

Winter 2020

NEWSLETTER

adss

Asbestos Disease
Support Society



**Asbestos lurks in more
places than you'd think**

vinyl/adhesives

**House built before the 1990s?
Before you rip up the old lino floor:
Stop. Think. Get professional advice.**

Asbestos Disease Support Society

16 Campbell Street, Bowen Hills, QLD 4006

PO Box 280, Spring Hill, QLD 4004

1800 776 412 | inquiries@adss.org.au

DO YOU KNOW
BEING AN
**ADSS
MEMBER**

There is free assistance through the provision of:

Information on asbestos related diseases

Support from the ADSS social worker

Clinical support from the ADSS registered nurse

Medical aids on loan

Community morning tea groups and support groups

Nutritional advice

Occupational therapy assessment

ADSS quarterly Newsletter

**Legal consultation with ADSS lawyers experienced
in asbestos related compensation.**

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

1800 776 412



In This Issue

In Loving Memory	4
General Managers Report – <i>Trevor Torrens</i>	5
Our Legal Advisor – <i>Thady Blundell</i>	8
Society Social Worker – <i>Judith Thomson</i>	9
On the National Front	10
Around the World	14
Did you know?	19
Medical Articles	20
Asbestos - General Awareness	23

2020/21 Membership

We thank those members who have already paid for their membership renewal and invite those that are still outstanding to renew their membership.

We would also like to thank those that have made a donation in the process of paying their membership renewal. We are greatly appreciative of your support.

Please call the Society to pay over the phone with a credit card or to check if your membership is still outstanding.

Thank you!



In Loving Memory

The Journey's Just Begun

*Don't think of them as gone away -
Their journey has just begun
Life holds many facets
The Earth is only one
Just think of them as resting
From the sorrows and the tears
In a place of warmth and comfort
Where there are no days and years
Think how they must be wishing
That we could know today
How nothing but our sadness
can really pass away
And think of them as living
In the hearts of those they touched
For nothing loved is ever lost-
And they were loved so much.*

Alfred Max (Fred) Harding-Smith
Manfred (Fred) Gans
Noel Vincent 'Coxy' Cox
John Bernard Landrigan
Robert Lambert
Peter Maher
Stewart Donohue
Anthony (Tony) John Lloyd
Clive Desmond Andersen
Kevin John Ross
Paul Mahoney
Gai Lyell
Janette Margaret Reed
Allan Chambers
David Howitt-Steven
Maurice Kevin Martin
Eleanor Wharton
Conchitta Margaret Spring
Geoffrey Somner Cornish



General Managers Report

TREVOR TORRENS



Welcome to the Winter edition of the Society's newsletter.

While news is still dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic, it does appear that Queensland (and Australia) has done a remarkable job in containing the spread. Although, I'm sure the necessary restrictions and confinements have been challenging, particularly to many of the Society's members who have underlying health conditions. However, at the time of publication the constraints on society are being lifted – which is good news for all.

Below is the status as at 28 June 2020.

Many of the society's members will have received a phone call from us over the last few months to check on their welfare. While our popular morning teas in the community are still postponed, with the easing of

restrictions, I am hopeful of their recommencement in the not too distant future. Many of the venues (if not all) are yet to fully restart their operations. As we settle on dates and locations, information/invitations will be forwarded. Also, look to our Facebook site for up-to-date information.

I anticipate the annual Ecumenical Service held in late November will proceed. However, our major fund raiser – the annual charity race day has been cancelled for first time in 13 years. Long term prudent financial management means the Society is well placed to withstand the financial consequences of the cancellation. I am sure it will be back bigger and better in 2021!

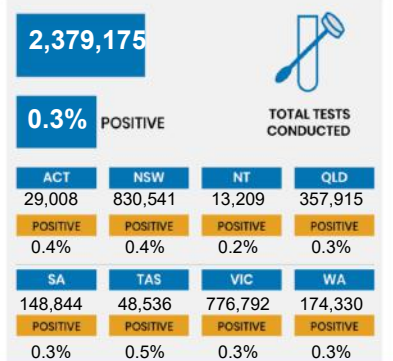
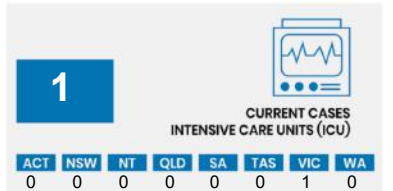
The road to economic recovery from the pandemic will be daunting, with all levels of Government now looking at stimulus measures. In particular, a number are aimed



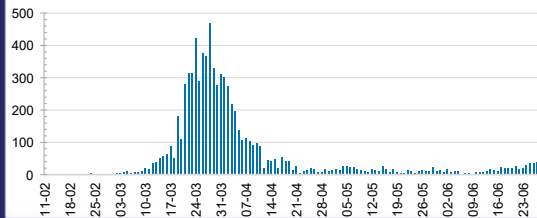
Australian Government
Department of Health

BE COVIDSAFE

CURRENT STATUS OF CONFIRMED CASES



DAILY NUMBER OF REPORTED CASES

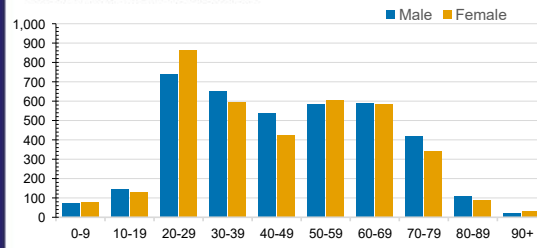


CASES IN AGED CARE SERVICES

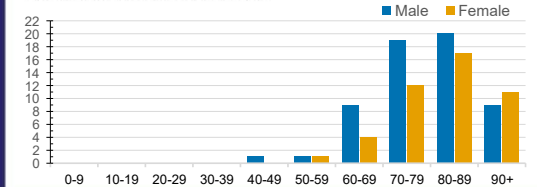
Confirmed Cases	Australia	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
Residential Care	71 (39)	0	61 (33)	0	1 (1)	0	1 (1)	8 (6)	0
In Home Care	31 (28)	0	13 (13)	0	8 (8)	1 (1)	5 (3)	3 (3)	1 (1)
Recipients	(3)						(2)		

