

Spring 2021
NEWSLETTER

adss

Asbestos Disease
Support Society



Asbestos Disease Support Society
16 Campbell Street, Bowen Hills, QLD 4006
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1800 776 412 | inquiries@adss.org.au

DO YOU KNOW
BEING AN
**ADSS & SSN
MEMBER**

There is free assistance through the provision of:

Information on asbestos & silica related diseases

Support from our social worker

Clinical support from the registered nurse

Medical aids on loan

Community morning tea groups and support groups

Nutritional advice

Occupational therapy assessment

Quarterly Newsletter

**Legal consultation with our preferred lawyers experienced
in asbestos and silica compensation.**

**Call the Society if you would like to
discuss any of these services**

1800 776 412



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Symposium 2021

Occupational Lung Diseases 'All Dust is Dangerous'

**Wednesday 20 October 10am - 12pm
City Hall, King George Square, Brisbane.**

Registrations open at 9.15am for a prompt 10am start



**The ADSS Annual General Meeting will be held after the
Symposium on Wednesday 20 October at 1pm.**

**For further information or to RSVP to the Symposium
and/or the AGM, please call the society on **07 3252 7852** or
email: inquiries@adss.org.au**

In Loving Memory

Joseph Wayne Bradley
Paul Hawkins
Howard (John) Pallett
Simon Sanders
Neville Knopke
Douglas Mervyn Pye
Peter Schalcher
Peter Blocksidge
Robert Joseph (Bob) Wiltshire
Keith George Wakeling
Robertson (Bob) Arthur
Kenneth George Clarke
Alan Crofts
Darryl Roy Blight
Donald Harry Allison
Richard Brian Williams
Allan James Horton
Vincent George Stone
Graham Ernest Neal



We thought of you with love today
But that is nothing new.
We thought about you yesterday
And days before that too.
We think of you in silence
We often speak your name
Now all we have is memories
and your picture in a frame.
Your memory is our keepsake.
With which we'll never part.
God has you in his keeping
We have you in our heart

General Managers Report

TREVOR TORRENS



Welcome to the Spring Edition of the Society's Newsletter. Since the Winter Newsletter we have continued our very successful program of community morning teas, including a Central Qld/Wide Bay tour which included Gladstone, Bundaberg, Hervey Bay and Gympie – the numbers have been great! These events are held in partnership with Turner Freeman Lawyers who also attended – thanks to Thady Blundell and Elisha Parker (Bundaberg and Hervey Bay), Jacqueline Hughes (Gladstone) and Wayne McStay (Gympie) for their assistance and the important information they provided. We still have few SEQ morning teas to go, so watch out for your invite.



Werfel v. Amaca Pty Limited (formerly James Hardie & Coy Pty Limited)

There has been a recent decision of the High Court that may have further ramifications for James Hardie, decades after the manufacture of asbestos products ceased in Australia. Asbestos manufacturers may now have to run public awareness campaigns to educate the public on the dangers of asbestos during home renovations, after the High Court rejected an application for special leave to appeal in *Werfel v. Amaca Pty Limited* (formerly James Hardie & Coy Pty Limited).

Turner Freeman Lawyers (South Australia) ran the case for 44-year-old Adelaide father-of-three Mathew Werfel and the decision potentially opened up compensation claims for people who contract mesothelioma due to home renovations.

James Hardie's legal liability has now been confirmed to be beyond the products they sold to end users and to extend to all those who may come into contact with those products in future, including those who are still being exposed during home renovations.

The Society's legal adviser, Thady Blundell, Queensland Managing Partner of Turner Freeman Lawyers comments on this important and historic decision in his regular article in this Newsletter.



L to R Annie Hoffman (Turner Freeman Lawyers SA), Matthew Werfel and Jenny Werfel

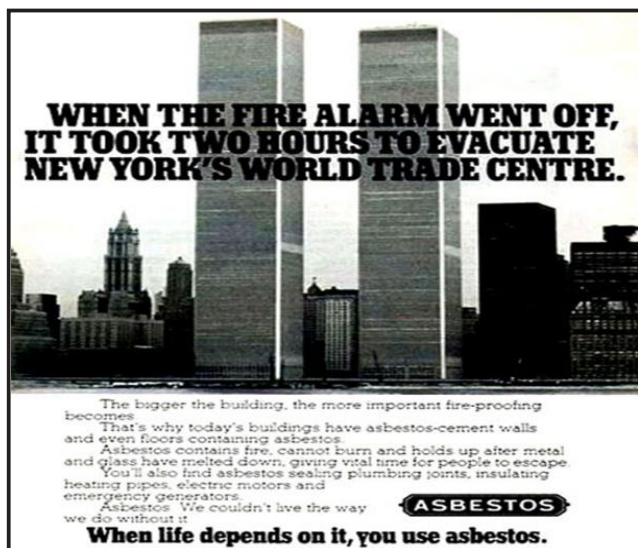
Twentieth Anniversary of 9/11

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 World Trade Centre terrorist attacks. While many lives were lost in the actual attack, what has come to light in the intervening years is the health toll on emergency workers and clean-up crew who are now suffering significant health issues 20 years on.

