

Media Release/Alert

28 September 2017

Asbestos disease a challenge on Gold Coast/Tweed

The high possibility the health of many people living in older Gold Coast suburbs could be at risk has prompted the Asbestos Disease Support Society (ADSS) to visit and offer advice and support for the second time in just over a year.

ADSS Chief Executive Officer Amanda Richardson said before the Gold Coast's became a high-end holiday destination, it was better known as a beach resort with affordable accommodation made up from small houses and flats.

More often than not, those holiday flats and homes were built out of asbestos laden materials. Today, many homes in the older suburbs still consisted of the same materials, as do many of the asbestos fences that have separated properties for more than 40 years.

"Some Gold Coast suburbs such as Palm Beach and Currumbin were in their early years made up of buildings almost exclusively built from fibro and other materials we now know to be highly dangerous," she said.

"Walk around some of the older suburbs and you will still see these buildings in many streets. As time goes by, people are going to want to renovate them or demolish them. That is when real health issues can occur."

ADSS is reaching out to people who live on the Gold Coast and who suffer from diseases resulting from working with or otherwise handling asbestos. They also want to meet their carers, families and friends.

People who have not been diagnosed with a disease but are concerned they have been in contact with asbestos are also welcome to speak to the ADSS support team.

ADSS and asbestos compensation specialists Turner Freeman Lawyers will host the free, public morning tea and information meeting at the **Currumbin RSL, 165 Duringan Street, Currumbin, between 10am and 11.30am on Thursday, October 5.**

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 are welcome to attend. To RSVP or for more information, call ADSS on 1800 776 412.

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Asbestos Disease
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Ms 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.

“There is a general feeling among people who have a 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.”

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