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[asbestosvictimsassocsa](https://www.facebook.com/asbestosvictimsassocsa)



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National Safe Work Month

October is National Safe Work Month —a time to commit to building a safe and healthy workplace. This is why, during October each year, Safe Work Australia asks businesses, employers and workers across Australia to commit to building safe and healthy workplaces for all Australians.

SafeWork SA reported that asbestos removal notifications increased by 8% to more than 6300 in 2021, according to the latest data.

Residential properties accounted for about 65% of South Australian removals with Adelaide, Modbury, Woodville, Whyalla and Salisbury being the localities with the highest number of removal notifications.

A residential property becomes a workplace when someone is employed or contracted to do work on it – this includes demolition.



AVA urges workers involved in demolition and construction to be aware of what they are working with. One third of all houses in Australia still contain asbestos and housing stock built between the 1950s and 1980s is the most likely place to find it.

Lung Foundation Australia is calling on workers across the country to know the risks of not only working with asbestos but of working with silica-containing materials, as performing certain tasks with these materials puts workers at risk of silicosis and other serious health conditions. Check out their website at Lungfoundation.com.au/SafeWork.

Wittenoom is finally closed – but who will clean up the asbestos waste?

The Hamersley Range National Park in Western Australia is part of an ancient land. Its spectacular gorges have sheer rock walls layered in colours from red to green and blue to pink in the changing sunlight. The water flow at their bases is sometimes narrow or sometimes forms wide crystal-clear pools reflecting the blue skies. The wildlife includes red kangaroos, wallaroos, and dingoes. Indigenous peoples have lived there for many thousands of years.

This wilderness was blighted in the 19th century by the discovery of minerals in the area, particularly iron ore. After 1960 large iron mines were developed at several sites and by the early 1990s the range accounted for more than 90 percent of Australia's iron ore production.



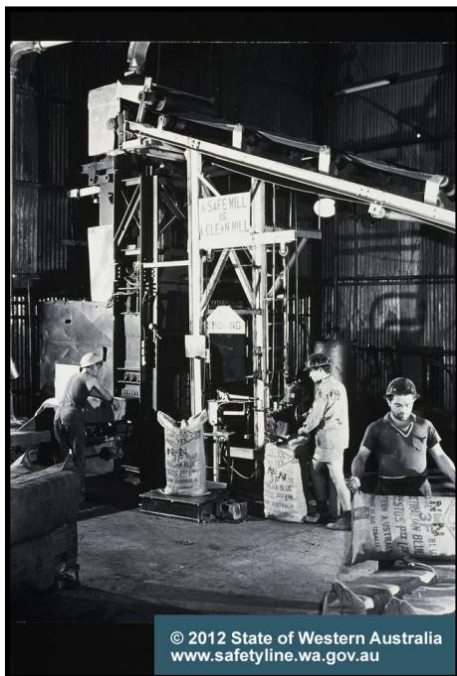
Blue asbestos was discovered at Wittenoom in 1917 and was mined from the 1930s to the 1960s. The miners worked in appalling conditions, but the pay was good – working there for two years, a young man could set himself up in life. For this reason it attracted many migrants after World War II. For a time it was a thriving and close-knit little town with activities for everyone. On race day there was an asbestos shovelling competition!

Sadly for many, the legacy of these hopes

and dreams was an asbestos related illness. Many suffered life limiting diseases such as mesothelioma or asbestosis. It wasn't only the workers who were affected but also the families who lived there, the children who went to school there and played in the tailings.

The dangers of life at Wittenoom have been known for years but only now has the WA government removed the last few residents, who stayed on despite the risk.

The Banjima people are the traditional owners of this red dirt country, which includes the renowned Karijini National Park. The area has great significance for them as it includes many sacred sites.



Evidence of their ancestors' occupation dates back more than 30,000 years.

The Banjima people believe there is an obligation to return the area to something like its original state. No government has ever committed to cleaning up the area, which is understood to be the largest contaminated site in the southern hemisphere and home to 3 million tonnes of contaminant stretching across 46,000 hectares. Fixing the problems at Wittenoom could take years to complete and could cost many millions of dollars.



Road Deaths compared to Asbestos Deaths

We maintain our cars to ensure they are roadworthy and we take care on the roads. No-one wants to be a road toll statistic. **Each year in Australia approximately 1000 people die as a result of a road crash.**

Would it surprise you to know that there are more asbestos related deaths each year than there are road deaths?

Approximately 4000 people die from an asbestos related disease each year.

So how asbestos aware are you? Do you know what to look for? What would you do if you suspected the presence of asbestos in your house?

Get professional advice if you are unsure.



For all your Asbestos queries go to
asbestos.sa.gov.au



Bunnings Trade Expo Adelaide Showgrounds September 2022

The AVA stand at the Bunnings Trade Expo was busy all day with tradies coming up to ask questions and share their experiences. Most were aware of the dangers of asbestos and the need to have an inspection done before starting work on older properties.

Concerns were raised about asbestos being found in worksites. Our volunteers were asked how to identify asbestos. What does asbestos lagging look like? It is encouraging to see this level of awareness from people who are most likely to come across it.

Volunteers Brendan and Doreen at the AVA stand with a Bunnings representative

Asbestos Victims Memorial Day

DATE: 25 November 2022
VENUE: Pitman Park SALISBURY



A new car for AVA

A shout out to the Shop, Distributive & Allied Employees' Association. The SDA has been a long-term supporter of AVA and recently provided us with a new vehicle, complete with our logo. We very much appreciate the support – it enables us to continue our work in the community. **Thank you, SDA!**

AVA President Peter Baxter and Vice President Maxine Williams

SOCIAL DIARY

Social mornings at 60 Waymouth Street:
Wednesday 9 November at 10.00 am



AVA THANKS THE FOLLOWING MAJOR SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

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