More than 91,000 workers and volunteers were exposed to a range of hazards during the rescue, recovery and clean-up operations. By March 2021, some 80,785 of these responders had enrolled in the World Trade Centre Health Program, which was set up after the attacks to monitor their health and treat them.

What is known is that the dust released when the twin towers of the World Trade Centre collapsed contained many toxins, including asbestos (which was used as a fire retardant), chrySTALLINE silica, lead, mercury and a mix of other harmful substances.

Of great concern is contracting the disease mesothelioma, which has a long and highly varied latency period, with symptoms typically appearing decades after a person has been exposed to asbestos – so many of those affected are only now approaching that time period and it is expected the number of responders etc with cancers associated with asbestos exposure is expected to rise in coming years.



As advertisement exposing the benefits of asbestos materials in the World Trade Centre, prior to the collapse.

A big thank you to ADSS member Eric Schloss who has provided a media article in the "Around the World" section of the Newsletter on the deadly health consequences following the collapse of the towers. While dated in 2017, the information is still current and very relevant.

Director Elections

The Society is governed by a Board of nine (9) directors elected by and from the membership. A Director's term of appointment is two (2) years with compulsory "retirement" of half the sitting Directors at every Annual General Meeting. A retired Director is eligible for re-election.

The Society recently called for nominations for four (4) Director positions for the Board. At the close of nominations on Friday 17 September 2021, six (6) nominations were received. In accordance with our Constitution, the Society is now required to hold a ballot of financial members entitled to vote to elect the four (4) Directors. Information and ballot papers for the Director election has been forwarded. I would encourage you participate in this democratic process.



Annual Dust Disease Symposium

In partnership with Turner Freeman Lawyers, the 2021 Asbestos Dust Disease Symposium will be held at Brisbane City Hall (Ithaca Auditorium) on **Wednesday 20 October commencing at 10.00am and followed by a light lunch at 12.00pm.** Our speakers are:

- Dr Keith Horwood: Oncologist
- Dr Richard Slaughter: Radiologist
- Thady Blundell: Turner Freeman Lawyers

Following each speaker's presentation, there will be a Q&A session. Further details are included in the Newsletter.

Annual General Meeting

The Society's Annual General meeting will be held on **Wednesday 20 October 2021 at Brisbane City Hall (Ithaca Auditorium), commencing at 1.00pm** (Following the Symposium). The notice of AGM is included in the newsletter.

Final Report of the National Dust Disease Taskforce

The National Dust Disease Taskforce recently delivered its final report following a two-year investigation into the increased prevalence of silicosis in Australia. The review examined the systems currently in place for the prevention, early identification, control and management of accelerated silicosis from engineered stone and broader occupational dust diseases. The purpose of the report was to examine the re-emergence of a preventable occupational lung disease: silicosis, which is caused by the "inhalation of respirable crystalline silica generated when manipulating (ie. Cutting, grinding and polishing) material containing silica such as engineered stone."

Overall, the report notes that Australia's Workplace Health and Safety laws and regulations have failed to adequately protect the health of workers and require urgent reform. In addition, it notes the health effects of exposure can take many years to develop with considerably more workers likely to be at risk of future development of disease. While a product ban is not recommended at this stage, the report strongly suggests that urgent action be taken to achieve significant improvements in worker safety.

***"All parties need to consider themselves on notice. The majority of Taskforce members agree that if the measures we have recommended do not achieve the expected significant improvements in worker safety within the next three years, then immediate action must be taken to ban the product."* (Extract from National Dust Disease Taskforce Final Report)**

The report proposes a national licensing scheme to restrict access to engineered stone and ensure that businesses undertaking this type of work can effectively manage the risk of worker exposure to hazardous silica dust. The report calls for greater consistency and clarification in how businesses should conduct air monitoring. Specifically, it is noted that businesses should engage appropriately accredited Occupational Hygienists to ensure consistency and accuracy in the monitoring of workplaces.

The report also calls for better support for medical, health and other related professionals to improve the diagnosis and management of workers affected by silicosis and a strategic national approach to research.

Throughout our deliberations, the Taskforce has been mindful of the terrible history and legacy of asbestos in Australia. The risk of asbestos dust was first recognised in the 1930s, however, a complete ban on the use of asbestos was only implemented on 31 December 2003, after tens of thousands of individuals had been exposed, and many thousands of Australians dead from mesothelioma, lung cancer and asbestosis. We do not want a repeat of this experience in relation to silica dust. (Extract from National Dust Disease Taskforce Final Report)

The full report can be found at:
<https://www.silicosissupport.org.au/national-dust-disease-taskforce-final-report/>



Thank you for your Donation

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Society. Without this support, we could not provide support! In particular, we would like to recognise the following donations over \$500.00:

- Vend2Go
- Gabrielle Smoothy
- Helen Knox
- Fernanda Moffat
- Sid and Glenda Richards
- Victoria Lees
- PayPal Giving Fund Australia
- Turner Freeman
- CFMEU Qld/NT Members

All the Best,

Trevor Torrens
General Manager

Trevor Torrens

STOP THE PRESS



Our Trailer has been drawn and listed below are the winners:

- 1st Prize – Anaru Campbell
- 2nd Prize – Grant Thomason
- 3rd Prize – Anthony Perrett

Congratulations to the winners. We'd like to thank everyone who purchased tickets in our annual raffle.





