

Dear Members and Friends,

We hope you had a restful Christmas and New Year break. As we step into 2025, the year has already started with energy and enthusiasm. The ADSA fundraising golf day at the beautiful Meadow Springs Golf Course in Mandurah, led by ADSA President Dave Hall, kicked off the year in great style. This fantastic event raised over \$10,000 for the ADSA Pastoral Care program. A special thank you to our generous sponsors, the team at Meadow Springs, Dave's wife, family, and all the volunteers who make this event such a cherished annual tradition.

Save the Date: 47th ADSA Annual General Meeting (AGM) Saturday, April 5, 2025

We're excited to invite members to our 47th AGM, which promises to be a meaningful gathering. After the formalities, we will host a delightful afternoon tea. This year, we will celebrate two well-deserved life memberships and honour Rose Marie Vojakovic AM, who will be named a Patron of ADSA as she enters retirement. We encourage all members to update their membership and join us for this special occasion.

Preserving ADSA's Legacy

Our Committee has approved an agenda that will guide the ADSA well into the future, ensuring we continue

to meet the needs of workers and the community affected by asbestos and other occupational dust diseases. An exciting initiative this year is the preservation of ADSA's extensive historical collection, including documents, films, videos, and photos. The collection is to be entrusted to the University of Western Australia (UWA). We'll keep you posted!

ADSA Pastoral Care Program

Please register for our pastoral care program. The first two events were amazing focusing on developments in treatment on medical and nuclear oncology. We are blessed in WA to have leading physicians, opportunities for clinical trials and organisations like Carers WA. To view or register go to our website.

A Heartfelt Thank You

On behalf of the ADSA Committee and the dedicated staff, I would like to express our gratitude for your unwavering support last year. Your kind messages of condolence and encouragement after the loss of Robert have meant a great deal to us. We look forward to your continued support as we work towards our goals of serving the community for another 50 years.

Kind regards,
Melita Markey, CEO, ADSA

Future ADSA Key Events

Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Saturday, 5 April, 2025 (2-4pm)

ADSA 2025 Pastoral Care Program
February - December 2025

End-of-Financial-Year Giving Campaign
1 May - 30 June, 2025 (ADSA/UWA Digital Preservation Program)

Asbestos Awareness Month
1 November - 28 November, 2025

ADSA Annual Ecumenical Memorial Service
Friday, 28 November, 2025,
(9:30 - 10:30am)

ADSA Fundraising Golf Day 2026
Saturday, 22 February, 2026



PAY IT FORWARD

Thank you to our many members and friends who continue to 'Pay it Forward'. Your generosity ensures we have the capacity and services to support new members and their families in 2025. **To donate, visit our website or call 9344 4077. All donations tax deductible.**

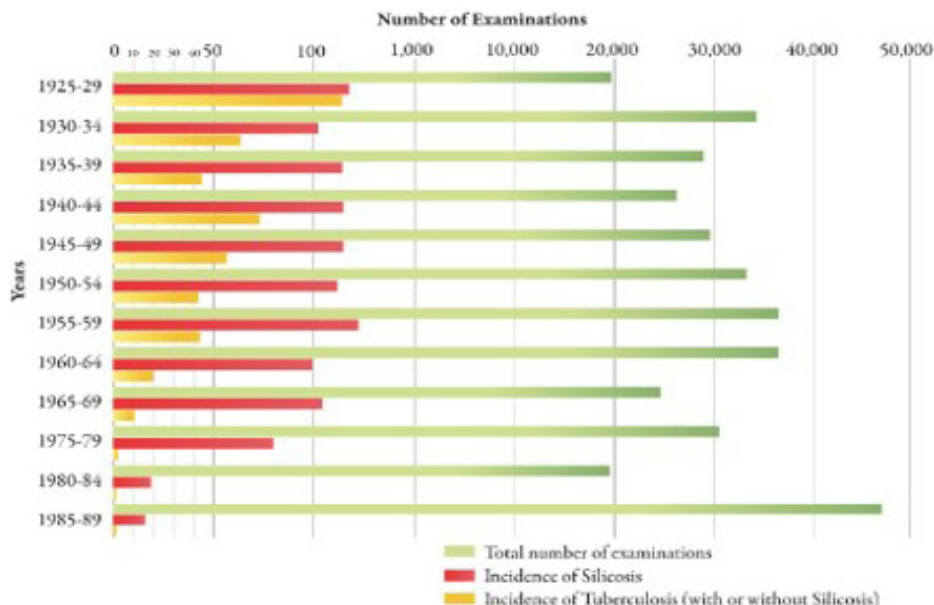


Medical Research Update

Dedicated dust diseases medical research is always a top priority for ADSA. As of 2025, researchers outside of NSW no longer have access to NSW Dust Diseases Board funding or any occupational disease funding in WA despite our ongoing advocacy. Our members have long questioned why there is not public health funding for dust diseases and it's considered an unintended consequence of Robert Vojakovic's efforts in amending the WA Statute of Limitations in 1983, allowing latent disease sufferers to pursue compensation. Following successful litigation in 1988 and 1990 the Health Department ceased overseeing the medical examination of mine workers, returning health monitoring to employers.

Concerned ADSA, alongside Dr. Greg Deleuil and Dr. John Glancy, developed ADSA's health checks program in the early 1990's and have tirelessly fundraised for and lobbied for dedicated WA medical research.

