and businesses. I found Vicki's letters to the government to be an interesting representation of the way the agency can act as a liaison between decision-makers and community interests.

# Profile on Mathew Werfel

Mathew Werfel is a sufferer of mesothelioma resulting from exposure to asbestos containing materials contracted through work and home renovations in the late 1990's and early 2000's. As a result, Mathew went through numerous invasive surgeries coupled with chemotherapy and radiotherapy. Mathew was previously employed by the Shop Distributive and Allied Employees Association (SDA) rising to this position from work as an Occupational Health and Safety Representative at the Woolworths Distribution Centre at Gepps Cross, South Australia and then Office Manager and Chief of Staff for Federal Parliamentarians from 2007 to

2022. Mathew has completed a Graduate Certificate in Business from the University of South Australia. Mathew has been a strong patient advocate due to his own personal experiences. He continues to represent patients to asbestos related peak bodies as the Chairperson of the Dust Diseases Alliance in South Australia and Director at the Asbestos and Dust Diseases Research Institute (ADDRI) based in Sydney. Mathew engages with members of parliament at state and federal jurisdictions, industry and trade unions, to raise awareness. He is currently employed at the Asbestos Safety & Eradication Agency (ASEA) as an Assistant Director.

Mathew Werfel is a courageous individual who has faced the challenges of mesothelioma head-on, stemming from his exposure to asbestos-containing materials during his work and home renovations in the late 1990s and early 2000s. This experience has defined his journey and inspired his unwavering commitment to making a difference in the lives of others.

Over the years, Mathew has shown incredible resilience, enduring numerous invasive surgeries, chemotherapy, and radiotherapy. His personal battle with mesothelioma ignited a passion within him to advocate for those facing similar struggles, and his story is a testament to his strength and determination.

Mathew's professional journey began with the Shop Distributive and Allied Employees Association (SDA), where he worked as an Occupational Health and Safety Representative at the Woolworths Distribution Centre in Gepps Cross, South Australia. With dedication and hard work, he climbed the ranks within the union to become an organiser in warehousing. Mathew went on to serve the community as Office Manager and Chief of Staff to a number of Parliamentarians from 2007 to 2022.

In pursuit of his commitment to continuous growth and development, Mathew completed a Graduate Certificate in Business from the University of South Australia, further enhancing his skills and knowledge.

His personal experiences have fueled his advocacy efforts, and Mathew is an ardent patient advocate

for those affected by asbestos-related diseases. He actively represents patients within various peak bodies related to asbestos, serving as the Chairperson of the Dust Diseases Alliance in South Australia and as a Director at the Asbestos and Dust Diseases Research Institute (ADDRI), headquartered in Sydney.

Mathew engages with members of parliament at both state and federal levels, as well as industry and trade unions, to raise awareness and drive change. His dedication to these causes has made a significant impact in the ongoing fight against asbestos-related diseases, pushing for improved legislation, support, and resources for affected individuals.



## Slater+Gordon Lawyers Sponsorship 2023/24

**ACV/GARDS is very appreciative of the help we receive from Slater + Gordon lawyers –**

without their support we could not do the work we do to help our asbestos & silica sufferers and their families. It is wonderful to have firms such as this help to drive the work we do so that we can make a difference in the life of those affected.

Emily Archer from Slater & Gordon stated that S+G support the work of

ACV/GARDS, and are proud to be a sponsor."

ACV/GARDS are so humbled to have Slater + Gordon support us – without law firms such as these our work would be that much harder. Slater + Gordon are good corporate leaders with community at the heart of what they do. Thank you to the Dust Diseases Dept - Tracy Madden, Emily Archer, Stephen Plunkett, Sarah Woon. Pictured are the Dust Diseases Team



**Asbestos** is  
dangerous.  
And it could be in your home.

THINK TWICE  
ABOUT ASBESTOS 

## Why is it important not to damage or disturb asbestos?

Asbestos materials become dangerous to health if they are damaged, disturbed or deteriorating.

When microscopic asbestos fibres are inhaled, they can cause diseases such as lung cancer, and other diseases which have no cure like mesothelioma and asbestosis.

All of these asbestos-related diseases contribute to approximately 4000 deaths in Australia each year.

## What is an asbestos assessment?

An asbestos assessment (i.e. asbestos survey, asbestos audit, or asbestos inspection) can provide information to prevent exposure to asbestos fibres and reduce unexpected future costs when undertaking repairs or renovations.