HOME RENOVATION – The Hidden Danger

There are still tens of thousands of buildings in Australia that contain asbestos cement fibro sheeting.

James Hardie was the prominent manufacturer of asbestos cement fibro sheeting in Australia, and its fibro products contained asbestos until about 1983. Whilst James Hardie ceased manufacturing asbestos containing fibro sheeting in about 1983, large numbers of structures still contain these products today.

Anyone renovating homes in which there is asbestos cement fibro sheeting is at risk of being exposed and developing asbestos disease, particularly mesothelioma.

Thanks to the successful legal odyssey of Adelaide man, Mathew Werfel, in many cases there will now be compensation entitlements for those who develop asbestos disease from home renovations, and more importantly, significant focus has been placed on the asbestos dangers of home renovations.

Mr Werfel is a 44 year old Adelaide father of three who developed mesothelioma. In the 1990s he worked as a fencing contractor in contact with existing asbestos cement fences, and in 2000 and 2004 renovated homes in the Adelaide suburbs

which contained existing James Hardie asbestos cement products.

Mr Werfel sued James Hardie in damages and succeeded at the initial trial in Adelaide, and also before the Full Court of the Supreme Court of South Australia in December 2020.

James Hardie appealed to the High Court of Australia. The High Court this month dismissed James Hardie's application for special leave to appeal.

Mr Werfel was quoted as follows:-

“This has been a long journey and I want to thank my family for staying the course with me. Justice has finally been achieved and I fought this fight for my family and for future asbestos sufferers, so their legal situation will be improved.”

This decision sets a precedent for any person who contracts mesothelioma due to drilling, sanding, cutting, or handling James Hardie asbestos cement products in their homes.

Again, this decision will hopefully raise awareness about the dangers of asbestos in homes and whilst it will help with compensation entitlements, it will hopefully help prevent asbestos disease occurring in the future.





Medical Imaging for Asbestos related Diseases and Silicosis

If you have been diagnosed with an asbestos related disease or silicosis, you would most likely have had medical imaging. Medical imaging can include chest X-ray, computer tomography (CT) scan, positron emission tomography (PET) scan, and magnetic resonance imagery (MRI). We have listed below an explanation of each of these different types of imaging and why they are used.

CHEST XRAY

A plain chest xray uses radiation to create a picture of the inside of the body. The X-ray beam is absorbed differently by various structures in the body, such as bones and soft tissues and this is then used to create the image. Chest X-ray is used for a number of reasons, these include; the condition of the lungs, if fluid is present in or around the lungs, heart related lung problems, size and outline of the heart, blood vessels, calcium deposits and fractures.



CT SCAN

A CT (computer tomography) scan is a type of X-ray that creates 3 dimensional images of the body including bones, organs, tissues and tumours. The machine moves in a circular motion around the patient and takes X-rays of very thin slices of the body to create a cross sectional image. CT scans provide different views and for greater detail than a 2 dimensional X-ray.

A special dye called contrast material is needed for some CT scans to help highlight the areas of the body that need to be examined. The contrast materials blocks X-rays and appears white on images, and help emphasize blood vessels, intestines and other structures. A CT scan can be used to visualise nearly all parts of the body and is used to diagnose disease or injury as well as plan medical, surgical or radiation treatment.

PET SCAN

A PET (positron emission tomography) scan is an imaging test used to diagnose certain diseases by revealing the metabolic or biochemical function of your tissues and organs. The scan is used to find tumours, diagnose heart disease, brain disorders etc. A PET scan can be used to look at just one area or look at your whole body.

When having a PET scan, you will be given a substance known as a radioactive tracer which can be injected, inhaled or swallowed. This will allow doctors to see if there is anything abnormal with your tissues or organs. After you have been given the tracer, you will be asked to lie very still in the PET scanner. The scanner picks up energy in the form of gamma rays from the tracer you have been given and converts the rays into pictures. The tracer collects in areas of your body which have higher chemical activity possibly because they are diseased. These areas show up as bright spots on the scan.

MRI

An MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) scan takes detailed pictures of the inside of the body. When you have an MRI you usually lie on a table that slides through a tunnel in the middle of the scanner. The scanner uses strong magnetic fields and radio waves to generate signals from the body. These signals are picked up by a radio antenna and processed by a computer to create detailed pictures. Some people cannot have an MRI ie; people with pacemaker or certain implants, as the metal interacts with the magnet and can cause serious harm to the patient.



