



Newsletter

September-October 2016

"There For Our Members Whenever and Wherever They Need Us"

Welcome to this edition

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Asbestos illegally imported from China provokes questions and anger in SA

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT ???

FROM THE MOUTH OF A FEDERAL POLITICIAN

Immigration Minister Peter Dutton has attacked the construction union for forcing up building costs and driving Australian companies to "cut corners" by importing cheap Chinese materials that may contain deadly asbestos.

"They talk about a 40 per cent additional cost in building a block of units because of CFMEU - involvement, and obviously that has some behaviours, including driving builders to use this product, which is completely unacceptable,"

"There are a number of reasons that they're cutting corners - one is that they are being -driven into the ground by the CFMEU and these other thugs walking around on building sites, including bikies employed by the CFMEU."

I would like to know does the Minister really believe in what he is saying or will he acknowledge that **maybe just maybe** the building companies and others who import these products into Australia might make a significant increase in profit.? Also the importation of children's products (Dora the Explorer Crayons for instance) and I accept the asbestos in them is encapsulated in the wax and removes the risk of inhalation but the **FACT is it BROKE AUSTRALIAN LAW** by being imported here.

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Whilst I agree that there is not enough people in Australian Border Force to cover the whole of imports. I do believe that if / when a company is identified with products containing asbestos (YUANDA) the whole of their imports should be inspected for the next three years, no matter how long it takes.

From what we see, hear and read about asbestos coming into this country the majority of identification queries are coming from the workers themselves, we also note that the products are coming from China or Chinese owned companies, who obviously have now respect for Australian Law. I'm pretty sure if the situation was reversed China would have no hesitation in dealing with the issue in a most severe manner, unlike our Government.

(Some parts of the above comments were quotes taken from an article in the Australian 5/8/2016). Also AVA is not a member of the Union identified but we congratulate them for keeping a watch out for this stuff coming into our country)

Something to Ponder

I found a book in the library with the title "How to Read a Book" if you can't read a book how can you read a book on how to read a book?

If it's zero degrees outside today and it's supposed to be twice as cold tomorrow,
how cold is it going to be?

OUTREACH PROGRAMME

Gloria Hinks

One of the many ways that AVA spreads the message about the services it offers to the community is through the systematic distribution of its brochures to Hospitals, Medical Centres, and to other community groups. These brochures relate to information about asbestos and asbestos related disease, support for those affected by asbestos related disease, and to the provision of information sessions and training programmes'.

In return, the visits give our volunteers an opportunity to find out more about services which can complement the diagnosis and specific treatment offered by specialists, and so we thought it may be useful to regularly share with you some of the very supportive centres that we have visited.

The old Blackwood Hospital is now the home of Integrated Health Solutions, and a compounding pharmacy, and has nearly 20 allied practitioners who offer a diverse range of conventional and complementary health services. Practice Manager Britt Wilson said IHS treated people with complex medical problems in a multi-disciplinary way. Under its umbrella, integrated doctors and counselors together with practitioners specializing in complementary therapies such as remedial massage, oncology massage, lymphatic drainage and acupuncture to name a few, operate from there in a setting of beautiful gardens and peaceful atmosphere. One of the directors, Dr. Sinclair Bode is well known in the area as both a GP and for his knowledge of complex issues and complementary therapies, and all specialists work together with a caring and integrated health focus.

Another visit was to Griffiths Rehabilitation Hospital, and it was uplifting to talk to Annie Betham and hear her ask about the needs of people with asbestos related disease and how Griffiths could offer a number of options for supervised activity, which could work in conjunction with other professionals, and enhance the wellness of people through a range of supervised activities and use of the pool in the centre.

WHYALLA SUB BRANCH**John Arthur reports**

Hi all,

Here in Whyalla things have been going along steadily and we are still getting a few new members also quite a few enquiries, we would like to see a lot more people there and listen to anything they have to talk about.

Whyalla AVA again had our stand at the Whyalla Show and had many enquiries, and information bags available to everyone

We are here to help you where ever we can, it was women who became exposed when doing the washing of work clothes as well as the workers themselves

If You know someone who may have been exposed tell them about us and bring them to one of our meetings.

John

Meeting Dates:

Third Thursday of each month

Venue:

87 Essington Lewis Ave, Whyalla. Phone: 8645 0555

PORT AUGUSTA SUB BRANCH

Dear Members

Geoff Maul reports

G'day all

Things have been a little quiet in past few weeks here in Port Augusta, but it now appears that Port Pirie has problems I travelled to Pirie to talk with people and offer any help they might need, again it seems that imports are the problem with product containing asbestos. If all the products we are told about and being found after they have entered the country just how much asbestos containing products are getting into AUSTRALIA.