Decline in the Incidence of Disease with Public Health Monitoring (1960's- 1989)



Source: Turning Men Into Stone (WA Silicosis and Gold Mining Industry History) Dr Crienna Fitzgerald.

Asbestos Review Program (ARP)

Some of our members participate in the ARP, a research program designed to monitor for lung cancer nodules.

Why It's Important to See a Doctor

If you notice any changes in your health or have concerns since your last health check or ARP appointment, it is important to consult with a doctor. The ARP is a standardized research program and may not be tailored to your unique health condition.

For example, if you have a family history of asbestos related cancer or symptoms such as abdominal pain, reflux, or difficulty breathing, it is crucial to have these symptoms checked by a doctor. In some cases, **mesothelioma can affect other parts of the body**, such as the abdomen, leading to conditions like **peritoneal mesothelioma**. A doctor may recommend additional tests, such as an abdominal ultrasound, to check for this.

Please remember, if you experience any changes in your health, don't wait for your next ARP appointment. Contact our office on **(08) 9344 4077** to schedule a check-up with our GP.

Early detection is key to better health outcomes. With your permission, we can forward results from these checks to the ARP for research continuity.

2025 Objectives

1

Preserving Our Legacy

Continue preserving ADSA's historical archives and telling the impactful story of our work over the last 50 years.

2

Health Checks and Pastoral Care

Provide health checks for workers and the public while offering ongoing & leading pastoral care for those affected by asbestos and occupational diseases.

3

Research Partnerships

Build partnerships with universities and researchers to drive public health, occupational health and safety policy, and dedicated dust diseases research funding.

4

Advocacy for Legislative Change

Share the cost of lobbying for legislative change with lawyers who benefit from ADSA's legislative work, ensuring they contribute to legal reforms in WA.



Pastoral Care Program Events

To register for ADSA 2025 Pastoral Care Program, please visit our website www.asbestosdiseases.org.au or call the ADSA office on **(08) 9344 4077**.



Book a Health Check

To schedule a health check with our caring medical team, please call **(08) 9344 4077**. Working with RTS enables our lung function testing to go beyond standard spirometry testing. Identifying several respiratory conditions, including asthma, COPD, fibrosis, bronchiectasis and pulmonary hypertension amongst others. These are often associated with early-stage dust diseases.



Wittenoom Memorial Update

We appreciate the continued support from our members regarding the Wittenoom memorial project. Although our proposal for a memorial in Tom Price and Kings Park was rejected by the State Government and the Shire of Ashburton, we remain hopeful. The City of Perth has expressed support for the project, and we will approach them to develop a memorial concept which must include a wall for all the names of those lost to date. We will still need to address the funding.

The State Government in their dismissal of our petition listed a concern that names could be missed on a memorial panel if constructed. We encourage members to write to their local member of Parliament, taking heart from this poignant letter to the Editor of the West Australian paper, Jan 3 2025. My brother, mother ... loved one's name was _____

Feel free to cc the ADSA in your letter.
Email: info@asbestosdiseases.org.au

Snubbed over important memorial

I can't begin to describe the disdain I have for this State Government.

I was advised by the Asbestos Diseases Society of Australia in October that after waiting 12 months for a reply, yes, that's correct, 12 months, the State Government rejected their petition of more than 7000 signatures for a lasting memorial to the ongoing Wittenoom tragedy. I contacted the Asbestos Diseases Society of Australia and they confirmed that it was the Roger Cook Government, specifically Minister John Carey, who made the decision.

I have rung Mr Carey's office three times with the promise that someone would call me back. That has never happened.

I sent Mr Carey an email on November 28 and asked — "My question is simple: can you please advise the reason why you made this decision?" To date, I have not had the courtesy of a reply.

This is a Government that



Warning sign at Wittenoom.

can find the money for the following: money to subsidise two Coldplay concerts via Live Nation Entertainment at a cost of \$8 million; money to support the Ultimate Fighting Championships in 2023 and two in 2024; Free public transport at a cost of \$1.4m; Royal Show reduced tickets at a cost of \$1.9m investment; Free zoo entry; and free museum entry over the summer at a cost of \$1.1m.

I could go on and on.
The Wittenoom death toll is

the second highest in the world for an industrial disaster and it's still ongoing, with 4000 people dying of this insidious disease every year in Australia — greater than the World Trade Centre, than the Bali bombings. My question is why Mr Carey and this State Government couldn't find it in their hearts to support such an important initiative. The only answer I can come up with is that there was no "political gain".

"Memorials don't have to be expensive. Memorials are important not only for the families and friends of those lost to this disaster, but also as an important reminder of poor corporate and regulatory behaviour at a point in time. In this case, when the desire for state development over regulation ... put profit before lives" — the Asbestos Diseases Society of Australia.

My brother died from mesothelioma on the May 10, 2022. His name was Shaun.
Erin Livingston, West Perth

ADSA Golf Day 2025

The ADSA Fundraising Golf Day, conceived over 12 years ago by our President Dave Hall, continues to be a highlight of our annual calendar.

This year, the event was a great success, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, donors, and participants. Congratulations to the winning team, "Paw Patrol," and thank you to everyone who made this event possible. We encourage you to mark your calendars for the 2026 Golf Day.

*"It's a great event
and spots fill up fast!"*



Thank you to our sponsors:



MEADOW SPRINGS
GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

Also special thanks to: Slater & Gordon Lawyers, Coles, Kmart, Simmos Meat, and Dale Alcock Homes.