More information can be found at:
cancer.org.au
healthdirect.gov.au

A Members Journey

RAY ARMSTONG

Hello everyone at ADSS.

As the 1st of July is international Meso Awareness Day, I would like to share part of my journey.

It is coming up to two and a half years since I was diagnosed with Pleural Mesothelioma. It took the PAH nearly three months to find the Meso and I was given only 18 months to survive. I changed to another Oncologist who gave me 4 options. These being Chemotherapy, Immunotherapy, Surgery and Radiotherapy.

He immediately said forget about Surgery and Radiotherapy as they would not be offered here in Brisbane. He started me on Chemotherapy to which I did respond to quite well.

My wife was not happy with what the Oncologist had said as I was only 62 years old, and she started to look around for an alternative.

She found that Surgery was being offered in Sydney and we did go down that path. The surgeon checked me out and said I had to tick a lot of boxes before he would proceed.

I did tick all the boxes and I had my left lung removed, along with part of my diaphragm and the pleura around the heart.

This procedure was called EPP. Extra Plural Pneumonectomy or some like that.

The Professor said, it looked like all the Meso had been removed and that with luck he has given me another 5 + years and the pain I went through may be worth it, as new Meso drugs are coming through all the time.

I also went through nearly 2 months of Radiotherapy which turned out to be the worst of all three procedures.

I still have Immunotherapy as a Plan B.

I do see some good new drugs coming through already.

What I am saying is question every decision that your medical suppliers and Oncologist say and recommend as we are always allowed second opinions and we are all unique. Be happy with what you and only you decide to do, even if it is a different therapy to what has been recommended.

I personally know men and women who have had an EPP that are living up to 18 years after the operation. On the 13th of August, it will be two years since my operation.

Ray Armstrong

If you would like to share your journey, please email the society - inquiries@adss.org.au



Ray and Kerry Armstrong – Derby WA.

Did You Know?



Dust released following the collapse of the twin towers.

During construction of the World Trade Centre in the late 1960s and early 1970s, developers commonly used asbestos in construction materials to make them stronger and heat resistant. A variety of asbestos-containing products were incorporated into both towers.

For example, spray-on asbestos fireproofing material was applied to steel beams along the first 40 floors of the north tower. Amid construction, the builders discontinued using asbestos because stricter regulations on the mineral were expected in the near future.

We will never know the composition of that cloud, because the wind carried it away, but people were breathing and eating it...What we do know is that it had all kinds of god-awful things in it. Burning jet fuel, plastics, metal, fiberglass, asbestos. It was thick, terrible stuff. A witch's brew.

— World Trade Centre Health Program's Dr. Michael Crane, Newsweek interview

WITTENOOM SHUTDOWN LOOMING WITH REINSTATEMENT OF CLOSURE BILL IN STATE PARLIAMENT

Cheyenne Enciso - Pilbara News - 10 AUGUST 2021



A Bill to finalise the closure of the Pilbara's condemned asbestos mining town has been reintroduced in State Parliament as visitors continue to ignore warnings to steer clear of the picturesque yet deadly gorges.

The reinstatement of the Wittenoom Closure Bill will enable the compulsory acquisition of 14 remaining privately owned properties in the former townsite.

Once the Bill is passed and the final properties have been acquired, all remaining infrastructure will be demolished to limit people visiting and staying in the area.

The town, considered to be the most contaminated site in the southern hemisphere, has more than 2000 deaths linked to its blue asbestos mining operation in the 1960s.

Lands Minister Tony Buti said Wittenoom was one of the biggest contaminated sites in the world and remained a public health risk.

"The Wittenoom Closure Bill is a significant step forward to resolve this longstanding industrial tragedy, protect public health and put an end to a dark period in our State's mine closure history," he said.

"While I can't pre-empt the passage of the Bill, I expect members can appreciate the importance of the Bill."

The town's notoriety continues to attract tourists despite the exposure risk, with many taking to social media to post travel shots in the region.

"The State Government's message to people tempted to visit Wittenoom is simple — don't," Dr Buti said.

"It's simply not worth putting your health at stake for a few Instagram shots."

A quick search of the #Wittenoom hashtag on Instagram shows explorers ignoring constant health warnings from former residents and authorities.

Photos posted in the past month show people entering the asbestos mine shafts, camping, and swimming in the asbestos-laden gorges.

Ex-Wittenoom worker and retired Greens MP Robin Chapple said visitors to the contaminated town were "mad".

"It only requires one fibre in your lungs to initiate a cancer, mesothelioma or asbestosis," he said.

"I've seen people taking young kids into the old, abandoned mine site, which is almost committing their children to — 20 years' time — a life of misery as they slowly die."

Shire of Ashburton president Kerry White said the Shire supported the State Government's decision to close the former townsite.

"Together with the State, we are liaising with those who still reside there and discourage members of the public from entering the area and urge members of the community to adhere to warning signs and advice," she said.

"The Shire is strongly supportive of wholly protecting the townsite and surrounds and has expressed our concerns that raw asbestos continues to contaminate the land and river systems in the area."

