

ADSA 47th Annual General Meeting (AGM) Highlights

The AGM, held on Saturday, April 5, 2025, celebrated those who have dedicated their time and energy toward justice and health advocacy for individuals exposed to deadly asbestos and dust-related diseases. A special tribute was paid to Rose Marie Vojakovic AM, honouring almost 50 years of service. Thank you to all who sent warm wishes for her retirement.

Thank you to the Hon Kate Doust MLC kindly presenting awards and Ms Suzanne John, MC and award winner.



CEO Melita Markey, Hon Kate Doust MLC and Ms. Lyniece Bolitho



Rose Marie & Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Finance;Electoral Affairs; Goldfields-Esperance

We also welcomed Mr. Peter Quinn to the ADSA Committee following the retirement of Mr. Gerrit Van Burgel and Dr. Greg Deleuil, who served for 40 years. Peter brings extensive experience in occupational health and safety to the team.

ADSA's Impact in 2024 The table below highlights the health services and support provided to the community.

Category	Details	Number
GP Health Checks & Results	Appointments with Dr. Brockhoff, including comprehensive assessments	1,072
Referrals to SKG Mt Lawley	Specialized diagnostic imaging referrals	487
Breathing Tests	Conducted with RTS to assess lung function	429
Medical & Wellbeing Appointments	Completed by Nurse Practitioner	774
New Members	Joined from March 2024 - March 2025	229
Advisory Appointments	Successfully completed	162
Pastoral Care & Bereavement meetings	Successfully completed	16

Special Awards



Life Member Mr G Van Burgel, Rose Marie & NCARD Team



Volunteer Award winner Mr Claude Endersby

Enjoying the afternoon celebrations



adsaTM



NEWS

asbestos diseases society of australia inc.

MAY 2025

Dear Members and Friends,

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended the ADSA's 47th Annual General Meeting (AGM). It was a wonderful celebration honouring the dedication and service of Rose Marie Vojakovic AM as she retired. Special Recognitions:

Life Members:

Mr. Gerrit (Gary) Van Burgel
Dr. Greg Deleuil

Volunteer Award:

Mr. Claude Endersby

ADSA Emeritus Professor Eric G. Saint Memorial Award Winners:

Ms. Lyniece Bolitho, Wittenoom Advocate
Ms. Suzanne John, Investigative Journalist

To read the AGM program and review ADSA's stats and achievements during 2024 you can visit our website.

Exciting Initiatives Launching in May 2025.

May marks the beginning of two important programs to preserve the ADSA's vital work for future generations:

1. ADSA'S Annual End-of-Financial-Year Giving Program 2025.

This year, we have an ambitious goal—digitising the ADSA Collection

of historical documents, photos, films, tapes, magazines, and newsletters, in collaboration with the University of Western Australia. This process is crucial for preserving decades of advocacy and making the archives accessible for academic, legal, medical, and historical research. Your tax-deductible donation can help make this possible! Please consider contributing via our donation page or call (08) 9344-4077 to donate by credit card.

2. ADSA GP Family and Workers Clinic 2025.

Located at our Osborne Park office, this clinic expands our ongoing health check services. Over the years, we've received many requests to share our expertise in workers' and family health with the broader community. Thanks to the tireless efforts of our staff and supporters, this initiative is now a reality!

As winter approaches, we urge you not to ignore persistent coughs or lingering cold symptoms—especially if you've had dust exposure. Early detection of conditions like lung cancer can improve treatment outcomes and quality of life. **To book an appointment, call (08) 9344-4077.**

Congratulations to our award winners again the ADSA could not do so much with so little without them.

Kind Regards ,
Melita Markey CEO, ADSA



Rose Marie & Committee President Dave Hall, Vice President John Martelli, Hon David Michael MLA, Hon Kate Doust MLC, Hon Bob Kucera Retired, Tim Hammond SC, Award Winner Suzanne John and CEO Melita Markey with good friends of the ADSA.

Pastoral Care Meeting Schedule

Our Pastoral Care Program provides support to individuals and families facing difficult times. Through our mesothelioma information sessions and bereavement groups, we aim to create a space for sharing, understanding, and connection. These groups are open to anyone seeking guidance and community during their journey.