An asbestos assessment usually begins with the assessor gathering background information, for example, information about the age of the property and details about its construction.

The assessor then conducts a physical audit or visual inspection of the property, including internal and external areas that are accessible.

Samples of suspect asbestos-containing materials may be taken for laboratory analysis.

## How do I get an asbestos assessment?

Asbestos professionals who can assist with identifying asbestos include:

- ▶ licensed asbestos assessors and removalists
- ▶ occupational hygienists who have experience with asbestos
- ▶ persons who have undertaken a recognised training course in asbestos identification.

In the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), a person must be licensed to carry out an asbestos assessment of a residential property.

The people at greatest risk of exposure are those that undertake repairs, maintenance, renovations and other work on older buildings and infrastructure which contain asbestos materials.

Asbestos containing materials that are sealed, undamaged and left undisturbed are unlikely to release asbestos fibres. Their condition should be monitored over time.



At the completion of the assessment, the assessor will provide you with a report that should include:

- ▶ the date of the assessment
- ▶ the address of the property
- ▶ the details of any identified or assumed asbestos-containing materials, including location, type of asbestos and its condition
- ▶ the results of any laboratory analysis of samples taken from the property.

An assessment report may also include photographs of identified or assumed asbestos-containing materials in the property, and advice on its management or removal.



In all other Australian states and territories, a person does not need to be licensed to carry out an asbestos inspection or assessment of a residential property to identify asbestos-containing materials (these requirements differ if the assessment is for ensuring a space is safe after asbestos removal).

You can find asbestos assessors by searching online for asbestos professionals in your area.



# New Domestic Building Course for Trainees –

## Asbestos Awareness & Silica session

ACV/GARDS were pleased to attend the new Domestic Building course by Gippsland Trades and Labour Council for young trainees, it kicked off this week 27th November ACV/GARDS went along to conduct a talk to the trainees about the dangers of Asbestos and Silica. This was such an important session as these are building blocks for further information gathering. We hope that they got a lot out of the session.

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Asbestos Council of Victoria/GARDS Inc will conduct its AGM on Saturday the 3rd February 2024 @ 2pm

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

**Election of Positions falling vacant:**

President -- Treasurer -- Committee Member

Other business to be conducted - Election of Auditor for 2023/24

**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.

If you are intending to join us please make sure that you if you feel unwell that you stay at home.

## Beyond the Ban Forum Victorian Asbestos Eradication Agency

21st November a forum took place in Melbourne conducted by the VAEA - ACV/GARDS was invited to come along to listen – talking about Ending the Asbestos Legacy Ban – much took place but in the end we all knew there was so much more to do. Matt Peacock compared the session Kim Brislane from ADDRI, Danny Pearson MP Victorian Parliament, Liam

O'Brien ACTU, Emeritus Prof Malcolm Sim Monash University and Sally Weir from Maurice Blackburn, Paul Bastian former Union Leader AMWU & chair of ASEA council & member of ADDRI all took part in this discussion to talk about the past present and future. It was certainly an interesting conversation and there was time for interaction from those who attended.



## Gordon Legal Sponsorship 2023/24

Victoria



Tess



Our sponsorship from Gordon Legal has been a wonderful help to our organisation.

Donations/ Sponsorships - Gordon Legal have helped us so we can help all of Victoria whether it be asbestos or silica. The work ACV/GARDS does in the community of Victoria is far reaching and crosses many issues around both asbestos

and silica as well as health, environment etc. Without this sort of support from socially minded companies like Gordon Legal some of the most vulnerable would not have a voice nor get the support they so desperately need.

Thank you to Peter Gordon and Victoria Keays and Tess Dickie for making this happen. There is so

much work to do in eradicating asbestos out of our community and we are facing very serious issues with silica exposure – this is proving to be a big problem amongst our community and needs some serious attention around banning this man made stone and making sure that concrete cutters, ceramic tile cutters, quarry workers etc.

all these workers need to be very aware of what they are working with and how to protect themselves. No one should be cutting these products without the correct protection and tools and in the appropriate places in most instances. Thank you to the team at Gordon Legal Pictured here is Victoria Keays and Tess Dickie

