

Media Release

Sunday, 24th January 2010

Unions welcome Asbestos Report and call for action

Tasmanian unions today welcomed the release of a report dealing with asbestos in Tasmania and called on the State Government to act swiftly to enact its recommendations.

The report recommends a whole of government approach to dealing with asbestos and the establishment of a dedicated asbestos unit to improve asbestos management and removal in Tasmania.

"The Minister, Lisa Singh has acted swiftly to get this report off the ground and should be congratulated for her work so far," Unions Tasmania Secretary, Simon Cocker said.

"The creation of a dedicated asbestos unit and a co-ordinated approach to prioritised asbestos removal will put Tasmania at the forefront in asbestos management policy instead of lagging behind the other states."

"Each year more Tasmanians are diagnosed with asbestos related diseases and at the moment it is almost impossible for them to make workers compensation claims. We need a fair "no fault" compensation scheme for asbestos disease sufferers as soon as possible."

"The Government now has an opportunity to take action to help protect future generations of Tasmanians from exposure to this deadly carcinogen and to help fairly compensate those who are suffering."

"The union movement has a core commitment to safer workplaces and looks forward to working with the Minister and any other person or organisation that shares that commitment," said Mr Cocker.

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