The Bill was previously passed by the Legislative Assembly during the last Parliament but could not progress through the Legislative Council ahead of the 2021 State election.

Wittenoom was formally delisted as a town in 2007, and the State has since acquired most of the private properties through voluntary acquisition.

On the National Front

MORE ASBESTOS FOUND AT TERRIGAL BEACH



Some of the asbestos pieces collected by the concerned resident SEPTEMBER 6, 2021



Central Coast Council is urging residents to exercise caution and report any suspected asbestos containing materials found on beaches or other public open spaces after a resident found more than 75 pieces of the dangerous material at Terrigal over a two-month period.

The resident, who did not wish to be named, is urging Council to conduct more regular checks of beaches and erect signs warning the public of possible asbestos deposits.

She collected the asbestos on Terrigal beach and on rocks on the Avoca side of The Skillion, concerned for the safety of the general public and especially children.

“As the mother of young children, I could not leave the asbestos lying around,” she said.

“I am afraid families might not be aware of this danger on our beaches.

“It is really risky for people’s health.

“The first time I saw asbestos pieces was last year – I saw around 12 pieces and called Council on a Friday, but they did not arrive until about the following Tuesday, by which time they found only four pieces.

“Because of this experience, I decided to collect it by myself in the safest way.

“I was wearing a mask and putting the asbestos into a hermetic container with water in it.

“This is somewhere I take my children often and I was not aware of the risk.

“There is no sign warning of possible asbestos.

A spokesperson said Council has a Risk Management Plan in place and follows up on any reports.

It regularly undertakes inspections at a number of beach and waterfront areas across the Coast as trained staff work with experts to remove and dispose of asbestos containing material safely, the spokesperson said.

“Crews undertake regular weekly inspections of Terrigal, encompassing Terrigal Beach, Terrigal Lagoon Foreshore and Terrigal Haven.

“Council also undertakes weekly inspections of other coastal areas including Wamberal, North Entrance and North Shelly.

“We have undertaken previous assessment of the Terrigal coastal areas, and despite fragments occasionally washing up on the beach, the air quality monitoring detected no airborne fibres in the location.

“Council understands and acknowledges community concern about any asbestos containing material appearing to be washed on shore; however, we want to assure the community the risk to public health is considered low.

“This is due to the size and nature of the material and that it is bonded in sheet form as asbestos is dangerous only when broken up and fibres are released into the air.

“In 2020 more than 720 fragments were removed from Wamberal Beach following a series of significant weather events.

“Whilst the original source (is still not known), we know it’s a legacy issue from past prevalent and ill-informed use of asbestos as a building material.

Suspected asbestos containing materials found on beaches or other public open spaces areas should be reported to Council on 1300 463 954 or online at Council’s 24/7 customer service portal; or to the EPA Pollution line on 131 555.

More information on asbestos containing material including Council’s Asbestos Management Policy can be found at centralcoast.nsw.gov.au.

SEPTEMBER 11: DEATH TOLL COULD RISE BY MILLIONS FROM 'TOXIC' ASBESTOS DUST

By James Gorman - Nine News. Jun 3, 2017



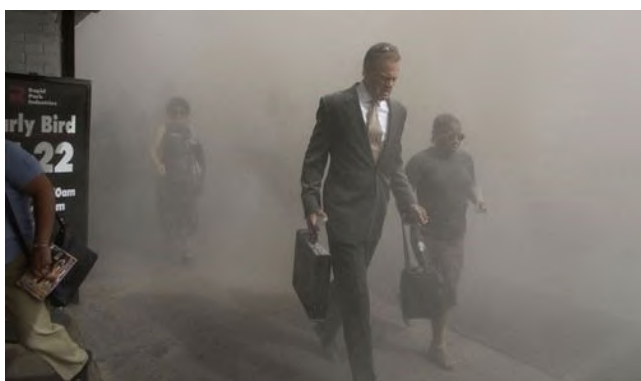
The death toll from the September 11 terror attack could soar into the millions as a result of the toxic dust that blanketed New York City when the Twin Towers collapsed.

Residents have already started to develop cancers caused by the asbestos-filled ash that erupted from the World Trade Centre skyscrapers, and a leading health expert has warned it will only get worse. "In 15-20 years we are going to see a serious health issue here in New York. We haven't even seen the tip of this iceberg yet," Dr Raja Flores, Chief of Thoracic Surgery at the Mount Sinai Hospital, NY, told nine.com.au.

"There's almost nine million people in New York... a lot more people may have been exposed (to asbestos fibres) than we first thought. It contaminated a huge portion of the city and that entire population was exposed," Dr Flores said.

The most infamous terror attack in modern history killed more than 2700 people when two aircraft hit the World Trade Centre's north and south towers on September 11, 2001. That death toll also included the innocent lives of those who died when another plane hit the Pentagon, and a hijacked plane crashed into a field near Shanksville in Pennsylvania.

However, the true scope of the attack may only start to be understood due to the dust and debris that scattered across Manhattan and Brooklyn.