# FOREVER DAMIAN MULLIN

SPONSORED BY Moe Racing Club

Waterloo Road, Moe, Victoria

## Fundraiser for Asbestos Council of Victoria/ GARDS Inc.

Turf side Function centre,  
Waterloo Road, Moe

**Saturday 1st June  
2024**

Doors Open 7.30pm  
Show starts at 8pm  
Nibbles supplied,  
Raffles

**\$40 per person**

All bookings and Enquiries  
**Marlene**  
0412001845



# Neil Gray Memorial Melb Marathon Run

On the 15th Oct Jenna, her Brother Anthony and Jenna's partner Alex had a lot of support when they ran the Melbourne Marathon in Memory of Neil Gray, Jenna's & Anthony's Dad. Jenna's Mum and Craig came to watch, as did Anthony's wife Karen and their kids Lucy and Harper. Jenna stated that finishing the run inside the MCG was, of course, incredible!

Jenna commented that completing a half marathon in memory of Dad is symbolic of putting one step in front of the other to push through life's discomforts and challenges. Dad's battle with cancer taught me that resilience is built one step at a time. Running offers both reflection and momentum, serving as a grounding force to cope with not only grief but also life's challenges. Although long-distance running is tough, it's equally rewarding. I know Dad would be proud of Anthony and me for continually setting goals and pushing through the challenges

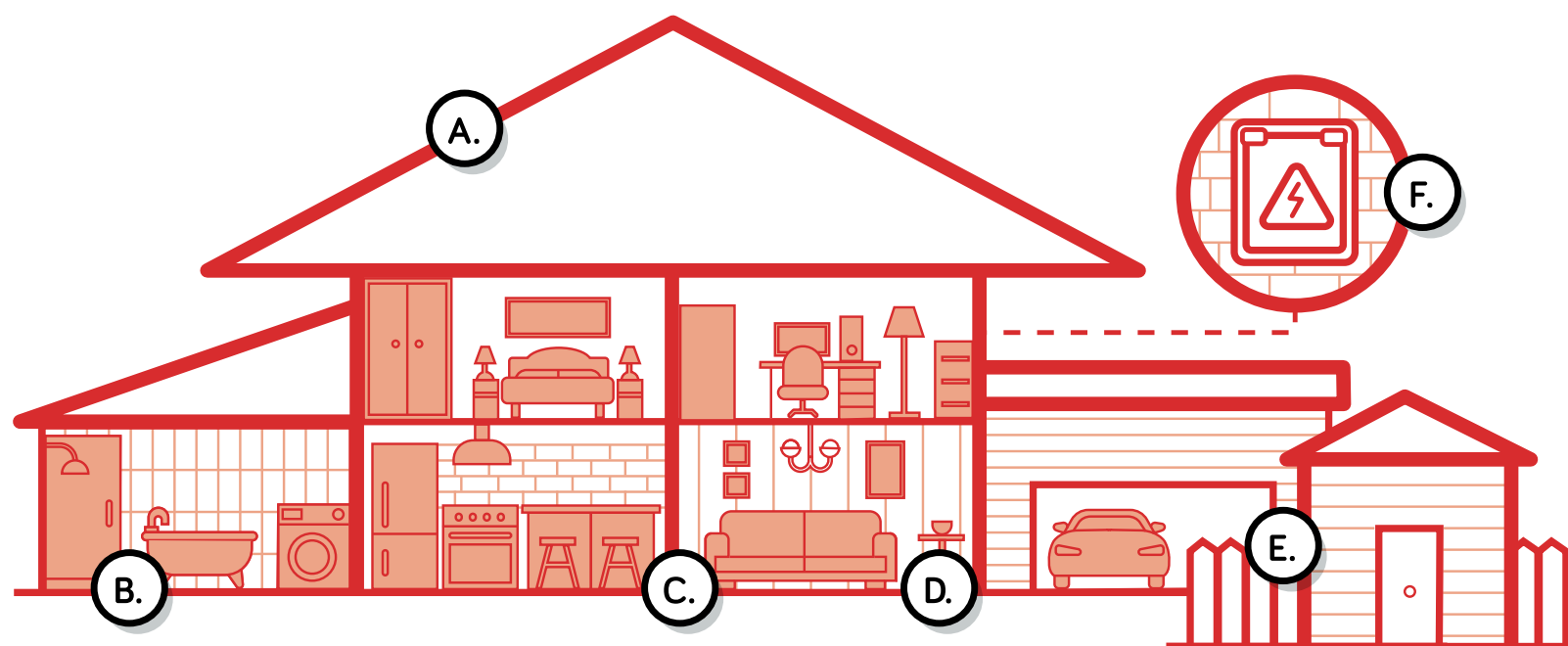


of running (and life). For Anthony and I, this act of dedication and resilience serves as an enduring connection and love we feel for Dad. It allows us to keep his memory alive. And it provides a tangible, ongoing way to commemorate his influence on our lives.



