



MEDIA RELEASE – 23 November 2015

'ASBESTOS WALK RAISES \$85,000 FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH'

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

ALBANY TO PERTH –13 SEPTEMBER 2015 TO 18 SEPTEMBER 2015

On Monday 23 November 2015 the Asbestos Diseases Society of Australia Inc kicked off Asbestos Awareness Week by presenting the proceeds of the Asbestos Diseases Society of Australia Walk for Research and Awareness 2015 to Professor Anna Nowak at the QEII Medical Centre. The dedicated ADSA Walkers and Sponsors raised \$85,000 for medical research into a cure for asbestos caused cancers.

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.

Mr Robert Vojakovic AM, JP, President of the ADSA said, "There is no safe level of exposure to asbestos and diseases can be caused by minimal asbestos exposure during a home renovation or unsafe work place exposures. Even today in some parts of Australia the public is unaware 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."

The 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.

The annual ADSA Walk for Research and Awareness raises 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.

Professor Anna Nowak said, "As a medical oncologist, I treat a majority of people in WA with mesothelioma, and I'm heavily involved in a range of research which truly spans bench to bedside. Where we want to go with all our research is into clinical trials in patients with mesothelioma, so many of our laboratory questions are focussed on how we can best take treatments through to the bedside to benefit people with the disease."

Mr Vojakovic continues, "Our team of dedicated walkers covered the distance from Albany to Perth taking in the Chester Pass and Great Southern in just five days. I am very proud of their marvellous efforts to raise awareness of the dangers of asbestos exposure and their lifesaving fundraising. As there is no way the circumstances that led to past exposures can be changed it is essential that a cure is found for these insidious asbestos caused cancers."

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.