Hidden in the dust was more than 400,000 kilograms of asbestos, mercury, fibreglass and benzene.

It was inhaled – in varying doses – by almost everyone in the city.

Last weekend, hero US firefighter Ray Pfeifer died from brain and lung cancer that was linked to his work at Ground Zero.

Pfeifer was one of many emergency servicemen and women who spent more than eight months cleaning up the wreckage of the World Trade Centre.

Dr Flores - considered one of the world's leading experts in pleural mesothelioma and asbestosis – said while lower Manhattan copped most of the dust, anyone in the city at the time of the attack and the days that followed were potentially exposed to asbestos fibres.

"There are a lot of people now who are having respiratory issues and we are starting to see more cancers," he said.

"People are already getting sick from the asbestos and they have died from it. If I had to bet my house, in 15-20 years we are going to see a serious health issue here.

"I think you will probably see double or tripling of the number of lung cancers in people who were in New York City on 9/11 and mesothelioma and people dying of pleural fibrosis from asbestosis."

However, the New York surgeon emphasised the risk of exposure to asbestos didn't necessarily correlate to the risk of asbestos-related disease.

Dr Flores objected to reports that only first responders and people in the vicinity of the World Trade Centre were at risk of developing lung cancer, warning the US may be a few years away from a catastrophic national health crisis.

During the construction of the World Trade Centre, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey originally planned to use more than five million kilograms of asbestos in the buildings.

Its controversial installation was halted in the 1970s after a link was proven between asbestos fibre exposure and lung cancer by Dr Irving Selikoff from Mt Sinai Hospital.

However, by that time almost half a million kilograms of the deadly insulation had already been sprayed in the first 40 storeys of the buildings.

"It's one of the most dangerous substances around. Every day I operate (I see) patients that have been affected by asbestosis. The safe amount of asbestos in the air for someone to inhale is zero. There's no safe amount," Dr Flores said.

Around the World

SEPTEMBER 11: DEATH TOLL COULD RISE BY MILLIONS FROM 'TOXIC' ASBESTOS DUST

By James Gorman - Nine News. Jun 3, 2017

"The entire city was blanketed, especially downtown and Brooklyn. You went down there months later and you still smelt it. That dust was still around for a very long time."

Dr Flores' grim prognosis for the people of New York comes from a comparative study he undertook in the town of Libby, Montana, where the asbestos used in the World Trade Centre was originally mined and manufactured.

His study investigated the contaminated vermiculite mines in the region and the local population's exposure to tremolite asbestos.

More than 400 people in the town of 2,656 have died from asbestos-related illnesses since the 1990s.

"It's common sense that what happened in Libby will start happening to the people in New York. That's frightening and it's a big deal," he said.

However, Dr Flores' prediction is not without its detractors.

A 2012 New York City health study published in the Journal of American Medical Association couldn't draw a conclusive link between the noxious dust released from the Twin Towers' collapse and the development of cancers.

The study found that while an elevated risk for some cancers was demonstrated, there was insufficient evidence to draw a firm conclusion that the cancers were related to exposure.

"Among persons enrolled in the World Trade Center Health Registry, there was an excess risk for prostate cancer, thyroid cancer, and myeloma in 2007-2008 compared with that for New York State residents; however, these findings were based on a small number of events and multiple comparisons. No significant associations were observed with intensity of World Trade Center exposures. Longer follow-up for typically long-latency cancers and attention to specific cancer sites are needed," the study read.

The study examined 55,700 people who were in the vicinity of the World Trade Centre during 9/11 and in the weeks that followed.

The paper revealed 1,187 people (439 rescue/recovery workers and 748 general public) had been diagnosed with three different types of cancers between 2007 and 2008.

The research assessment concluded that while "the presence of carcinogenic agents raises the possibility that exposure to the WTC environment could eventually lead to cancers," the link between the two could not be substantiated.

Former New York City health commissioner Dr Thomas Farley said it was still too early to establish a link between 9/11 and cancer during a 2012 interview.

"Cancers take 20 years to develop and we might see something different 20 years down the line," he said.



SEPTEMBER 11: DEATH TOLL COULD RISE BY MILLIONS FROM 'TOXIC' ASBESTOS DUST

By James Gorman - Nine News. Jun 3, 2017



Dr Flores warned children exposed to the dust in the days following the terror attack had a much greater risk of developing cancers and severe pulmonary diseases.

"The main option you have if you've been exposed is to get screened. A low dose CAT (CT) scan once a year to see if you have asbestos changes in your lungs," Dr Flores said.

However, the surgeon warned that even with a screening there is no treatment.

Dr Flores has accused property owners and bodies with vested economic interests in New York of "sowing doubt" about the dangers of asbestos and how widespread the September 11 exposure really was.

"My concern is people – property owners, asbestos companies and people that are worried about getting sued - are playing down the harms of asbestos. Asbestos kills, we know that," he said.

"They try to influence the population by sowing doubt, saying it's 'not that bad' or that there are 'safe levels' you can be exposed to. That's all BS and lies because they know it will take 20-30 years for it to manifest itself and kill people."