## Asbestos locations diagram

Australian Government  
Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency



### A. Exterior

Roof sheeting, gutters, downpipes, ridge capping, imitation brick cladding and lining under eaves.

### B. Bathroom, toilet and laundry

Wall and ceiling panels, vinyl floor tiles and backing for wall tiles.

### C. Kitchen

Wall and ceiling panels, backing for splashbacks, vinyl floor tiles, backing of vinyl flooring and insulation in stoves.

### D. Living areas

Wall and ceiling panels, carpet underlay and insulation in domestic heaters.

### E. Backyard

Fences, garden sheds, garages, carports, outdoor toilets, dog kennels, buried and dumped waste materials.

### F. Other areas

Backing of electrical switchboards, insulation in roof cavities, hot water pipe insulation, textured paint and plaster patching compounds.

# Gippsland TAFE

## NEWBOROUGH CAMPUS

On Wednesday 13th September we were invited to speak to some 160 apprentices in various trades about asbestos and silica. It was a really vibrant session with plenty of interaction. The apprentices had plenty of questions which we were able to answer – Their Trade teachers also got into the conversations that happened around being exposed and what do they do if they come across it. The apprentices were given bags of information with details of trusted sites they could go to for extra info. Silica was also a hot topic of conversation as well. All in all it was a terrific session that went for 2 hours with lots of questions.

Conversation with some of the apprentices happened after the session finished so that we could drill down on some of the specific questions each apprentice wanted to talk about more thoroughly. It was sad to see at the end quite a lot of hands go up when we asked the question “How many of you know you have already been exposed to asbestos” Here are some pics of the session and thank you to all those who made this happen.



## Maurice Blackburn Sponsorship 2023/24

**We would like to say a big thank you to the team at Maurice Blackburn, Sally Weir, Leah O’Keefe, Colleen Bolger, Anita Arian, Maria McGarvie and so many more at the Dust Diseases Dept for all the support that they give ACV/GARDS.**

It has been wonderful to have them support us. We have had a long relationship with Maurice Blackburn.

Our relationship with Maurice Blackburn has been over a lengthy period of time. Our org could not survive without the help of sponsorships like this from socially minded companies. ACV/GARDS could not continue its work in the Victorian community without the good will from organisations that support us in this manner.

Again, thank you from us all we really appreciate it. Thank you to the dust diseases team for going the extra. Pictured here is the team photo a great bunch, dedicated to looking after those who are by no fault of their own exposed to carcinogenic dusts.





# Parliamentary Commemoration 20th Anniversary of the Total Ban on Asbestos in Australia at Parliament House - But ... the danger is far from over

On Thursday 7th of Dec the network of asbestos support groups, Unions, ACTU, ASEA staff & council and many more were invited to Parliament House for the 20th Anniversary of the Asbestos Ban in Australia - we were all invited to be in the gallery to hear the statement in the House of Representatives by the Hon. Tony Burke MP - Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations - he mentioned more had to be done to eradicate asbestos and stop more people being exposed to this disease - after this occasion we were all then invited to morning tea hosted by the speaker of the House in his court yard. When that concluded we were invited to the Parliamentary Group on Asbestos Related Disease (PGARD) meeting with Co-Chairs Ms. Lisa Chesters MP and Mr. Russell Broadbent MP along with invited Federal Parliamentarians featuring a presentation from Ms.



Julia Collins Director of the Asbestos Safety and Eradication agency. It was a very auspicious day with many things to discuss and what needs to happen into the future - we need to eradicate asbestos from our built

environment it is the only way stop more disease happening - lots to do into the future and the ASEA strategic management plan will play a big part in this evolving. Here are some pics of the day. A very memorable day for all

and for Asbestos Council of Victoria/ GARDS Inc. we were very honoured to be a part of the event. Thank you to Mathew Werfel Assistant Director at ASEA for helping to arrange this event.