We encourage you to join our upcoming meetings.

Mesothelioma Information

Tuesday 10/06/2025
Tuesday 15/07/2025
Tuesday 12/08/2025
Tuesday 23/09/2025
Tuesday 14/10/2025

Coffee & Friends

(Bereavement Group)
Tuesday 24/06/2025
Tuesday 29/07/2025
Tuesday 26/08/2025
Tuesday 30/09/2025
Tuesday 28/10/2025



Support our mission by choosing the ADSA for your tax-deductible donation by the 30th of June 2025.

219 Main St, Osborne Park WA 6017 | Tel: 08 9344 4077 | www.asbestosdiseases.org.au | info@asbestosdiseases.org.au

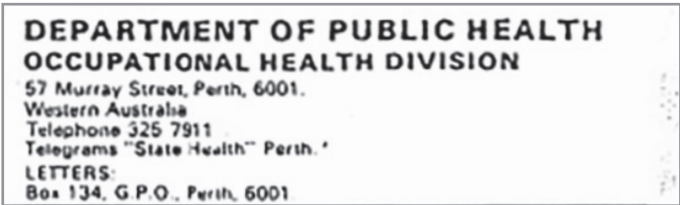


The Need for Public Health Policy Reform in WA

Did you know? Asbestos and other dust diseases in WA are not classified as a Public Health responsibility—meaning there are no dedicated policies, funding, or medical research allocated to occupational diseases in our state.

In contrast, NSW allocates millions in annual funding for dust disease research and treatment, including a recent \$5 million government investment in the NSW Asbestos & Dust Diseases Research Institute (ADDRI). WA must follow suit to ensure better support and protection for workers as we have more cases per head of population comparison.

For decades, the ADSA has advocated for public health funding, monitoring and occupational health support, collaborating with medical professionals to improve screening, treatment, and policy advancements. The appointment of Meredith Hammat MLA as Minister for Health and Mental Health presents an exciting opportunity—she is the first WA Health Minister with direct experience in Occupational Health and Safety.



Public Health Occupational Division Letterhead

ADSA looks forward to working closely with Minister Hammat to push for urgent Public Occupational Health policy funding reform.

Robert Vojakovic AM firmly believed the closure of the Public Health Occupational Division was an unintended consequence of a landmark law reform initiated by the ADSA in 1983. The reform amended the Limitations Act to account for the long latency period associated with dust diseases. This pivotal change paved the way for significant litigation led by the ADSA and Slater & Gordon, resulting in the first successful case against CSR in 1988.

Public Health Monitoring in the Mid 1960's - Early 1990's



Public Health Commissioner (1970-1984) Dr Jim McNulty with Robert Vojakovic at an early 1980's ADSA meeting.

Public health monitoring for dust-related diseases began in the mid-1960s at the Perth Chest Clinic, championed by a group of dedicated physicians.

Armed with emerging scientific advancements and X-ray technology, they successfully advocated for systematic monitoring of mine workers and others exposed to harmful dust.

Before this initiative, monitoring was largely left to the discretion of employers, prompting unions to continuously campaign for improved health support, occupational health and safety legislation, and monitoring.

The Public health monitoring closed in the early 1990's and the responsibility was returned to employers. *Leading unions to battle for occupational health and safety and the ADSA to launch independent health checks which continue today.*

The ADSA Collection Digitisation Project

The University of Western Australia has described the ADSA Collection as “one of the most significant archives in terms of its social implications and relevance to governance issues in Western Australia.”



