




Speech By
Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Safe Management of Asbestos

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (11.36 am): I bring to the attention of members the launch of the state-wide strategic plan for the safe management of asbestos in Queensland 2014-19, a five-year plan. The launch, which will be hosted by the Attorney-General, is in the Premier's Hall tomorrow morning commencing at 7.30 for an 8 am start and concluding at nine o'clock.

Members, there is a cost associated with the safe removal and handling of asbestos. The cost in dollar terms is quite significant. It is also measurable. But the cost of not safely removing and handling asbestos is incalculable. The human lives lost from asbestos exposure is incredibly high and frighteningly appears on the increase. As at 13 March 2014 there was a total of 14 more people diagnosed with mesothelioma in Queensland this year alone and over the previous four years, from 2010 to 2013, there were a total of 246 people diagnosed with mesothelioma. My own mother suffered from this terrible disease, finally succumbing to it in the mid-1990s. There are others who also suffer from asbestos related diseases. In fact, based on statistical information from the Asbestos Related Disease Support Society Queensland Inc., more than 550 people were diagnosed with various diseases over the last four or so years. They are mesothelioma, pleural plaque, asbestosis and lung cancer. In fact, this Friday, 4 April, is the first anniversary of my own father's passing as a result of asbestosis.

Much is being done through research in Queensland, supported by the Queensland government, and around Australia in an attempt to find a cure and better treatment for those suffering from mesothelioma and other related diseases. I bring to the attention of the House that the Asbestos Related Disease Support Society Queensland Inc. does a great deal for sufferers and their families. I note from the society's magazine that in the year 2013 the society funded research projects at the Griffith University Gold Coast and the Queensland Mesothelioma Project at the Greenslopes Hospital. One of the main roles of the society, as outlined by Helen Colbert in the society's summer newsletter, is to create a greater public awareness of the dangers of asbestos-containing materials and the many places asbestos-containing materials can be found. Educating the community to the dangers of asbestos exposure and how easily exposure to asbestos can occur through incorrect identification and handling is a high priority.

With this in mind, I draw the attention of members to the DVD entitled *Losing Breath—the Adam Sager Story*, which was launched in December 2013. The DVD tells the story of Adam who was unknowingly exposed to asbestos fibres during his family's home renovation when he was 20 months old. Helen Colbert states that Adam's mum, Julie, urges do-it-yourself home renovators and tradies to play it safe with asbestos and be aware of the risks of exposing themselves and others to it. The DVD tells the story of a 20-month-old child. Julie Sager asks us to do what we need to do to keep ourselves and our families safe, to view the DVD *Losing Breath—the Adam Sager Story* and to visit the state government website www.deir.qld.gov.au/asbestos/. I remind members that tomorrow

morning the state-wide strategic plan for the safe management of asbestos in Queensland 2014-19 will be launched by the Attorney-General, commencing at 7.30 for an eight o'clock start, in the Premier's Hall.