Cases in care recipients [recovered] (deaths)

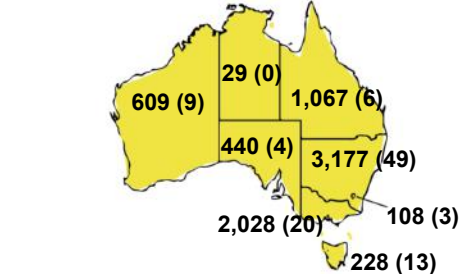
CASES BY AGE GROUP AND SEX



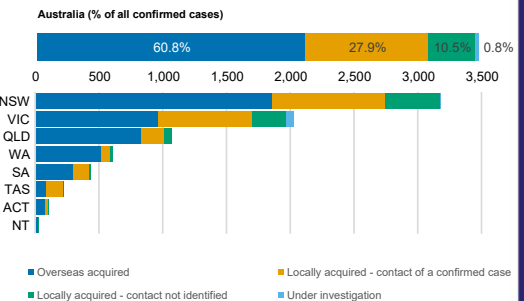
DEATHS BY AGE GROUP AND SEX



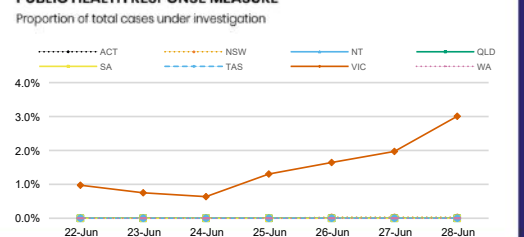
CASES (DEATHS) BY STATE AND TERRITORIES



CASES BY SOURCE OF INFECTION



PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE MEASURE



at the building and construction industry – including the \$25,000 “Homebuilder” scheme recently announced by the Prime Minister. This initiative not only applies to the purchase of new houses, but also renovations to existing, which is a departure from similar previous schemes.

During the pandemic with more families at home and undertaking DIY projects and now with stimulus available for renovation projects, the Society has been warning of the dangers of exposure through various social media platforms (particularly Facebook). We have been urging homeowners, tradespeople and owner builders to be aware of the hidden dangers of asbestos when renovating or carrying out maintenance on properties built before 1990.

Despite asbestos use being banned since 2003, about one-third of Australian homes contain asbestos products. Asbestos was used in over 3000 products and applications before it was banned. In particular, the Society is concerned mum and dad renovators and young DIY enthusiasts are at risk of becoming ‘third wave’ asbestos victims. Approximately one in three new cases of mesothelioma are now associated with ‘third wave’ exposure. There are a lot of things that renovators need to consider when they undertake a renovation project and we want to make sure that asbestos isn’t viewed as an old problem relegated to the past.

Further in the newsletter are a selection of “tiles” that have been posted to our Facebook site.

Phase III international Mesothelioma DREAM3R Trial

In the “Medical Articles” section of the newsletter is information on the Phase III International Mesothelioma DREAM3R trial. In 2017 and 2018, the Australian Lung Cancer Trial Group conducted a Phase II clinical trial – the DREAM study – which looked at how safe and effective it was to combine standard treatment involving chemotherapy, with a new immunotherapy treatment called durvalumab in mesothelioma patients. Initial results showed 48% of patients experienced substantial reductions in the size of their tumours and the combination appeared to be effective in controlling the disease.

The DREAM3R study, a Phase III randomized trial, will investigate whether this combination of chemotherapy and immunotherapy is really an effective treatment option.

In terms of possible participation in the trial, please consult your treating specialist.

Asbestos lurks in more places than you think!

“Asbestos lurks in more places than you think” was the theme for Asbestos Awareness Week in 2019 and this was certainly proven recently at the West Village construction site. Asbestos was found under an old concrete slab that was being removed as part of



demolition works. Following the discovery, all necessary safety precautions were implemented to protect workers, including the lodgement of exposure forms with the Society (as a precaution). The worker who discovered the offending asbestos had undertaken the CFMEU's asbestos awareness training course and immediately knew what to do.

Congratulations to the CFMEU for initiating the awareness course, which has now educated many thousands of workers on the dangers of exposure to asbestos and what to do when found "lurking".

Also, thanks to John Henderson, CFMEU delegate on the West Village site and Phil Blair, CFMEU Asbestos Awareness Training Coordinator (and Society Chair) for the great work they are doing to protect workers and raise awareness.

The West Village project is on the site of the former Peters Ice Cream Factory which was built in the 1920's.



ADSS Social Media

Society activities/articles/invitations are regularly 'posted' on social media sites (particularly our Facebook page) – it's a great way to stay connected and informed.



Facebook: **@asbestossupport**



Twitter: **@QARDSS**



Instagram: **adssqld**

You can find our links on the homepage of the ADSS Website www.adss.org.au and then click on the icons – It's Easy!

Thank you for Donation

- BUSSQ
- Thomas O'Brien
- Fernanda Moffat
- Helen Knox
- CFMEU Members

- Turner Freeman

A special mention to Fernanda Moffat (Fern) who has been a generous donor (as have numerous) to the Society over many years. It is coming up to 20 years since the passing of Fern's husband Barrie from mesothelioma. To Fern and all those who lost loved ones to an asbestos related disease, our thoughts are with you.

Thanks to BUSSQ for their long standing annual donation of \$1,000 – pictured is Dallas Ezy, BUSSQ's Member Services Manager handing over the donation to Trevor Torrens, Society General Manager.



Good Luck Nat!

It is with sadness that we say farewell to Natalie Barber, the Society's social worker. Natalie has been with us for 2 years after commencing as a "fresh" graduate in the field of social work. She has made a significant contribution to the Society by providing tremendous support and information - to you – our members. Natalie is looking to expand her horizons as the next step in her career as a social worker. We wish Natalie all the best.