In a 2012 Tweet, current US president Donald Trump claimed the World Trade Centre wouldn't have collapsed if there had been more asbestos in the buildings.

"If we didn't remove incredibly powerful fire retardant asbestos and replace it with junk that doesn't work, the World Trade Center would never have burned down," he wrote.

In 2010 the Zadroga Bill was signed into law by former US president Barack Obama to provide free medical treatment and compensation to first responders of the 2001 terrorist attack.

While the bill has provided invaluable medical assistance to the community population who lived, worked, or went to school in lower Manhattan during the WTC disaster, it does not cover the rest of New York's general population, who according to Dr Flores have already started to develop asbestosis and lung cancers.

The New York surgeon said an immediate change to the Zadroga Bill is needed to cope with the still-developing aftermath of 9/11.

"We need legislative change to start saving some lives and I think we can save more lives with the pen than with my knife," he said.

The September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF) was created in 2001 to provide compensation for anyone killed or injured in the attack or during the lengthy clean up that followed.

The program – which covers pulmonary diseases and 58 types of cancers - expired in 2004 but was extended until 2020 by Obama.

It has already paid out more than \$9.4 billion in exchange for a legal agreement that victims won't sue the airlines for negligence.

Dozens of law firms in New York have been inundated with applications since the program started, with many devoting staff and entire sections of their websites to the 9/11 victims.

Nine.com.au has contacted numerous US law firms who confirmed they are dealing with hundreds of cases of victims impacted by the terror attack.

News Article

QLD UNION WARNS OVER ASBESTOS IN SUPPLIES

Marty Silk - August 23 2021

A union says 200 tonnes of material delivered to a school building site in Brisbane has been contaminated with asbestos.

The Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union says asbestos was first detected in 50 tonnes of landfill supplied by BMI Group to the Brisbane South State Secondary College site at Dutton Park last week.

AAP has sought comment from BMI Group.

Asbestos is a fibrous silicate material, once widely used in construction decades ago, that was banned after being found to be a carcinogen that can cause mesothelioma.

The CFMEU has asked the contractor Broad, a subsidiary of CPB Contractors owned by CIMIC, to audit the site, but say they have refused.



A union is worried dozens of building sites could potentially be contaminated with asbestos.

WWII HALL IN GREENSLOPES TO BE DEMOLISHED, COUNCIL WILL BUY THE LAND TO BUILD PUBLIC PARK

Madura McCormack - August 19, 2021 – The Courier Mail



A heritage-listed World War II era hospital in Brisbane will be demolished and the highly-contaminated land rehabilitated, with a new park to be built in its place.

The former Australian Army hospital, located opposite to the entrance of Greenslopes Private Hospital has been fenced off since 2013 due to asbestos concerns.

But progress has finally been made, with Brisbane City Council's plan for the site this week made public by the federal environmental watchdog.

The documents revealed the former Red Cross Hall on Headfort St will be almost entirely demolished, but retaining some heritage-listed elements. The hall and hostel buildings were built in early 1945 by the Red Cross to support recuperating returned soldiers.

It comes after the Department of Veterans' Affairs agreed to sell the site to BCC for a "concessional sum" of \$1m on the proviso it be turned into public parkland.

And the link to Queensland's war history will not be lost, with the council planning to set aside part of the land for veterans' not-for-profit Legacy Queensland to build a new headquarters should they choose to do so.

According to BCC, in a letter to Coorparoo Ward ratepayers, the DVA had concluded there was no "financially viable solution" to retain the buildings.

A heritage impact assessment report revealed demolish the buildings was the cheapest option, estimated to cost \$1.8m.

Lead based paint was also used and the soil at the site is contaminated with "organochlorine pesticides" and zinc, along with asbestos from the building that has degraded over time.

According to documents, about 600 cubic metres of soil (enough to fill a quarter of an Olympic swimming pool) will need to be removed.

The council has indicated the new public park will "retain some of the architectural elements of the current site that can be preserved" and which offer some heritage value like the brick entrance way and some elements of the brick facade.

Federal Griffith MP Terri Butler, who alongside local advocate Matt Campbell have been campaigning the hall be fixed, said it was "difficult to trust the Liberals" on the project after years of inaction.

She has called on the community to have their say on the latest plan, with consultation set to close in just days on September 1.

"Let's make sure our community's voice is heard," Ms Butler said.



News Article

CHILDREN'S REMOTE CONTROLLED CARS RECALLED AFTER ASBESTOS FIBRES FOUND

Source: Daily Mail



An urgent recall has been issued on a range of remote-controlled cars sold across Australia.

Slipper pads on three models of ECX hobby cars contain the potentially deadly chrysotile asbestos and an urgent notice was issued on August 4 for purchasers to return the car.

The remote controlled cars were sold by hobby wholesaler omp.com.au to 57 shops and franchises across Australia.

Worryingly, the toys have been sold since 2016, and thousands could be in circulation, potentially causing children to inhale the asbestos.

