

Media Release/Alert

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Asbestos disease support coming to Cairns

Cairns is the latest port of call in the Asbestos Disease Support Society's ongoing drive to reach out to people who have contracted a respiratory disease after coming into contact with building materials and other products containing the toxic material.

The visit is part of a wider tour of major north-eastern Queensland towns from Cairns to Rockhampton next week. It reflects a long-standing commitment to regularly visit regional centres to meet Queenslanders who suffer from diseases they have contracted from working with or otherwise handling asbestos. They also want to meet their carers, families and friends.

The purpose of the visit by the dedicated and caring professionals and legal advisors is to show sufferers, their families and carers they are not alone, and to alleviate any feelings of isolation they may have as a result of their or their loved one's illness.

ADSS and Turner Freeman Lawyers will host a free morning tea in **Cairns on Tuesday, July 25, 2017**, 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 regularly visit people affected by asbestos diseases to discuss their conditions and concerns, and to help them plan for the future.

"It is important people who suffer from an asbestos-related disease know there are others who can and want to help them," she said. "Our regular state tours help us reach these people and provide them with the support and advice they need.

"We also want to establish local support networks so people in the community who are going through or have been through the same experiences can lean on each other. They could be fellow sufferers; the spouses of current sufferers or those who have passed away; 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 the free public morning tea at **Brothers Leagues Club, 99-105 Anderson Street, Manunda, from 10.30am to 12 midday**. 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.