Trevor Torrens

General Manager



Asbestos Never Sleeps



THADY BLUNDELL – SOCIETY LEGAL ADVISER

A safety slogan once adopted in respect of asbestos materials was “Let Sleeping Dogs Lie”. The message of course was that if there is asbestos present in materials, do not disturb them – do not cut into them or take any action which would allow the asbestos fibres to be released into the air where they would then be inhaled.

The above is very good advice. It is clear though that once asbestos is inhaled there is nothing that can currently be done to prevent asbestos disease developing in a susceptible person.

We are emerging from a period of shutdown in which businesses and lifestyles were very much in a form of hibernation. Asbestos fibres did not heed the shutdown. Throughout the shutdown there was continual diagnosis with asbestos disease, although speaking to those effected by asbestos disease, there was some delay at times in proper investigation being conducted, given fear of people contracting the COVID-19 virus.

The lesson learned is that those exposed to asbestos must regularly monitor their lungs for development of asbestos disease, regardless of the circumstances. This is generally done by chest x-ray and CT scan and

it is very important that this be done on a regular basis. There is radiation burden associated with CT scans (although this has been reduced in recent years). Guidance needs to be given by treating doctors, such as general practitioners, regarding the frequency of CT scanning, but for those heavily exposed to asbestos, it is important that regular surveillance be undertaken, possibly with CT scans every two years or so, particularly if symptoms of impaired breathing or chest pain are developing.

Whilst for many types of asbestos disease there is no cure, early detection can be beneficial in terms of understanding the condition and taking steps to deal with symptoms and manage affairs.

With some types of asbestos disease though, such as lung cancer, early detection can lead to a cure. Whilst much of the Society’s efforts now is on preventing exposure – the only true cure for asbestos disease, regular surveillance and monitoring once a person is exposed to asbestos is also of great importance.

If you have any questions about surveillance of asbestos disease, chest x-rays or CT scans or indeed visits to lung specialists or other investigation, please contact the Society for assistance.



Using the extra time at home to do some improvements?

Asbestos: don't disturb it, drill it, cut it or break it!

Don't disturb your neighbours by disturbing asbestos.



Silicosis – some questions answered.



In everyday contexts, crystalline silica is safe. It is inert, meaning that it does not react with any chemicals, and it is not harmful to health. However, when rocks and other materials containing crystalline silica are cut, crushed, ground, drilled or used in similar industrial processes, dust particles are produced. Some of these particles are very fine – known as Respirable Crystalline Silica or RCS.

If high quantities of this very fine dust are inhaled on a regular basis over many years, there is a potential risk that the cumulative effects can cause a lung disease known as silicosis.

When our members who are impacted by Silicosis reach out to us, they often have lots of questions. “What does this mean for me”, “Can I ever work again”, “What about pain”, “What is palliative care”, “Will I die”?

A part of the role of a social worker is to source legitimate information as a response to these very important questions. We support members experiencing fear and grief to feel safe during these anxious times and assist with difficult decision-making.

Members consistently share with me that having awareness and information helps them to feel more in control and to refocus on having good quality life and by working out what ‘quality’ living means for them. For each of us that can look very different. For example, a member once told me that as long as he could hold his wife’s hand, then he is still living his best life!

For the last few months we have been developing the **Silicosis Support Network’s** website. This includes gathering lots of information with the goal of tackling some of those essential questions; addressing the barriers of living with uncertainty and offering a platform to connect members with people who really understand what they are going through.

All across our communication platforms, like this newsletter, we strive to ‘debunk the myths’ of the challenging issues that affect our members, and, in this edition, we offer an excellent article explaining **‘What is Palliative Care?’**

As a social worker who has had the privilege of previously working in the Palliative Care sector, I believe it’s critical for our members and the wider community to have a more informed understanding of what to expect from the palliative care service.

Palliative care or ‘Pal Care’ is a specialised service that helps people with terminal illness to manage their symptoms better where the primary goal is always quality of life.

There is a common misconception that once a person is under the care of the ‘Pal Care’ team that they are actively dying... this is not always the case. People are admitted for pain management and/or management of the escalating symptoms of their disease progression which are negatively impacting their daily lives.

The medical and allied health teams have invaluable experience as well as offering assistance with linkages to community services, counselling and adjustment support. Once a treatment plan is in place and effective, people often return home to enjoy more quality time with their loved ones.

These are important conversations and our hope is that with this knowledge comes reassurance and hope. Remember that we are always ready to listen and support our members to navigate these complex issues in the best possible way for the best possible outcomes.....

For more information visit www.palliativecare.org.au or you can always pick up the telephone for a confidential chat with a member of the support team,

Warmest wishes as always and stay safe during these cooler winter months,

Judith

Life is an unanswered question, but let’s still believe in dignity and importance of the question.

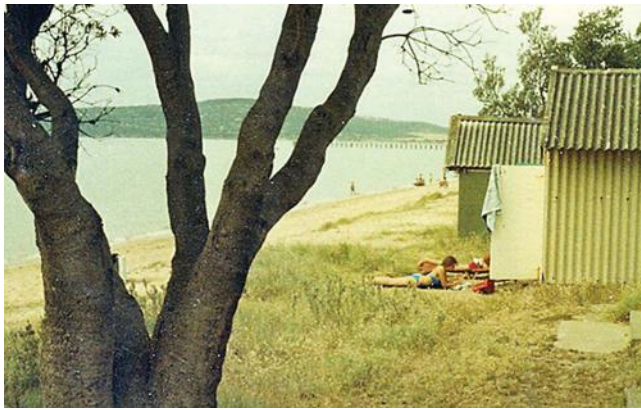
- Tennessee Williams

On the National Front

ATTRACTIONS COULD BE FATAL

April 27, 2020

Mornington Peninsula News



BEACH boxes containing asbestos have been identified along Dromana foreshore and several beaches controlled by Mornington Peninsula Shire, above. The ones below, pictured in the 1950s, have had asbestos removed.

AN unknown number of the 1300 colourful beach boxes regarded as attractions on Mornington Peninsula beaches and foreshores could be death traps.

