

ISSUE 1

AFTF

news

Welcome to the first newsletter of Asbestos Free Tasmania Foundation. Please email feedback or comments to info@asbestosfreetasmania.org.au

Minister launches Asbestos Free Tasmania Foundation

The Minister for Workplace Relations, the Hon. David O'Byrne MP, was proud to officially launch Asbestos Free Tasmania Foundation on 22nd November 2010. Asbestos Free Tasmania Foundation (AFTF) offers a free advice, support and information service for people across Tasmania. Perfectly timed for the start of Asbestos Awareness Week, the Minister launched AFTF in front of a packed audience at the Henry Jones Art Hotel, who kindly donated the hotel's stunning facilities, food and helpful staff for the event.

Asbestos disease sufferer and Board member of the Foundation, Laurie Appleby, spoke about his experience with asbestos. Aiming to support change for all sufferers,

Laurie told his story about working with asbestos and the devastating impact it has had on his health. Darren Brown, who stood beside Laurie at the lectern, shared a similar story about his father's mesothelioma and how he bravely fought the disease for so long. Sadly, Darren's father Terry lost his fight with cancer a short time before the launch. Laurie and Darren were there to support AFTF's mission, 'Tasmanians to be free from the risk of exposure to asbestos and asbestos related disease.'

The Minister outlined the Government's asbestos agenda and Chairman of Asbestos Free Tasmania Foundation (AFTF), Simon Cocker, and CEO Lisa Singh, gave an overview of the current work and future developments of the organisation.

Laurie Appleby (left) and Darren Brown pictured below,



Home
About AFTF
Asbestos News
About Asbestos
Asbestos Related Diseases
Support
Is It Asbestos?
Removal of Asbestos
Disposing of Asbestos
Membership
Make a Donation
Useful Links & Resources
Our People
Contact Us
Disclaimer

Welcome to Asbestos Free Tasmania Foundation

Asbestos Free Tasmania Foundation - AFTF is a not-for-profit, community based organisation located in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia.

AFTF provides support and assistance to Tasmanian asbestos disease sufferers and their families. Our aim is to promote a safer, healthier Tasmania through assisting to reduce the number of people exposed to asbestos and reduce the incidence of asbestos related disease (ARD) in the Tasmania community.

OUR VISION "Tasmanians to be free from the risk of exposure to asbestos and asbestos related disease."

About asbestos

In Australia, asbestos was used until the early 1980s, including in building products. [Read more...](#)

Support for victims

Support, referral and advisory service for asbestos disease sufferers in Tasmania and their families. [Read more...](#)

Asbestos Free Tasmania Organisation is proudly sponsored by



AFTF website a hit

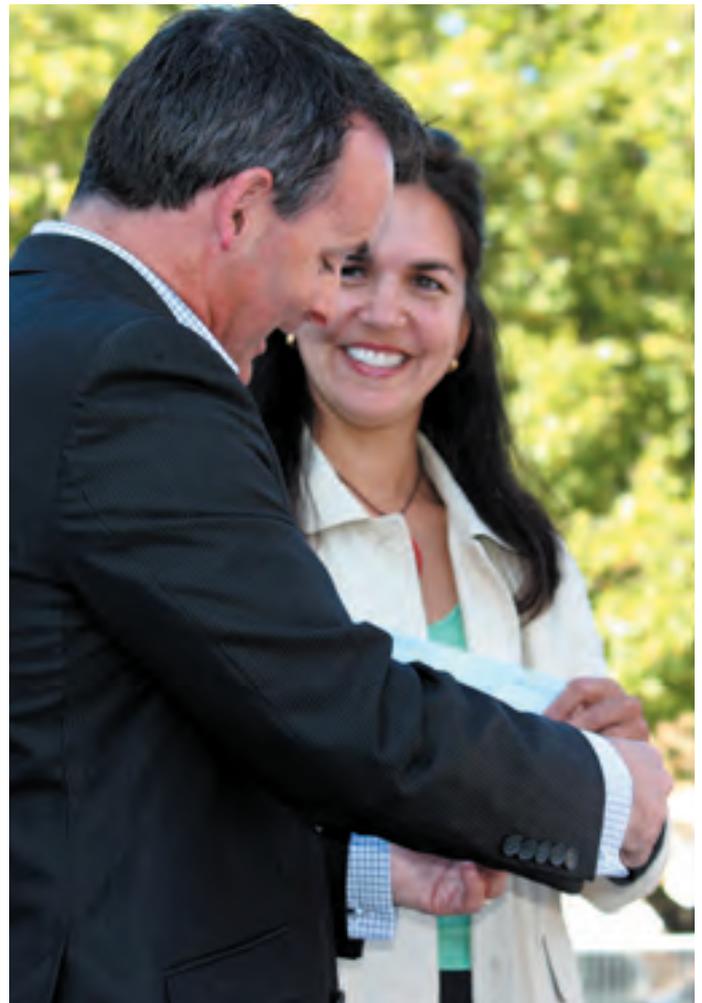
The AFTF website was warmly received as part of the launch. The website contains information about many aspects of asbestos, including how to recognise it, what to do if you find asbestos and links to professional asbestos removalists. Information about asbestos related diseases can also be found on the website or in a free booklet.