# Asbestos Awareness Day Event

## City of Melbourne Bowls Club

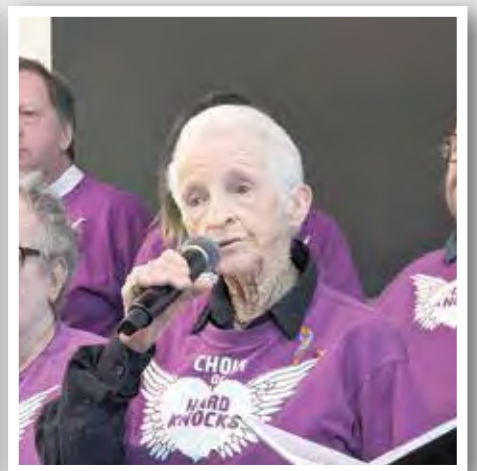
### 13th December was a truly memorable day of awesome guest speakers -

Metro Asbestos Awareness Memorial Event Day Monday 13 November 2023. It's always a moving event full of heart. We would like to thank all our exemplary speakers for sharing their insightful and engaging views.

Thank you to all those unseen helpers behind the scenes. And thank you to our sponsors without them we would not have been able to achieve this great event.

Harriet Shing MP, PPTU Victoria, Prensa, Proas, City Circle Group, AWARE, CFMEU - Construction & General, Industrial Demolition Services, MANN GROUP, AAH Contracting





# AUSTRALIAN BAN ON ENGINEERED STONE TO BEGIN NEXT YEAR

States and territories to ban product on 1 July 2024, with the commonwealth flagging an import prohibition

Australia will ban the use, supply and manufacture of engineered stone, in a move that has been described as lifesaving.

State and Federal workplace ministers met on Wednesday 13th Dec, where they agreed to ban the material, which is commonly used in kitchen and bathroom benchtops. When cut, the product releases fine silica dust that has been found to cause deadly diseases and cancers.

A communique of the meeting said the decision was unanimous, with the majority of jurisdictions to have a ban in place from 1 July 2024.

Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales issued statements

after the meeting, in which they committed to this date. No one should be exposed to fatal risks simply by going to work. It's just unacceptable," Victoria's minister for WorkSafe, Danny Pearson said. Queensland's industrial relations minister, Grace Grace, said: "This is a dangerous product that's known to cause the potentially fatal disease silicosis, and it has no place in our workplaces."

New South Wales' minister for work health and safety, Sophie Cotsis, congratulated "all workers, unions, medical experts and businesses that I stood side by side as we campaigned for this day".

"My message to business and

consumers is this: it's time for you to stop buying this stuff. Don't enter into any further contracts," she said.

The federal government has also flagged a customs prohibition on engineered stone, effectively banning the importation of the product.

Ministers will consider at another meeting in March 2024 whether there will need to be a transition period for engineered stone ordered prior to Wednesday. But in the interim, they have urged businesses and consumers not to enter into any new contracts.

ACV/GARDS is very pleased to see this decision taken but there is still more to do – There are some

4,000 stonemasons in Australia but around 600,000 workers who are exposed to silica dust. Unfortunately, for most of this 600,000 there can no ban on

the materials that expose them to silica so our laws will have to be much more tighter around mining, tunnelling, quarrying, concrete cutting etc.



# Fundraising with Recycling for ACV/GARDS

ACV/GARDS is participating in the Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme where ACV/GARDS are encouraging

our members to store and bring in their recycling containers to our office so that Karen Healy can take

them to the collection point for a refund into our fundraising account. If you would like to be a part of this


please save your containers and bring them to the office and Karen will take care of it from here.






## VICTORIA'S CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME


[cdsvic.org.au](http://cdsvic.org.au)

BLUE CONTAINER DEPOSIT SITE











NEWBROUGH  
SCOUT  
GROUP  
HALL  
CARPARK.






WE ARE AN  
ELIGIBLE  
CHARITY!




### WHAT IS AN ELIGIBLE CONTAINER?

Most aluminium cans, glass and plastic bottles, carton drink containers between 150mL and 3 litres. Check for the 10c mark. For the full list, visit [cdsvic.org.au](http://cdsvic.org.au)



### INELIGIBLE CONTAINERS

- Plain milk containers
- Cordial or syrup containers
- Wine and spirits
- Large beverage pouches
- Sachets (soft plastic or foil) above 250mL that contained wine
- Some large containers including juice and flavoured milk
- Health tonics and probiotics
- Cartons under 150mL





# Working on a pre-1990 build?

# THINK TWICE ABOUT ASBESTOS

## What are the do's and don'ts with asbestos?

- ✓ Always check if asbestos is present before you begin work:
  - ▶ ask to see the asbestos register, or
  - ▶ ask an asbestos professional for advice and have a sample tested, or
  - ▶ assume the material contains asbestos and take the necessary precautions.

