

MEDIA RELEASE

Master Builders ACT calls for renewed focus on asbestos awareness and training

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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This [National Asbestos Awareness Week](#), Master Builders ACT is renewing calls for heightened awareness of risks associated with asbestos. The call to action comes in light of ongoing concerns regarding asbestos exposure in homes and older buildings in the ACT, especially those built before 1990.

“Many people remain unaware of the potential presence of asbestos in their homes, particularly those undertaking renovations in older buildings. This lack of awareness poses serious health risks,” said Anna Neelagama, CEO of Master Builders ACT.

The legacy of Mr Fluffy, which saw over 1,000 homes and nearly 17,000 residents impacted by loose-fill asbestos insulation installed in Canberra homes in the 1960s and 1970s, is a stark reminder of the dangers associated with asbestos. Research from the Australian National University (ANU) highlights that men who lived in an asbestos-affected home since 1984 were 2.7 times more likely to develop mesothelioma compared to their peers in the ACT.

“In the wake of the Mr Fluffy crisis, it is crucial for the community to remain vigilant about the risks posed by asbestos,” said Ms. Neelagama.

Master Builders ACT is committed to promoting asbestos safety and knowledge, offering industry-leading Asbestos Awareness training. They also provide up-to-date information and resources essential for those working in the building industry, as well as consumers.

“Our training ensures that builders and renovators are equipped with the knowledge to identify and manage asbestos risks effectively,” said Ms. Neelagama.

“We encourage all homeowners and industry professionals, especially those undertaking renovations or building work themselves, to prioritise their safety and seek out high-quality asbestos awareness training. Awareness is the first step in prevention,” said Ms. Neelagama.

For further information about asbestos awareness training and resources, contact Master Builders ACT on canberra@mba.org.au.

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