



**ASBESTOS DISEASES SOCIETY
of AUSTRALIA INC.**

MEDIA RELEASE – 7 September 2015

**ASBESTOS DISEASES SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA WALK
FOR RESEARCH AND AWARENESS 2015**

ALBANY TO PERTH –13 SEPTEMBER 2015 TO 18 SEPTEMBER 2015

The Asbestos Diseases Society of Australia Inc (ADSA) is a caring charitable organisation that has for more than 35 years provided a unique service to asbestos diseases sufferers, their families, and the Western Australian community on the many issues arising out of exposure to asbestos and its devastating consequences.

The worsening epidemic of asbestos diseases in Western Australia is affecting members of the community from all walks of life in greater numbers as each year passes. In 2014 the ADSA recorded 297 asbestos caused deaths. There is no safe level of asbestos exposure and diseases can be contracted with only a minimal asbestos exposure during a home renovation or unsafe work place exposures.

Mr Robert Vojakovic AM, JP, President of the ADSA said, "The catastrophic effects of asbestos fibres released into the air we breathe have made asbestos the number one cause of death among occupational diseases in Australia. Even today in some parts of Australia the public is hardly aware of the health risks caused by asbestos fibre inhalation. Various types of asbestos were in unlimited use in the commercial and domestic building industry from 1920 to 1987. It could be said that for many years to come asbestos carcinogenic fibres will remain in the community, creating unacceptable risk during renovation or removal of such asbestos-containing products."

The asbestos epidemic requires a strong and consistent approach to the funding of medical research towards treatment and a cure for asbestos caused cancers. The ADSA Fourth Annual Walk for Research and Awareness will raise lifesaving funds for this vital medical research. All money raised goes directly to the eminent world leading medical research team at the QEII Medical Centre.

Mr Vojakovic continues, "Our team of dedicated walkers welcomes Albany locals to join them for the Albany Walk Around Town on Sunday 13th September starting at 10am. This is the official start of the ADSA Walk 2015. Then on Monday 14th September the ADSA Walkers start the long walk from Albany to Perth through the Chester Pass to raise funds for medical research and awareness of asbestos risk in the community.

As there is no way the circumstances that led to past exposures can be changed it is essential that people understand what they need to do to reduce the risks for current and future generations. Information on asbestos risks and awareness will be available during the Albany Walk Around Town at the Registration Table, Town Square, York Street."

The ADSA Walk 2015 concludes at Parliament House in West Perth at 11am on Friday 18th September 2015.

Persons wanting to make donations towards lifesaving research can do so by telephone: 9344 4077 or 1800 646 690, online at www.asbestosdiseases.org.au, by Direct Debit: BSB: 066 140 Acct: 1035 1900, or cheque (make payable to ADSA Walk 2015) and post to: ADSA, PO Box 1394, OSBORNE PARK WA 6916.

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