Find out more information at:

www.asbestosfreetasmania.org.au or for a free copy of the booklet 'Asbestos Related Diseases' call in at the AFTF office.

State funding boost of \$60,000 – more needed

On 9th February the Minister for Workplace Relations, David O'Byrne, presented AFTF with a one off \$60,000 grant. Equal funds were presented to the Tasmanian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (TCCI) and Unions Tasmania for asbestos awareness and education. AFTF is delighted to receive government funding, however this falls short of the submission provided to government in May 2010. We will continue to argue for ongoing funding for AFTF, whose sole purpose is to provide asbestos education and support services. A coordinated approach is required to ensure the three organisations to do not duplicate services on asbestos education.



Responsible Workplaces

Tasmanian regulations require 'The person in control of the building, structure or mine must take all reasonably practicable steps to identify the presence of any asbestos in the workplace.' A risk assessment must be carried out by an occupational hygienist or 'A' class removalist on the potential exposure to asbestos airborne fibres. The location of all asbestos identified must then be recorded in a register, which remains at the workplace and should be updated periodically. For more information on Asbestos Registers or subsequent regulations contact [AFTF](#) or visit www.wst.tas.gov.au

Be 'Right On' Canada

Late last year Canada's Jeffrey Mine which continues to mine, produce and export asbestos materials around the world, asked the Quebec government to guarantee a loan for it to continue mining. RightOnCanada.ca a human rights internet advocacy organisation, has been fighting to get the Canadian government to ban asbestos and stop its export to developing countries. With funds donated from health defenders and labour groups around the world, RightOnCanada placed advertisements in Canadian newspapers challenging Prime Minister Harper and Quebec Premier Charest to stop exporting asbestos. [AFTF](#) wrote to Premier Charest and received an acknowledgement.



<http://www.rightoncanada.ca>

Did you know?

Any amount of asbestos exposure is too much. Inhaled asbestos fibres can cause lung disease including lung cancer, asbestosis and mesothelioma. Around 15 Tasmanians die each year from mesothelioma. Australia has the highest incidence rates of asbestos disease in the world.

See your doctor if any of the following occur:

- Coughing up blood
- Increasing breathlessness
- Chest pain
- Persistent cough

Tasmania – bottom of the league

At 100m², Tasmania continues to have the worst regulations in the country when it comes to the amount of bonded asbestos an individual is legally allowed to remove in buildings. Currently anyone can remove up to 100 square metres of bonded asbestos product without a licensed removalist. Other states have reduced their regulations to 10m² and Tasmania is working hard to come into line. The removal of asbestos must be in accordance with SafeWork Australia's Code for Safe Removal of Asbestos. [AFTF](#) will continue to lobby the Minister to change the regulations as a matter of urgency.

[AFTF](#) believes that asbestos should be removed by a licensed asbestos removalist. However, as regulations allow for individuals to remove asbestos, [AFTF](#) want to provide homeowners and workplaces with a safe way to do it. [AFTF](#) is working with Workplace Standards and Victoria's LaTrobe City Council on the development of Asbestos Removal Kits, which have been a success in Victoria in the safe removal of small amounts of bonded asbestos – less than 10m². These kits, which come with a training DVD, provide everything two people need to safely remove, and dispose of, a small amount of asbestos.



Vendors tell all

Vendor disclosure is yet to commence in Tasmania despite legislation being passed last year. The law will require a vendor to complete a vendor statement about the property they are selling. Included in the statement will be a section on asbestos where the vendor will have to declare if they are or are not aware of asbestos in the building, and details if there is asbestos.

For more information go to www.consumer.tas.gov.au

Cancer Care Network

The Cancer Care Network is one of ten networks currently being created under the Clinical Networks Tasmania banner. Clinical Networks Tasmania is part of the Clinical Advice and Network Development Unit (CANDU) of the Tasmanian Government, Department of Health and Human Services.

On Friday 4th February 2011, the Cancer Care Network was launched in Launceston by the Minister for Health, the Hon. Michelle O'Byrne MP, to coincide with World Cancer Day.

The Cancer Care Network will form the basis for greater involvement of clinicians and consumers in the planning, delivery, evaluation and improvement of cancer related health services in Tasmania. It aims to improve outcomes for patients and consumers.

For further information on the Cancer Care Network clinicalnetworks.dhhs.tas.gov.au/display/CAN/Home

A big thank you to all our sponsors who support the work of AFTF. With your input we are able to help all Tasmanians be free from asbestos and asbestos related diseases.

Asbestos Free Tasmania Foundation Inc is not accredited to provide advice. Professional advice should be sought from the relevant sources as required. Despite our best efforts, Asbestos Free Tasmania Foundation Inc makes no statements, representations or warranties about the accuracy or completeness of any information provided. Asbestos Free Tasmania Foundation Inc disclaims all responsibility and all liability (including without limitation, liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages and costs you might incur as a result of the information being inaccurate or incomplete in any way and for any reason.



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To make a donation, please send a cheque, made payable to Asbestos Free Tasmania Foundation, to the above address.

Thank you.