Potentially deadly amounts of asbestos has been found in about 120 of the beach boxes on beaches controlled by Mornington Peninsula Shire and Dromana foreshore committee, but details of another 500 boxes is unknown.

The owners of the Dromana beach boxes have been asked to remove asbestos from their buildings but no such request has been issued by the shire.

The mayor Cr Sam Hearn said none of the asbestos in 89 of the 824 beach boxes on shire-controlled beaches had been put in the “immediate elevated risk level category”.

The shire is already under fire from beach box owners over a proposed new set of rules and the High Court is expected to soon hand down its decision over a challenge by the Mornington Peninsula Beach Box Association to annual fees charged by the shire.

The politically influential and seemingly cashed up association describes the peninsula’s beach boxes as a “colourful cluster of historical icons” that “grouped together ... assist social harmony and create a sense of community”.

John Steele, a Dromana Foreshore Committee member, said the use by date recommended by asbestos products’ manufacturer James Hardie Industries expired years ago.

He said “salt, sand and wind” made asbestos on beach boxes “friable and brittle”, creating a fine dust that was almost impossible to see in sand or in-side beach boxes. Tests had shown the presence of asbestos dust “and you can imagine young children and babies crawling around in it when their parents shelter in their beach box if it’s windy or raining”.

Mr Steele, who suffers from asbestos-related illnesses, said he removed asbestos from his family’s beach box 30 years ago.

While “everyone knows about it”, foreshore committees were unable to force asbestos removal.

“Dromana [with 30 sheds out of 240 having asbestos] is pretty good, but sheds on lots of other foreshores are hidden,” Mr Steele said.

“James Hardie gave ‘super six’ asbestos cladding and roofing a life span of 25 years. As the last sheets were used in the mid-1980s, they are now well past 25 years. Some must be 50 years beyond this guideline.”

Mr Steele said swab tests taken from sheds under the roofs on the foreshore “have shown alarming levels of fibres”.

“The health risks are very real for owners, visitors and staff that work on the foreshore. The risks on the foreshore are far greater than similar constructions away from the foreshore.”

Mr Steele warned that claims for compensation against foreshore committees and the shire would be easy to prove.

“The crunch time will come. You can’t have an unsafe workplace and we all know it [asbestos] is there.”

New regulations proposed for beach boxes under the shire’s control include a requirement for licence holders



to have \$20 million public liability insurance. Licence holders must also either own property or live in the shire. Cr David Gill said beach boxes were sited on leased public land and should not be a profit-making venture. He said asbestos in beach boxes was “a huge issue” and the shire “should be leading on this as we have the most in Victoria here on the peninsula”.

The shire’s proposed regulations, if adopted after a six-week public comment time, will ban the construction of any more beach boxes as well as limiting licence holders to having one beach box and forcing disconnection of utilities: water, power or gas (

“The asbestos issue is not resolved, many still have asbestos and much of it has simply been buried it in the sand,” Cr Gill said.

“The elements at the foreshore make it a folly to claim that asbestos is in any way safe.”

Cr Gill said the “present idea” was to bring the new leasing regulations in over five years and give “locals more opportunity to have the privilege of using a beach shed on public land”.

He said 56 per cent of beach boxes had been sold at some stage “or kept in the hands of people who do not live on the peninsula”.

“The underlying unspoken objection will be the perceived loss of investment profit which will occur when the market restrictions are known,” he said.

“This selling of a licence over public land for individual profit should be the real subject of any debate.”

FORMER AFL CLUB DOCTOR WINS \$1.4M PAYOUT AFTER ASBESTOS EXPOSURE

‘Asbestos manufacturers quibbled over who should pay the bulk of compensation following mesothelioma diagnosis’.

Essendon’s former club doctor will receive \$1.4 million in compensation after developing mesothelioma resulting from asbestos exposure during building work on his home.

Dr Bruce Reid, a Melbourne GP, was one of the few senior staff members to warn management of the risks of the club’s notorious doping regime despite being marginalised by those in charge of the program.

In 2018, he was forced to step down after undergoing surgery for malignant mesothelioma, eventually launching legal action against the two companies - Amaca (formerly James Hardie Industries) and Seltsam - which manufactured the asbestos sheeting used to build his house.

Dr Reid said last month he was “lucky” the mesothelioma, while a “bad one”, had responded to immunotherapy. However the cancer had reoccurred requiring a further 12 weeks of immunotherapy.

“I’m just happy to be alive [but] I’m missing medicine badly,” he said in the Essendon podcast.



According to the Supreme Court of Victoria decision, he had been working as a GP at a medical practice in Whittlesea, north of Melbourne, when his house was being built during late 1975 and early 1976.

Due to the variable work schedule, he was able to visit the house during some lunchtimes, as well as on Saturday mornings and days off, where he talked to the builder and helped out by picking up wood and stacking the “fibro” containing asbestos.

Dr Reid had been the Essendon club doctor for 36 years before he stepped down.



TESTS SHOW NO ASBESTOS RISKS FROM CHIMNEY DEMOLITION

9 MAY 2020

Tests show no external asbestos fibre impacts from Monday's controlled collapse of the eight chimneys at the decommissioned Hazelwood power station.

Environmental monitoring and analyses undertaken by independent hygienists have confirmed the good result, via both soil samples and airborne asbestos monitors, installed at numerous locations within and around the boundary of the Hazelwood site.

From a dust perspective, with reference to the EPA Airwatch Criteria, the monitoring results have confirmed that the air quality at the site's perimeter remained of a GOOD standard. Reports relating to the monitoring program are available to the public on the website www.hazelwoodrehabilitation.com.au

The area where the chimneys were felled, between the power station block and the former coal slot bunker, has been designated an asbestos working area while rubble removal works continue, with appropriate safety precautions in place.

"It will be treated as such until a satisfactory inspection at the conclusion of removal works," according to a Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project spokesperson.

All of the waste will be transported on an internal road system to the EPA-approved, on-site asbestos cell for safe disposal. Dust suppression systems will be maintained for the duration of the removal works.

