



**ASBESTOS VICTIMS ASSOCIATION
(SA) INC Est. 2000**

Newsletter

March 2010

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

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(Big "T")

Dear Members

This year has started with some disturbing news reports the first being of CSR having a demerger plan, and AVA will continue to keep an eye on this. We certainly do not want anything that may cause undue concern to our victims or families. (Story in this issue) Another issue was the warning about wall tiles imported from China containing Tremolite asbestos (below).

Again so early in the year we have lost a number of our members. The tragedy continues and we offer our condolences to the families.

Snow White tiles contain asbestos

ACCC issues warning on asbestos in wall tiles

THE consumer watchdog has issued a warning about wall tiles containing asbestos that have been sold in Australia.

The tiles, which were imported from China, contain tremolite asbestos, a prohibited hazardous substance, the Australian Competitor and Consumer Commission (ACCC) said today.

While most of the product had been withdrawn, there were fears that some tiles were still available on the market or may already have been installed.

The tiles are sold under the brand name Snow White and are described as bright white in colour with a quartz-like appearance.

They are made up of a number of pieces glued together to give the appearance of stacked stone.

"The ACCC is working closely with the Customs and Border Protection Service and NSW WorkCover authorities to identify any other sources of the product in the market and to have them withdrawn," the ACCC said.

SafeWork SA is fully aware of the situation and is keeping a watchful eye on the issue

Something to Ponder?

**"Be who you are and say what you feel...
Because those that matter.... don't mind....
And those that mind.... don't matter!!!!"**

WHYALLA SUB BRANCH**John Arthur reports**

Venue Shop 8, ABC Shopping Village, Jenkins Avenue, Whyalla Norrie. Ph: 8645 0555

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month. Our new premises at Effington Lewis Avenue will soon be available.

We are now running our Easter Raffle, and soon will be running our Mothers day raffle.

We are looking for volunteers to assist us in our endeavors' so if you have some time you can spare to assist us we would be very grateful.

PORT AUGUSTA SUB BRANCH**Geoff Maul reports**

This year has started to pass by very quickly and we at Port Augusta had reasonable attendances at our first couple of monthly meetings. But we would like to see more people attend and raise any concerns or issues that you may have. These meetings are held for you; and by all means bring along your partners and friends.

Our meetings are held the first Friday of each month from February thru to December inclusive and start at 10am. Venue: Port Augusta Bowling Club, Corner Marryatt & Jervois Street.

You can contact Geoff on 8642 2884 or mobile 0419 822 296

Geoff will be away for a couple of months and the contact person for the time being is

PETER BENBOW on 8642 2138



KATZ_KORNER

Questions you could ask your lawyer

Is my first appointment free? Some lawyers provide the first appointment free.

Is this lawyer/law firm experienced in dust/asbestos cases? Lawyers often specialise in particular areas of law. Ask how many asbestos claims have they run in South Australia?

Not all the lawyers are experienced in dust/asbestos cases? Find out who is actually doing the work. Ask to be told if your case is referred to another lawyer in the firm.

What are my options? After you have explained your problem, ask your lawyer to outline your options. Ask if there are any ways to solve your problem without going to court. If not, ask if you will have to appear in court.

What are my chances of success? Ask your lawyer about your chances of success. Discuss what you consider to be a successful result. Take time to think things over. Check if claiming will affect any pension you are receiving. If you don't understand something ask the lawyer to explain.

What work will your lawyer be doing? Ask the lawyer how the work will be done and to explain what steps are involved. Also ask your lawyer about how you will be informed of the progress of your case.

How long will it take? Can anything be done to speed things up? Ask if there might be delays and how they can be avoided.

Is legal aid available? You may be able to get legal aid if you are on a low income.

Will a compensation payment affect any pension I am receiving? Sometimes a preclusion period may apply and pension suspended for some time, depending on the amount received.

How much will it cost? Cost is not the only factor in choosing a lawyer and your lawyer should advise you in writing how much the work will cost or, if that is not possible, how costs will be calculated. Will it be charged at more than the Supreme Court scale?

No-win-no-fee Ask if the case is run on a 'no win, no fee basis'. If it is, ask **what else you might have to pay** and if you have to pay anyone else's legal costs if you lose the case. Ask **who pays for tests** and additional information which needs to be researched. If so, ask if any of these **need to be paid up-front**.