Slipper pads on a range of children's toy remote controlled cars have been found to release asbestos fibres with friction which could potentially be inhaled

Asbestos fibres could be potentially released by the slipper pads which are a braking mechanism used on the cars.

The recalled models include the ECX Desert Buggy, ECX Monster Truck, ECX Brutus, plus Slipper pad spare parts sold separately.

Inhalation of asbestos fibres over the long term can cause asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma.

Asbestosis is the scarring of the internal lung after inhalation of the dangerous substance and mesothelioma is the tumor of the tissue that lines the heart, lungs and other organs.

'Owners of affected vehicles must not open their vehicles. Affected vehicles should be returned to their place of purchase for repair,' the Product Safety Australia recall reads.

'Asbestos fibres may be released from the slipper pad in the vehicle through friction and users may be exposed to asbestos fibres if the vehicle is disassembled for repair or maintenance'.



2021 ADSS MORNING TEAS



IPSWICH - 14 OCTOBER
ADSS SYMPOSIUM AND AGM - 20 OCTOBER
GOLD COAST (CURRUMBIN) - 28 OCTOBER
REDCLIFFE - 9 NOVEMBER

ADSS SUPPORT GROUPS

Bundaberg - 6 October, 3 November & 1 December
Chermside - 4 November
Hervey Bay - 13 October, 10 November & 8 December
Sunnybank - 8 October & 12 November
Gold Coast - 18 November
Rockhampton - 21 October & 18 November
Ipswich - 26 October & 23 November
Sunshine Coast - 27 October & 24 November



The Society at Work



23.6.21 - Winter Newsletter Mail Out (Pat)



29.6.21 - Warwick Morning Tea



7.7.21 - Kay and Thady with a gift from member Graham Maltman



10.7.21 - Beta Sigma Phi Charity Lunch



12.7.21 - Redlands Morning Tea



12.7.21 - Redlands Morning Tea



14.7.21 - Hervey Bay Support Group



15.7.21 - Rockhampton Support Group



27.7.21 - Gladstone Morning Tea



27.7.21 - Gladstone Morning Tea



28.7.21 - Bundaberg Morning Tea



28.7.21 - Bundaberg Morning Tea

The Society at Work



28.7.21 - Bundaberg Morning Tea



28.7.21 - Bundaberg Morning Tea



29.7.21 - Hervey Bay Morning Tea



29.7.21 - Hervey Bay Morning Tea



29.7.21 - Hervey Bay Morning Tea



30.7.21 - Gympie Morning Tea



12.8.21 - Rockhampton Support Group



26.8.21 - Logan Morning Tea



26.8.21 - Logan Morning Tea



26.8.21 - Logan Morning Tea



26.8.21 - Logan Morning Tea



22.9.21 - ADSS Charity Race Day



Invitation to Symposium 2021

Occupational Lung Diseases *'All Dust is Dangerous'*

WEDNESDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2021 10.00AM TO 12.00PM
..... **FREE COMMUNITY EVENT**

SPEAKERS

- Dr Keith Horwood – Oncologist
- Dr Richard Slaughter - Radiologist
- Thady Blundell, Partner, Turner Freeman Lawyers – MC
- Trevor Torrens, General Manager, Asbestos Disease Support Society

Date: Wednesday 20th October, 2021

Time: 9.15am registrations open for a 10.00am start

Venue: City Hall, King George Square, Brisbane
(Ithaca Auditorium)

Morning tea provided on arrival for a prompt 10:00am start.

Light lunch provided from 12:00pm.

**The Symposium will be followed by the ADSS
Annual General Meeting of members at 1.00pm.**

RSVP (*if attending*) by Wednesday 13 October, 2021
Phone: (07) 3252 7852 • Email: inquiries@adss.org.au

ASBESTOS DISEASE SUPPORT SOCIETY LIMITED

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(Following the Annual Symposium)

DATE: Wednesday 20 October 2021

TIME: 1.00pm to 1.30pm

LOCATION: Brisbane City Hall (Ithaca Auditorium)

RSVP: Due to COVID restrictions you must RSVP if you wish to attend by Wednesday 13 October 2021.

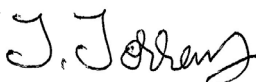
Phone: (07) 3253 7852 Email: inquiries@adss.org.au

BUSINESS

1. Welcome
2. Attendance and Apologies
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting
4. Board Report
5. Financial Statement and Auditors Report
6. Appointment of Auditors
7. Confirmation of Director Elections

PROXY FORMS

There are no special resolutions proposed. However, if you require a proxy form, please contact the Society.



Trevor Torrens
General Manager/Company Secretary



Support Those Who Support The Society



Thanks to QLD Health for providing funding to ADSS to help carry on our services.

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Construction Income Protection Limited (CIPL)
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Queensland Nurses & Midwives Union
Specsavers Indooroopilly
The Construction Training Centre (CTC)
United Workers Union
X Vend



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We thank all members for their ongoing support.