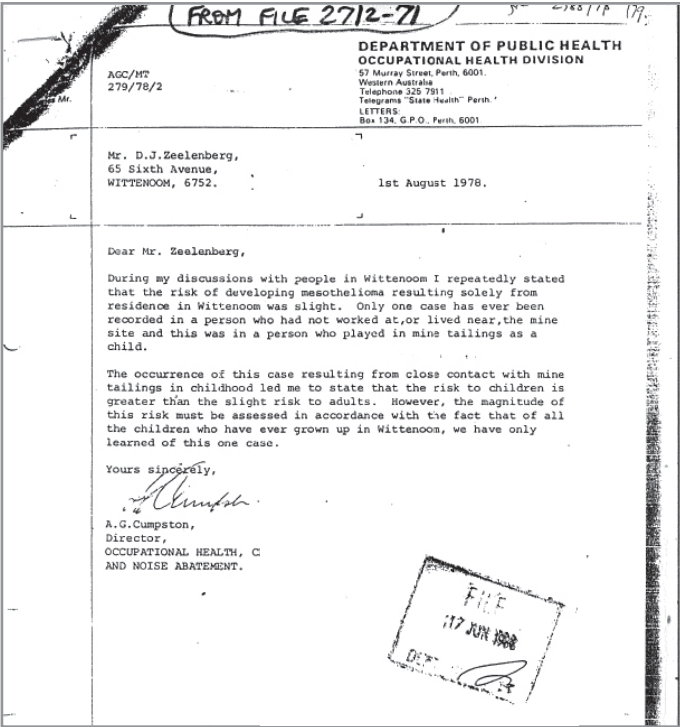
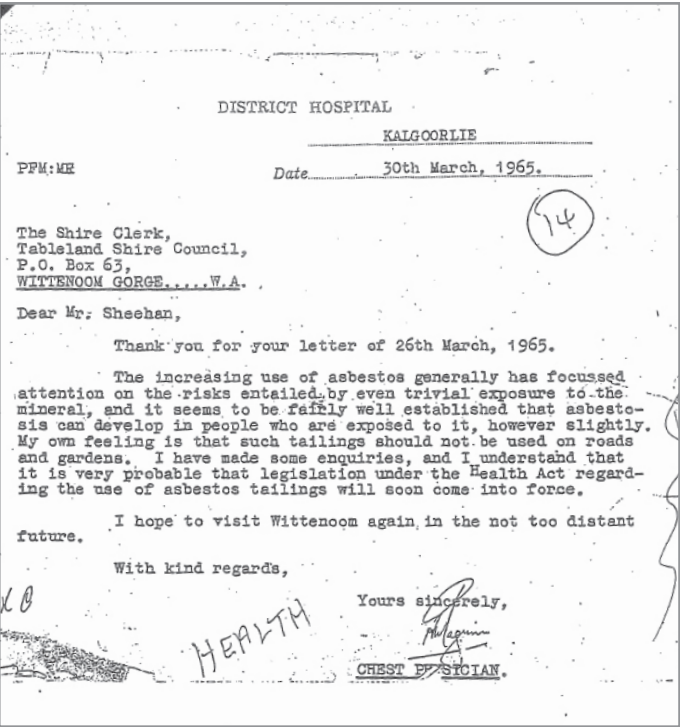
The Vault

Our goal is to create a fully searchable database of important historical documents, ensuring accessibility for academics, journalists, medical professionals, and researchers.

We will be posting rare archival documents each week on Facebook and our website to highlight the importance of this collection. The estimated project cost is \$188,000, including \$48,000 for an archivist to curate the collection for efficient searchability. Many of these fragile documents are over 60 years old, requiring meticulous preservation and digitisation.

Consider contributing today to safeguard history and knowledge to make your tax-deductible donation please visit our donation page www.asbestosdiseases.org.au or call (08) 9344-4077 to contribute you can visit our website.

A snapshot of the Public Health Commissioner keeping an eye on the Shire in relation to the desire to continue to spread asbestos tailings in the town of Wittenoom, including the school playground, despite prior advice the year before. **Today the Public Health department would not get involved.**



ADSA Health Checks

Don't ignore cold and flu symptoms, which could be early indicators of lung disease.

“People who may have been exposed to asbestos, silica and other respirable particulates are suffering persistent coughs or ongoing respiratory illness are urged to contact the ADSA's onsite health assessment services.
What are the warning signs to be aware of?
+ shortness of breath + persistent coughs + rapid weight loss + chest or abdominal pains + blood in the sputum



TO BOOK - CALL 08 9344 4077

SAVE THE DATES:

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. Additionally, your contributions are helping to preserve our history through the ADSA Collection digitisation project, ensuring these invaluable resources are accessible for generations to come.

To donate, visit our website or call 08 9344 4077. All donations are tax deductible.