"These excellent results, after a period of considerable

planning, should provide comfort to the local community and the Hazelwood Project contractors and workforce."

Eight 137m chimneys in the defunct power station at Hazelwood, Victoria, came crashing down in a controlled demolition on Monday.

A cloud of white dust shot over the remains of the chimneys as they toppled largely intact before hitting the ground.

The long-planned demolition had been delayed from its original time of 11am, as large crowds watched from a safe distance and via livestreams.

The chimneys fell one by one, about four seconds apart, just before 12.30pm.

Site owner Engie assured locals that asbestos inside its chimneys was not a threat. It unveiled its demolition plan to the Latrobe Valley community this month.

Demolition manager Tom McDowall said after a thorough risk assessment process, the company had decided a "controlled collapse" was the safest option. There is about 50kg of asbestos in each chimney and 12 tonnes of concrete.

Mr McDowall said the detonations would not fragment the asbestos and it would stay contained upon demolition.

The site will be monitored for asbestos following the demolition in line with state laws.



Around the World

CHANEL, REVLON, L'OREAL PIVOTING AWAY FROM TALC IN SOME PRODUCTS

Chanel, Revlon and L'Oreal, three of the biggest brands in cosmetics, are quietly moving away from using talc in some products as U.S. cancer lawsuits and consumer concerns mount.

Luxury beauty company Chanel has removed talc from a loose face powder and dropped a talc body powder because of negative perceptions around the mineral, court documents reviewed by Reuters show.

Revlon Inc removed talc from its body products, and L'Oreal SA is exploring alternatives for the mineral, those companies told Reuters.

The moves come amid a reappraisal of talc in body powders and cosmetics by consumers, regulators and manufacturers. Talc - which is sometimes found in the same rock as asbestos, a potent carcinogen - is used in thousands of cosmetic and personal care products to absorb moisture, prevent caking and add softness.

Thousands of cancer lawsuits, some dating back to 2013, have been filed against body-powder market leader Johnson & Johnson. Allegations that asbestos contamination caused plaintiffs' cancers began in 2017. Other makers of talc powders also face suits, including Revlon, Chanel and Avon, securities filings and court records show.

Scrutiny of talc products intensified after a 2018 Reuters investigation reported that J&J knew for decades that asbestos lurked in its talc and powders. The company has disputed Reuters' report and maintains its powders are safe and asbestos-free.

J&J announced last month that it would stop selling talc Baby Powder in the United States and Canada, attributing the decision to declining sales and negative publicity.

In March, a Chanel representative disclosed in a court deposition that in 2017 the company had stopped making a talc-based body powder, scented with its iconic No. 5 fragrance that it had made since 1924. The deposition was taken in a 2018 case filed in a Los Angeles court. In it, a California woman alleges she got mesothelioma, in part from asbestos-tainted Chanel and J&J powders she used for decades.

Asbestos is the only well-established cause of mesothelioma, an incurable rare cancer of the lining of the lungs and other organs.

Chanel representative Amy Wyatt said in the deposition that Chanel was sued for the first time over its talc powder in 2016 and she denied Chanel powders contained asbestos.

“We know that it was a safe product,” Wyatt said in the deposition. But “we determined from public perception to remove it from the market.”

Wyatt said Chanel had also removed talc from its loose face powder, but she was not sure when the new formulation would be on the market. She did not say what the talc was replaced with.

Chanel told Reuters that it routinely updates its products “to ensure we continue to meet our customers' changing needs and expectations,” a spokeswoman said in an email.

Chanel, which continues to use talc in other products including pressed powder, blush and eye shadow, said all the talc it uses is “selected according to strict purity criteria, fully complies with current global regulations, and is safe under standard conditions of cosmetic use.” The privately held company did not respond to questions about the deposition or litigation.

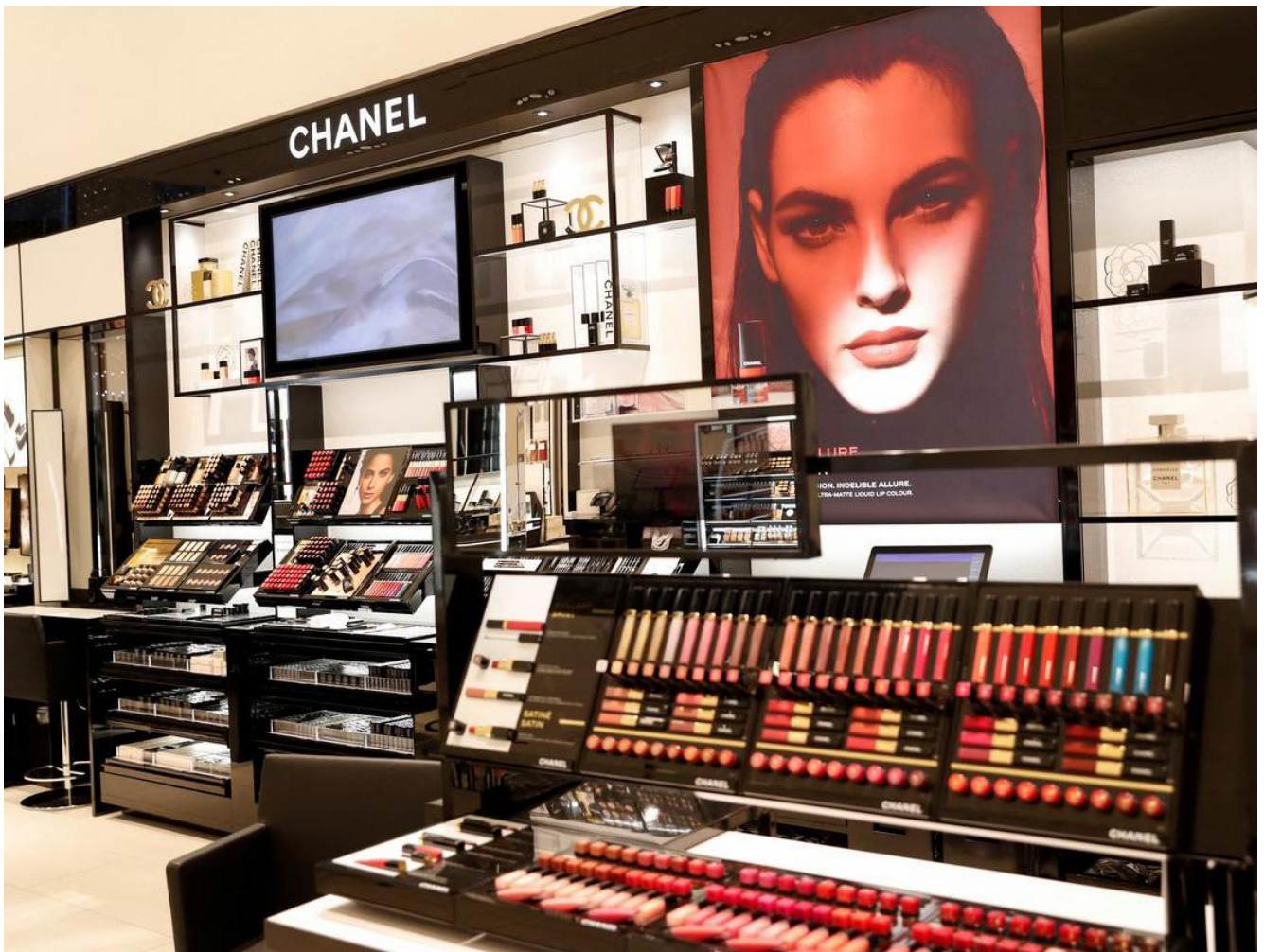
A Revlon spokesman told Reuters the company removed talc from its body products. He declined to say when or why; he also declined to comment on litigation.

