

## Media Release/Alert

29 July 2016

### Asbestos disease support coming Gold Coast/Tweed

Too many people on the Gold Coast and in the Tweed area are living with asbestos-related diseases in isolation and with feelings of neglect because they believe there is no support, despite living in or near one of the state's largest cities.

The Asbestos Diseases Support Society (ADSS) is reaching out to people who live in the region and who suffer from diseases resulting from working with or otherwise handling asbestos. They also want to meet their carers, families and friends.

As part of a state-wide drive to let sufferers know they are not alone, a team of ADSS specialists will be on the **Gold Coast next Thursday, August 4**, to meet with affected locals and set up a support network within the community.

ADSS Chief Executive Officer Amanda Richards said it was important to let people affected by asbestos diseases know there were other people living in their own communities who were going through the same issues. Even people living just south of Brisbane can feel lost and alone.

"There is a general feeling among people who have repository disease arising from asbestos that they are isolated and alone," she said. "They don't know that there are others in their community who are going through or have been through the exact experiences they are dealing with.

"They could be fellow sufferers, the spouses of sufferers or people who have helped others who have had the disease. We want to bring them together. We want to let them know they are not alone."

ADSS will be hosting a public morning tea at the Currumbin RSL, 165 Duringan Street, Currumbin, between 10am and 11.30am on Thursday, August 4. A team of support staff, including a social worker and a lawyer with asbestos-related diseases experience, will be at the morning tea to advise sufferers and help people navigate government and other support services.

Sufferers, carers, families, friends or anyone with an interest in helping people live with asbestos diseases are welcome to attend. To RSVP or for more information, call ADSS on 1800 776 412.

**Media: CEO Amanda Richards is happy to take part in an interview or talk-back before Thursday's morning tea. To arrange an interview time, please call John Reynolds on 0419 7893 048.**