



Speech By  
**Michael Crandon**


**MEMBER FOR COOMERA**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENTS**

**Asbestos Awareness Month**

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (2.37 pm): I rise today to bring to the attention of members in the House that the month of November is Asbestos Awareness Month. The catch phrase they are using is: 'Don't Play Renovation Roulette! Asbestos Awareness Month 2013.' That is the heading on a letter that I received on 29 October from John Jarratt. I think it is quite telling that in the first paragraph he states—

I'm writing to ask a favour and I'm hoping you will be able to help. You may not know it, but I'm an ambassador for the national Asbestos Awareness Month Campaign. Not because I'm an actor and not because I used to appear on the Better Homes and Gardens lifestyle program.

John Jarratt goes on to say that the reason he has become an ambassador is because he lost a great mate in Harold Hopkins on 11 December 2011 to this terrible disease. The terrible disease I am referring to, of course, is mesothelioma. Why am I bringing this to the attention of the House? First of all, it is Asbestos Awareness Month. Secondly, on 9 November I read with disappointment an article in the *Townsville Bulletin* that talked about a mistake being made on a document where homeowners have been exposed to dangerous, crumbling asbestos after an error in guidelines supposed to make houses and businesses safe.

Essentially, someone unknowingly changed the particular level for this material from a high grade to a low density. Why am I so interested in all of these things? My mother died of mesothelioma some 18 years ago. I see today that we still have a growing number of people suffering from mesothelioma in Australia. In 2012 there were 50 mesothelioma cases and in 2013 there were 57 mesothelioma cases amongst many others. The message I want to leave with all members is that there is no safe level of asbestos exposure. One gram is enough to kill. It may not kill you today; it will kill you in 10, 20 or 30 years time. Please, get the message out to your constituents that it is not safe to renovate and take the risk.

*(Time expired)*