L'Oreal said it is looking for a talc replacement but has not found anything that works as well.

“Well known partial alternatives exist, and we continue to explore and seriously consider performant alternatives,” a spokeswoman told Reuters in an email. “But none meet the same performance for our products.”

L'Oreal - like other companies - requires its suppliers to certify annually that its talc is asbestos-free, and it does in-house testing, she said.

“We have not detected any trace of asbestos in any of our raw materials containing more than 20% talcum powder,” L'Oreal's spokeswoman said.



Other personal care companies have also stopped selling talc powder. Germany's Beiersdorf said it switched to corn starch in its Nivea baby powder in 2018. Bausch Health changed the formula of its Shower to Shower powder in 2018 "to keep the product in line with market trends and customer preferences," and not because of safety concerns, a spokeswoman said.

Bausch, which last sold talc powder in February 2019, has been named in 165 lawsuits; 12 are pending, securities filings show.

Avon, which declined to comment, said in a securities filing that 128 lawsuits were pending against it over talc products.

Sanofi, maker of Gold Bond powder, told Reuters it stood by the safety of its talc powder and was "vigorously" contesting talc lawsuits against it.

“Sanofi will continue to evaluate its product offerings in light of supply and consumer demand,” a spokesman said.

Globally, consumers are expected to purchase 139,350 tonnes of talc this year, down 0.6 percent from last year, according to Euromonitor International.

Last year, during an analysis of 52 talc-containing cosmetic products, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration found asbestos in nine products, including three sold by tween retailer Claire's and one bottle of Johnson's Baby Powder. All products were voluntarily recalled.

A spokeswoman said Claire's had stopped using talc, and replaced it with mica in most of its products.

The FDA is analysing 50 more samples this year and is considering establishing an asbestos testing standard. Canada's Health Ministry tentatively concluded in 2018 that talc itself may cause lung problems if inhaled, and ovarian cancer if used in the genital area. A final decision, expected next year, could lead to a ban or restriction on the use of talc in certain products in Canada.



Johnson's
baby powder

JOHNSON & JOHNSON TO STOP SELLING TALCUM BABY POWDER IN US

The Australian, Australia by Peter Loftus

Johnson & Johnson, besieged by lawsuits, will stop selling baby powder made with talc in the US and Canada, citing a decline in customer demand amid safety concerns about one of its most famous products.

The move comes as J&J faces thousands of lawsuits alleging the talc powder has harmed women who had used it for years. Some of the lawsuits have led to costly jury verdicts against the company.

J&J, which has been fighting the lawsuits and verdicts and says its talc-containing powder is safe, will continue to sell a cornstarch-based version of Johnson's Baby Powder in the US and Canada.

And the company will continue to sell talc-containing and cornstarch baby powder outside of those countries, where it says consumer demand is significantly higher.

"Demand for talc-based Johnson's Baby Powder in North

America has been declining due in large part to changes in consumer habits and fuelled by misinformation around the safety of the product and a constant barrage of litigation advertising," J&J said on Tuesday.

J&J has been facing lawsuits alleging its talcum powder was responsible for cancer in some women who used it for feminine hygiene for years, and in people who inhaled it.

As of March, about 19,400 plaintiffs had filed lawsuits against the company over its talc-based powder in US courts, alleging it caused ovarian cancer and a rare cancer in tissue surrounding the lungs called mesothelioma.

"I'm delighted to hear that they finally started taking steps to remove talc-based baby powder from the market," said Ted Meadows, an lawyer with the Beasley Allen law firm in Montgomery, Alabama, who represents plaintiffs in the talc litigation.

He said he hoped J&J would take steps to compensate

thousands of women he claims have been injured by the powder.

J&J didn't give any indication that stopping sales would mean resolving the litigation. The company said it would continue to defend the product, its safety and what it called unfounded allegations against the product and the company in court. The company has won some cases but lost some costly verdicts, too.

In February, a New Jersey jury ordered J&J to pay \$US750m in punitive damages to four people who said their use of J&J's talcum powders caused mesothelioma; the judge reduced the amount to \$US186.5m, and J&J is appealing the verdict.

Johnson's Baby Powder represents about 0.5 per cent of the company's US consumer-health sales. The business reported nearly \$US1.5bn in sales last year, a fraction of J&J's more than \$US82bn in total global sales for the year.