- ✓ Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment.



- ✗ Do not use brooms or brushes to dry-sweep asbestos containing dust.
- ✗ Do not use high-speed power tools to cut, grind, sand or drill asbestos materials.
- ✗ Do not use high pressure water or compressed air to clean asbestos materials.
- ✗ Do not use industrial drying fans in areas where damaged or friable asbestos material might be present, until the area has been certified as clear of any remaining asbestos.



## What are the restrictions around asbestos removal?

In most circumstances, WHS laws require asbestos to be removed from workplaces by a **licensed asbestos removalist**. There are two classes of licensed asbestos removalist:<sup>1</sup>

- ▶ Class A: authorised to remove all types of asbestos
- ▶ Class B: authorised to remove only non-friable asbestos materials

No more than 10m<sup>2</sup> of non-friable asbestos can be removed without a license, except in the **Australian Capital Territory (ACT)** where any amount of asbestos material must be removed by a licensed asbestos removalist.



In **Victoria** there is an additional requirement that removal of less than 10m<sup>2</sup> of non-friable asbestos can only be done without a license where the total time of asbestos removal work is less than 1 hour in any period of 7 days or, if removing asbestos contaminated dust, is no more than 10 minutes.

10m<sup>2</sup> of non-friable asbestos is equivalent to about four sheets of asbestos cement wall sheeting or one wall of an average size bathroom.

## What are the training requirements?

Workers carrying out work involving asbestos materials must:

- ▶ be trained in asbestos identification, safe handling and control measures
- ▶ use equipment designed to capture or suppress airborne asbestos, and
- ▶ follow safe removal, decontamination and disposal methods.

WHS laws also require a Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) to be completed for construction work that disturbs or is likely to disturb asbestos, because this is considered high-risk construction work.



### Did you know?

Even if you follow the regulations and safety requirements to remove small amounts of asbestos, it is much **safer and easier** to engage a **licensed asbestos removalist** who is fully trained, insured and equipped to prevent or minimise exposure to asbestos.

**It often works out cheaper too!**

# Asbestos Awareness Day Event

## Gippsland Heritage Park

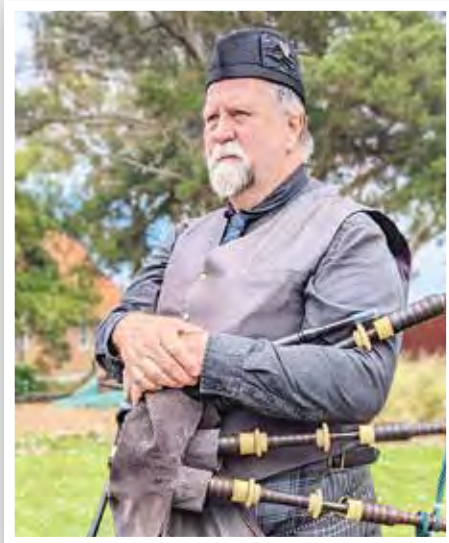
Magnificent day and truly an emotional event. We had inspirational speakers sending messages into the community to educate and make people aware of the dangers - 4000 Australians die of asbestos disease every year - 700+ die of mesothelioma every year - 1 in 3 homes built before 1990 will have asbestos somewhere in them - get an audit done before you start to do any renovations - they shared their knowledge and experiences to make the community aware - truly a wonderful day for supporting sufferers and their families and letting them know that they matter and are loved. This day would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors – Hazelwood Project – Engie, Veolia Environmental Services, Foundation Civil & Mining, AAH Contracting, Kubale Constructions, Mairin OHS&E consulting, Latrobe Plumbing & Asbestos

A special thank you to the Lions Club of Moe who did a fantastic job of feeding the 90 community members who attended the event - everyone said it was very yummy !