We have laws that ban importing asbestos and the use or reuse of it but still it comes in mainly from CHINA something has to be done to protect our children and future generations from asbestos disease.

Have your say, come to our meetings bring a friend particularly if exposure during your life time has occurred.

First Friday of each month. 10:00 am from February 2016 onwards

Venue: Port Augusta Bowling Club, Corner Marryatt & Jervois Street. You can contact Geoff on 8642 2884.

ASBESTOS FREE ??

Pam Sandys

Over the past couple of months there have been articles in the newspapers and on tv about asbestos matters – exposure of personnel on worksites during renovations, more discoveries at sites where new buildings are being erected, on demolition sites, during clean – up operations following fires, floods, etc. The list seems to grow almost weekly.

Asbestos contaminated products are being detected by people who have innocently purchased goods from overseas suppliers. Too many items are later discovered to contain asbestos. This is in spite of such items having been labelled “asbestos free”, or certified as uncontaminated, by the exporters.

Asbestos is still being mined, and manufactured into goods, in a number of countries. Such products can be sold at cheaper prices to people all over the world. It is usually by accident that asbestos is found to be present in imported materials. By then the damage has been done.

Here in South Australia workers have very recently been exposed to asbestos fibres in Port Pirie, on the smelter re-development site where newly imported equipment is being used.

Only about 5% of all the goods imported into our country is being checked by our authorities, due to the overwhelming quantity of imports reaching Australian ports.

It's not just a problem for South Australia. All across the country, there are more and more building sites where materials are found to contain asbestos.

There have been calls for new federal legislation to be passed requiring mandatory inspection and / or testing of all products from countries which have been found to have bypassed Australian standards.

Those found guilty of such breaches need to have penalties imposed.

Such calls have come from politicians, safety bodies, contractors, unions, and advocacy groups, to name just a few of concerned citizens.

How can we support all these bodies? Not by ignoring the problem, or dismissing concerns as misguided obsessions. It is surely a question which needs to be debated at the upcoming International Asbestos Awareness & Management Conference which will be held in Adelaide, 13th -15th November 2016

There is a Long Fight Ahead

These mornings are held in our rooms at Level 3 - 60 Waymouth Street Adelaide on the SECOND Wednesday of every month, starting at 10am, but early birds are welcome, and you can stay as long or as little as suits you. They are not formal meetings, so that gives each of you an opportunity to meet with and talk to others who maybe in a similar situation.

YOUR SOCIAL MORNINGS

Remember you are not alone.

Dates for 2016 Social Mornings

—September 14th,

—October 12th, — November 9th, —December 14th



A Few of our recent activities

Lions' Club at Gaza Footy Club NE Road

Volunteers were invited to share a meal with Lions members and to present information on asbestos. The slideshow, presented by Pam, was well received by all present.

Freeling

Kat did a presentation to a community group in Freeling along with Peter and Terry they were surprised at the number of people who attended there were quite a few questions asked and answered and most people took more than one information bag saying they wanted other members of family or neighbours would find interest

Q&A at the Medical School, University of Adelaide

Pam and Lesley sat in on a Question & Answer session with Professor Hubertus Jersmann and a group of medical students. The students were reviewing their recent studies on asthma, COPD, emphysema and asbestos disease. Professor Jersmann is passionate about preventing asbestos disease and gave a short presentation to the students. It is encouraging to see this being included in the curriculum.

Gawler Show

AVA had a stand at the Gawler Show to take our message out into the community. It was a glorious sunny weekend which brought the crowds out. Questions frequently asked relate to workplace incidents and renovation work. A query was raised this time about the disaster plan put in place after the Pinery fires.

At the show a couple came to us with a disturbing story about Pinery Fires and when we can investigate it further we will share it with our Members but it concerns one person saying he was an inspector, and there was no asbestos apart from a small section of deep 6. The couple left that and started on the other damage, another person came up and said he also was an inspector and there was asbestos there and they should not be removing it.

We need to find out who these "inspectors" were and where they came from and which one was right ? Or were they both right or both wrong

Special thanks to Pete Baxter who does such an excellent job of setting up the AVA stand.

Please Put This IMPORTANT Date In Your Diary NOW

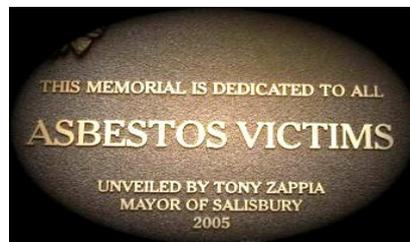
Asbestos Victims Memorial Day

DATE: Friday November 25th 2016

VENUE: Pitman Park SALISBURY

TIME: 10:30 am to 11:30 am

Speakers TBA



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