J&J relies more on prescription-drug and medical-device sales.

Yet Johnson's is a popular brand familiar to generations of people. Because the product contains the Johnson name, the negative publicity about the safety concerns have dented the company's reputation, surveys have found. And J&J shares have suffered over concerns that its ultimate liability will be hefty, even though some of its losses have been reduced or reversed on appeal.

J&J also has faced an unusually large caseload of lawsuits over a range of other products in recent years.

The baby-powder lawsuits have generally alleged that talc, a mineral that is crushed to create Johnson's Baby Powder, can cause inflammation that leads to cancer.

Some of the lawsuits further allege that asbestos in the powder contributed to cancer. Asbestos, a mineral once widely used in construction, has been linked to increased risk for mesothelioma.

J&J has repeatedly said its talcum powder doesn't contain asbestos.

Thank You

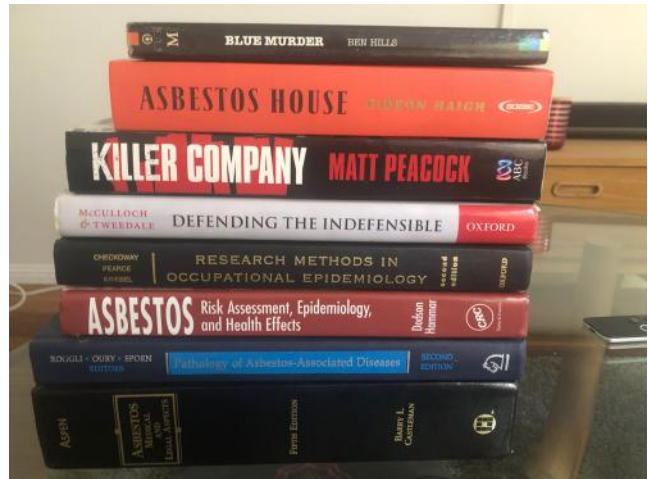
A special thank you to Steve Powell who has kindly donated various books on Asbestos to the Society. Steve was Head of Environment and Occupational Health for Cement Australia in 2008 and worked alongside the Australian Workers Union on the Railton Asbestos Project.

For information on this project

<http://www.examiner.com.au/story/522416/railton-asbestos-project-a-national-first/?cs=95>

Thank you Steve.

If any of our members would like to borrow any of these books, please call the society to arrange 1800 776 412.



Good News Story

ADSS Member, Peter Graydon was so appreciative of the services provided by the society that he wanted to share them with us. We were able to loan Mr Graydon a portable oxygen machine that had been kindly donation to the society by one of our members.

‘We are on the road again with our caravan thanks to ADSS!’

‘Thank you for giving us our freedom back’



Did You Know?

ASBESTOS IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

Asbestos occurs naturally on every continent in the world. Archaeologists uncovered asbestos fibres in debris dating back to the Stone Age, some 750,000 years ago. It is believed that as early as 4000 B.C., asbestos' long hair-like fibres were used for wicks in lamps and candles.

Between 2000-3000 B.C., embalmed bodies of Egyptian pharaohs were wrapped in asbestos cloth to protect the bodies from deterioration. In Finland, clay pots dating back to 2500 B.C. contained asbestos fibres, which are believed to strengthen the pots and make them resistant to fire. Around 456 B.C., Herodotus, the classical Greek historian, referred to the use of asbestos shrouds wrapped around the dead before their bodies were tossed onto the funeral pyre to prevent their ashes from being mixed with those of the fire itself.

Others believe that the word's origin can be traced back to a Latin idiom, *amiantus*, meaning unsoiled, or

unpolluted, because the ancient Romans were said to have woven asbestos fibres into a cloth-like material that was then sewn into tablecloths and napkins. These cloths were purportedly cleaned by throwing them into a blistering fire, from which they came out miraculously unharmed and essentially whiter than when they went in.

While Greeks and Romans exploited the unique properties of asbestos, they also documented its harmful effects on those who mined the silken material from ancient stone quarries. Greek geographer Strabo noted a "sickness of the lungs" in slaves who wove asbestos into cloth. Roman historian, naturalist and philosopher, Pliny the Elder (pictured below), wrote of the "disease of slaves," and actually described the use of a thin membrane from the bladder of a goat or lamb used by the slave miners as an early respirator in an attempt to protect them from inhaling the harmful asbestos fibres as they laboured.



28 MAY 2020 MESOTHELIOMA APPLIED RESEARCH FOUNDATION, WASHINGTON DC

A phase 2 immunotherapy clinical trial combining durvalumab, an immunotherapy drug, with standard treatment of Alimta (pemetrexed)/cisplatin has shown promising overall survival results.

The study enrolled 55 patients and showed a median survival of 20.1 months. Of those 55 patients, 31 demonstrated a partial response, and 22 had stable disease. Most frequently observed adverse events included fatigue, nausea, anaemia, and constipation – all which are typically seen with platinum-based chemotherapy. Among adverse events that investigators thought were possibly related to immunotherapy are hypothyroidism (a thyroid condition) and rashes.

On Friday, May 29, 2020, the full results of the “PrE0505: Phase II multi-centre study of anti-PD-L1, durvalumab, in combination with cisplatin and pemetrexed for the first-line treatment of unresectable malignant pleural mesothelioma (MPM)—A PrECOG LLC study” were reported on at the annual American Society of Clinical Oncology’s (ASCO) virtual meeting.

ASCO’s annual meeting is an important gathering where research updates are shared among its membership of over 45,000 oncologists. This year’s meeting, though virtual (and not in person), is especially valuable as other similar meetings had to be cancelled.

Previously, a similar study out of Australia led by Anna Nowak, MD, PhD, a medical oncologist and researcher from the University of Western Australia, also reported similarly positive results.

A phase 3 trial combining the U.S. and Australian groups (PrE0506/DREAM3R) will commence later this year. That trial was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The principal investigator of this study is Dr. Patrick Forde of Johns Hopkins, who is also a member of [the board](#) of the Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation.