**20 YEARS** ASBESTOS TOTAL BAN IN AUSTRALIA

But... there is more to do to prevent disease



# ACV/GARDS Xmas Lunch

## Gippsland

2<sup>nd</sup> December the ACV/GARDS crew got together for lunch and merriment – Santa attended with his elf to help – you may see the elf in the pics – see if you can spy him. The gang enjoyed a lovely Xmas lunch at the Morwell Club in Helen Street, Morwell – thank you to the club for making it a perfect venue for our get together – everything was just wonderful. We look forward to next year and being together for whatever comes our way. We would like to acknowledge Tom McDowall Manager of Hazelwood Project – Engie for helping us to make this happen.







# ACV/GARDS Xmas Lunch

## Melbourne

4th Dec the ACV/GARDS support group we conduct at Amaroo House met at the Mulgrave Country Club for lunch – it was an enjoyable day and there were 10 of us for lunch – lots of laughter and exchange of experiences and information happened. We look forward to next year and getting together again. We are also welcoming new members to the group next year so it will be nice to meet others who experience what we all are going through. It is always nice to be able to support each other.

## MEETING DATES

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

### GIPPSLAND MOE SUPPORT GROUP MEETING 2024

Last Tuesday of the month -  
1.30pm to 3.30pm

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

- 27th FEBRUARY 2024
- 26th MARCH 2024
- 30th APRIL 2024
- 28th MAY 2024
- 25th JUNE 2024
- 30th JULY 2024
- 27th AUGUST 2024
- 24th SEPTEMBER 2024
- 29th OCTOBER 2024
- 29th NOVEMBER 2024 [asbestos awareness day]
- Christmas Breakup - TBA

### METRO CHADSTONE SUPPORT GROUP MEETING 2024

Second Monday of the month,  
1:30PM-3:30PM

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

- 12th FEBRUARY 2024
- 11th MARCH 2024 [PH TBA]
- 8th APRIL 2024
- 13th MAY 2024
- 10th JUNE 2024 [PH TBA]
- 8th JULY 2024
- 12th AUGUST 2024
- 9th SEPTEMBER 2024
- 14th OCTOBER 2024
- TBA 2024 [asbestos awareness day]
- Christmas Breakup - TBA

### NIGHT MEETING, OPERATIONAL/BUSINESS FOR 2024 - GIPPSLAND MOE

Third Tuesday of the month,  
7:30PM-9:00PM

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

- 20th FEBRUARY 2024
- 19th MARCH 2024
- 16th APRIL 2024
- 21st MAY 2024
- 18th JUNE 2024
- 16th JULY 2024
- 20th AUGUST 2024
- 17th SEPTEMBER 2024
- 15th OCTOBER 2024
- 19th NOVEMBER 2024
- Christmas Breakup - TBA

# CFMEU

VICTORIA

Loy Yang B Power Station

Powering  alintaenergy

## NEW WEB SITE COMING SOON FOR ACV/GARDS

THANK YOU TO ALINTA LOY YANG B Community Partnership Program & the CFMEU Construction & General Vic/Tas

So, very soon we will be showing you our new web site – it has been a creation in the making. We at ACV/GARDS are really thrilled to be able to upgrade the site and will be excited to show it to everyone soon.

Again, we want to thank Alinta Loy Yang B Community Partnership Program and the CFMEU Construction & General Vic/Tas in supporting our efforts to help those seeking information on Asbestos and Silica.

# Special People and Organisations

Regular donations made to us by these generous companies – thank you to:

Sam Erbs and all the team at Mairin OHS&E Consulting – Moe – We thank you for your continued support – Steve Day and all the team at Latrobe Plumbing and Asbestos thank you for your support

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

Carolyn Davis regular donations each month, Pay Pal Giving fund anonymous donations x 2, Mick Chopping, Ian & Pushpa Wilson, Robert Rawlings, Thady Blundell, Katrina Walker, Marian Schellekens, Rhonda Dunn, Lee Archer & Peter Clark, Thea Robinson, Lorraine Fairbairn, Steph Sabrinskas

THANK YOU!

