



This election who is going to **Speak Up** about asbestos?

Although banned in 2003, asbestos remains a killer.

642 Australians died from mesothelioma (an asbestos related disease) in 2010. And scientists estimate that for each of these deaths another two Australians are dying from lung cancer caused by asbestos exposure.

Asbestos remains in houses, public buildings, schools, hospitals, and elsewhere in the built environment. Once disturbed even the smallest amount breathed can later kill.

Only Labor has a plan to remove all asbestos from our environment.

This election, ask your local candidate will they speak up about asbestos?

What has Labor done?

Labor answered the call of unions, victim groups and concerned public health organisations to set up a national inquiry into asbestos.

Labor knows the only way to get rid of the horrible, preventable cancers and deaths caused by asbestos is to remove asbestos from Australia's buildings. The Labor Government established set up the Office of Asbestos Safety in immediate response to the release of the Review's findings, and followed up with the world's first ever Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency this year.

Labor released the National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Awareness and Management. It runs for five years, starting from this year.

Labor's Plan aims to identify the location and condition of all asbestos by 2018. The Plan also aims to get all asbestos containing material out of government owned and commercial buildings by 2030.

Labor also committed a further \$6.4 million last month for development of strategies, including removal pilots testing the action chain from identification through to disposal.

What about the coalition?

While the coalition indicated its support for the Review and the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency, signs from some of its Liberal State counterparts and Tony Abbott's past form put some big questions over its position.

Tony Abbott rejected a Telstra proposal in 2001 to create an independent compensation body to speed up compensation for its workers affected by asbestos. Tony Abbott preferred these workers to stay with a slower system.

Tony Abbott's colleague, Liberal Premier of Victoria, Dennis Napthine, has snubbed his federal colleagues and his fellow Victorians when he announced that Victoria will not be part of the national plan.

Is this a sign of what a future Abbott government might also do?

The future

Over the next 20 years, an estimated 30,000 to 40,000 Australians will be diagnosed with an asbestos-related disease. There are children not yet born who will die from an asbestos related disease.

This election, we can make a difference.

Ask your local 2013 Election Candidate:

Do you commit to funding the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency for the foreseeable future?

Do you support the total ban on asbestos materials?

Do you support removing all asbestos from workplaces and homes?

Do you support an Asbestos Free Australia by 2030?

Do you support the union movement's campaign on asbestos?

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