“I am delighted to present the results of PrE0505 at ASCO and I would like to thank the patients and families who participated across the United States. The PrE0505 trial examined the role of durvalumab immunotherapy combined with standard chemotherapy for newly diagnosed mesothelioma patients. The results show a promising overall survival for the combination treatment, and PrECOG is planning to evaluate the results further in a phase 3 trial with colleagues from Australia.”

- Dr. Patrick Forde

His Australian counterpart, Dr. Nowak, is a previous recipient of a Meso Foundation research grant. Her project seeks to identify biomarkers that will help differentiate responders from non-responders prior to the administration of treatment. The study is an extension of the previously mentioned DREAM trial which enrolled 54 patients treated with Alimta (pemetrexed)/cisplatin (standard chemotherapy for mesothelioma) and durvalumab (a PD-L1 inhibitor).



What is palliative care?

Information from Palliative Care Australia, the national peak body for palliative care.

<https://palliativecare.org.au/>

What is palliative care?

Palliative care is person and family-centred care provided for a person with an active, progressive, advanced disease, who has little or no prospect of cure and who is expected to die, and for whom the primary goal is to optimise the quality of life.

End-of-life care is the last few weeks of life in which a patient with a life-limiting illness is rapidly approaching death. The needs of patients and their carers is higher at this time. This phase of palliative care is recognised as one in which increased services and support are essential to ensure quality, coordinated care from the health care team is being delivered. This takes into account the terminal phase or when the patient is recognised as imminently dying, death and extends to bereavement care.

Palliative care is care that helps people live their life as fully and as comfortably as possible when living with a life-limiting or terminal illness.

Palliative care identifies and treats symptoms which may be physical, emotional, spiritual or social. Because palliative care is based on individual needs, the services offered will differ but may include:

- Relief of pain and other symptoms e.g. vomiting, shortness of breath
- Resources such as equipment needed to aid care at home
- Assistance for families to come together to talk about sensitive issues
- Links to other services such as home help and financial support
- Support for people to meet cultural obligations
- Support for emotional, social and spiritual concerns
- Counselling and grief support
- Referrals to respite care services

Palliative care is a family-centred model of care, meaning that family and carers can receive practical and emotional support.

Who is palliative care for?

Palliative care is for people of any age who have been told that they have a serious illness that cannot be cured. Palliative care assists people with illnesses such as cancer, motor neurone disease and end-stage kidney or lung disease to manage symptoms and improve quality of life.

For some people, palliative care may be beneficial from the time of diagnosis with a serious life-limiting illness. Palliative care can be given alongside treatments given by other doctors.

Who is in the palliative care team?

Palliative care may be provided by a wide range of people, this may include your GP, aged care worker, cardiologist and any other health care provider, as do family and other carers. They are supported by specialist palliative care services if symptoms become difficult to manage.

Where is palliative care provided?

Palliative care is provided where the person and their family wants it, where possible. This may include:

- At home
- In hospital
- In a hospice
- In a residential aged care facility

Many people indicate a preference to die at home and making this possible often depends on several factors, including:

- the nature of the illness and amount of care the person needs
- how much support is available from the person's family and community
- whether the person has someone at home who can provide physical care and support for them.



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A program of Palliative Care Queensland



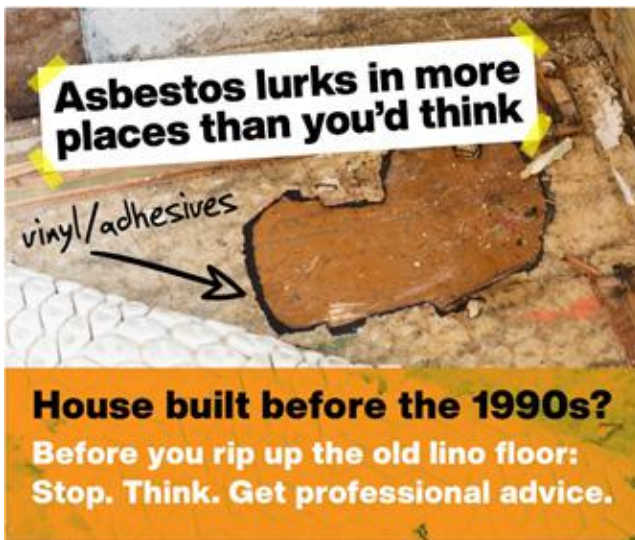
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ABN: 49047803923

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Before you start any work around the house, check if your home was built before the 1990s. If so, it probably contains asbestos.

Planning some flooring renovations? Be aware - it is common to find asbestos present in vinyl flooring! Before ripping it up, make sure you seek professional advice and get it tested for asbestos to keep yourself and your family safe.

Did you know that asbestos was often used in the adhesive under lino and vinyl floors before 1990? If your vinyl floor is cracking - or if you're looking at replacing your floor - it's important to get an asbestos check before you rip it up.

Don't expose yourself or your family - get a check first and be safe.

Remember that you have a legal responsibility not to harm those around you.



How old is your home?

Asbestos is commonly found in homes built before the late 1990s. Only scientific testing can confirm if a material contains asbestos.

Many people aren't aware that it is common to find asbestos in older bathrooms (pre-1990). If you're thinking of creating a great new space, make sure you get an asbestos assessor to check for asbestos before you start to protect both you and your family.

Remember that you have a legal responsibility not to harm those around you.



Exposure to airborne asbestos fibres may cause life-threatening illnesses like cancer and deadly mesothelioma.

Don't risk the possible health effects of asbestos exposure. There is no known safe minimum level of exposure to asbestos fibres.

Asbestos is a known carcinogen, and inhaling asbestos fibres is associated with diseases including pleural disease, asbestosis, mesothelioma and lung cancer.

If you're renovating an older home that may contain asbestos, call an asbestos professional for an assessment before you start. It's just not worth the risk.

Remember that you have a legal responsibility not to harm those around you.



Asbestos becomes dangerous once the fibres are disturbed, become airborne and then inhaled. This can happen if you're sanding, drilling, cutting or sawing asbestos.

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