Only sign if you are happy with all of the above Don't sign any agreement re fees unless you understand it and are happy with it. Tell your lawyer you want to be kept informed about costs as the case progresses.

FEDERAL COURT BLOCKS CSR DEMERGER

A FEDERAL judge has blocked the proposed demerger of CSR's sugar business, saying the restructured building products company would be **less likely to meet its future asbestos liabilities** if it went ahead.

Justice Stone said the proposed demerger was "inconsistent with public policy and commercial morality" and that **uncertainties about future asbestos liabilities would not be adequately be disclosed** in the draft statement explaining the implications of the demerger to shareholders

CSR had planned to demerge its sugar and renewable energy business into a spin-off called Sucrogen. The "new" CSR would retain the building products, property and aluminium business.

But the demerger would also leave CSR with a reduction in capital, which prompted concerns that this company would not be able to meet future asbestos claims.

When CSR applied to court for approval for the shareholder meeting to go ahead, several companies, well as the NSW government objected. The corporate regulator also got involved. Expert financial evidence was provided to the court about the future cost of asbestos claims, but these figures varied.

Justice Stone said in a written judgment. "Moreover, these same issues lead me to conclude that the material in the explanatory statement cannot provide adequate disclosure to CSR shareholders of New CSR's ability to meet these future liabilities."

A spokesman for CSR said outside the court the company would consider the decision

PLEASE CONSIDER

Consider a bequest to AVA in your will or a donation when you receive your settlement. It will help us to help others and to help prevent the next generation having to go through with what you are experiencing any donation is gratefully acknowledged and tax deductible.

REMEMBER : **"ASBESTOS IS DEADLY SERIOUS"**

DATES TO REMEMBER

1 International Workers' Memorial Day

28th April 2010 at St Stephens Lutheran Church, 152 Wakefield Street, Adelaide.



2 YOUR SOCIAL MORNINGS



These mornings are held in our rooms at Level 3 60 Waymouth Street Adelaide on the SECOND Wednesday of every month.

They are not a formal meeting and it gives each of you an opportunity to meet with and talk to others who maybe in a similar situation. Remember you are not alone.



3 Please Put This IMPORTANT Date in Your Diary NOW

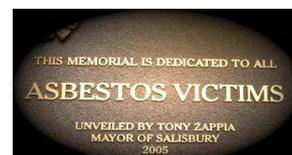
Asbestos Victims Memorial Day

DATE: Friday November 26th 2010

VENUE: Pitman Park SALISBURY

TIME: 10:30 am to 11:30 am

Speakers TBA



**PAM's CORNER**

AVA has started the New Year with well attended Social Mornings held as always on the second Wednesday of each month. Eighteen people in all enjoyed the food and good company in January and February and there were apologies from six members who were busy with other activities.

Dates for the rest of the year,

10th March 7th April 12th May 9th June 14th July 11th August
 8th September 13th October 10th November 8th December.

While we usually start by 10am, early-birds are welcome, as are late-starters.

Also, visitors are welcome any week morning from 8am, but the office may be unattended in the afternoon when hospital and/or home visits are scheduled, so it pays to phone first.

Till next time, go well. Pam

**NANNA Shirley's KITCHEN****PASSIONFRUIT SLICE****INGREDIENTS**

1 Cup S R Flour 150g
 1 Cup Coconut 80g
 1/2 Cup Caster Sugar
 125g Melted Butter

TOPPING

395g Condensed Milk
 1/2 Cup Strained Lemon Juice
 80g Passion Fruit Pulp

- Preheat oven 180c (160cFan Forced) Grease 18cm x 28cm slice pan & line with bake paper
- Combine flour coconut & sugar in a bowl. Stir in butter and mix well.
- Press into pan evenly & bake for 15 minutes or until slightly brown.
- Combine condensed milk lemon juice & passion fruit pulp in a bowl.
- Beat with wooden spoon until smooth pour over hot base evenly.
- Bake for 15 minutes or until set
- Let cool in pan & cut into pieces.

NOT SUITABLE FOR FREEZING or MICROWAVING

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