Thank you so much for your awesome donation Stephen Nachorny & Maureen Westhorp it was a very kind gesture and the money will be put to good use

Thank you to Sponsors for our Two Events Metro & Gippsland in November

## AWARE

Australia Wide Asbestos Removal & Encapsulation

## Prensa P/L

Property – Environment – Safety  
City Circle Demolition

## PROAS

Professional Asbestos Removal

## PPTEU

Plumbing & Pipe Trades Employees Union

## City Circle Demolition

## Foundation Civil and Mining

## Veolia Environmental Services

## Harriet Shing

Labor Member For Eastern Victoria

## AAH Contracting

## Insulment P/L

## Kubale Constructions

## Mairin OHS&E consulting

## Latrobe Plumbing & Asbestos

## Industrial Demolition

## CFMEU – Construction & General Vic/Tas

## Hazelwood Project - Engie

## Donations made in Memory of - Alan Roberts

- Vicki & Graeme Hamilton, Dorothy Roberts

## Donations made in Memory of - Richard Roberts

- Dorothy Roberts & Vicki Hamilton

Thank you so much to Mairin OHS&E Consulting for fundraising for ACV/GARDS we really appreciated it. The can was heavy to pick up!

Thank you to Marlene Cameron for her wonderful donation – it is very much appreciated – you are very thoughtful

Thank you to Hazelwood Power – Engie For the wonderful donation/sponsorship to us

Donations made in Memory of - Ken Edebohls  
in Glenda Edebohls

Thank you so much to Pushpa Wilson in Memory of her husband Ian

Thank you to the CFMEU Construction & General Vic/TAS team of Gerry Ayres – Jason Deans and Brendan Mizzi – you have been fantastic to our org and we very much appreciated all your help you have given this year – you are our champions.

**Asbestos** is dangerous.  
And it could be in your home.



ACV GARDS  
Asbestos Council of Victoria

THINK TWICE ABOUT ASBESTOS

ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK  
November 20-26 2023



# 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: .....

## Committee of Management

President:

**Dorothy Roberts**

Mobile 0407274174

Vice President:

**Maree Phillips**

Mobile 0458565726

CEO/Secretary:

**Vicki Hamilton OAM**

Mobile 0407274173

Treasurer:

**David Fairbairn**

Mobile 0403319520

Member:

**Sharyn Fenech**

Mobile – 0423587363

Member:

**Karen Healy**

Mobile -0429960537

**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: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

## ACV/GARDS Fees

Joining Fee: ..... **\$5.00**

Annual Fees:

Pensioner/Concession

Unemployed ..... **\$5.00**

Employed persons ..... **\$15.00**

## Meetings

Operations at this present time

**GIPPSLAND - MOE**

**SUPPORT:**

Last Tuesday of month,

1.30pm - 3.30pm

**211 Lloyd St, Moe**

All meetings are face to face at our office

**METRO - CHADSTONE**

**SUPPORT:**

2nd Monday of month,

1.30pm - 3.30pm

**Amaroo Neighbourhood Centre -**

**34 Amaroo St, Chadstone**

Contact Maitea Lovric or

Vicki Hamilton – all meetings are

face to face

**ORGANISATIONAL/OPERATIONAL**

**EVENING:**

3rd Tuesday of month,

7.30pm - 9.30pm

**211 Lloyd St, Moe**

By telephone conferencing and

face to face

## Office Hours

Monday to Thursday

10am - 4pm

Friday - By appointment

Our support group  
Facilitator Maitea Lovric, who  
conducts our ACV/GARDS  
Metro support group can be  
contacted by mobile #  
**0481987953**

## Up and coming events 2023

**AGM scheduled for**

**February 3rd – 2pm**

**at the ACV/GARDS office 211 Lloyd Street,  
Moe – all are welcome to attend**

# 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**



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

**Online donations**  
<http://www.givenow.com.au/gards>


**Phone:**  
**03 5127 7744 24/7**

**Mobile:**  
**0407 274 173**

**Website:**  
[www.gards.org](http://www.gards.org)

**SKYPE:**  
**VickiGARDS**

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

 Follow us on Twitter  
[twitter.com/@ACV\\_GARDS](https://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 2x 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, 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

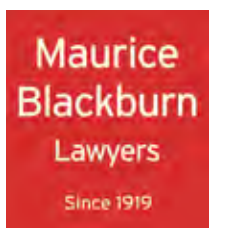


**ACV/GARDS has an organisational, activities and advocating arm. Interested financial members can come along to evening meetings, which are, conducted 7.30pm – 9.30pm on the third Tuesday of the month at our office.**

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**



**We will be closed for Christmas and New Year holidays**

**From 22nd Dec to the 22nd Jan 2024**

*We wish all our members and supporters a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year – see you all in 2024.*

If you do require assistance over this break please ring Vicki on 0407274173.