

National Strategies

In support of achieving the outcomes identified in the National Declaration for Safe Asbestos Free Environment (SAFE) Australia some useful strategies to pursue these objectives include:

- Increase the awareness on where ACMs are located, in environmental, industrial, commercial and domestic settings.
- General public education must include advice to homeowners on the identification and safe handling of ACMs in existing domestic housing stock.
- For local governments and environment protection agencies to train and license contractors for safe asbestos waste disposal and for the provision of adequate dedicated secure and permanent waste disposal sites.
- A consistent national scheme of notifications of known asbestos exposure to contact a specific and appropriately resourced government entity which would have the responsibility to provide referral and education (e.g. akin to the existing notification system for infectious diseases).
- Ensure that national OHS regulations provide protection from industrial exposures to asbestos containing materials.
- Waste Disposal laws for ACMs must provide for dedicated asbestos waste areas, assist residents for safe removal and disposal and compliment other OHS, building and planning laws.
- Building and planning and waste disposal laws must compliment national OHS based Asbestos Regulations, using such mechanisms as:
 - Audit of public buildings particularly in the health and education sectors, with asbestos registers and a target of prioritised removal by 2030;
 - In the commercial and industrial sectors; asbestos registers that include the program of prioritised removal by 2030 and a requirement for vendors and landlords and/or their agents to notify buyers and tenants of the asbestos register i.e. asbestos safety certificates;
 - For domestic housing stock, a requirement for the disclosure of ACMs, at the point of sale, with the purpose of the eventual removal of asbestos from of housing stock;
 - Landlords (including governments) and vendors and/or their agents in the residential dwelling sector being obliged to notify buyers and tenants of the presence of ACMs i.e. asbestos safety certificates.
- National system of accreditation for asbestos assessors and auditors.
- Review performance of asbestos removalists.

Additionally, governments must make arrangements for the allocation of funds in a coordinated approach for medical research.

Proposal to establish a National Asbestos Authority

A National Asbestos Authority (NAA) should initially be established as an independent authority with the appropriate powers to coordinate and enforce all of the aspects contained in the range of tasks and matters listed in this Declaration.

The NAA would work best as an independent body, as a statutory Authority. Its coverage and agenda would not be limited to workplaces so that it could develop a total community approach.

The activities of the NAA could be overseen by a board of management consisting of a representation from key stakeholders from unions, the community, asbestos disease support groups, health groups and government.

This Summit calls on Government to commit to legal reform of the Corporations Act to hold members of a corporate group, including a holding company, liable for personal injury or death as a result of a wrong committed by a company within the group.