

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

File: 07/03/0007

Date of Issue: 13 November 2015

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## **Does your home contain asbestos? Find out during Asbestos Awareness Month**

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With no known safe level of exposure to asbestos fibres, Towong Shire Council is urging residents to visit [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au) and learn how to manage asbestos-containing materials in and around homes safely during national Asbestos Awareness Month.

"One in three Australian homes contain asbestos in some form or another, and with an ongoing boom in renovations, we want all homeowners, renovators, tradies and handymen in our community to learn how to protect themselves and their families from dangerous asbestos fibres," said Cr David Wortmann, Towong Shire Council Mayor.

Peter Dunphy Chair of the Asbestos Education Committee heading the national Asbestos Awareness Month campaign praised council's participation in the annual campaign saying, "While many Australians believe that only fibro homes contain asbestos, this couldn't be further from the truth.

"Because Australia was among the highest consumers of asbestos products in the world, asbestos-containing materials are common in many homes built or renovated before 1987 with a broad range of products still commonly found in and around any brick, weatherboard, fibro or clad home,"

"Without knowing where these products might be found in homes, people are playing 'Renovation Roulette' and putting their health and the health of families at risk".

It's not just residential housing in built up areas that contain asbestos – fibro sheeting was commonly used for farm buildings, 'sleep-out' additions to farmhouses and workers accommodation. According to the Asbestos Diseases Research Institute, there is growing evidence suggesting that current occurrences of asbestos-related diseases is as a result of exposure to asbestos fibres during DIY and renovations.

"We are especially concerned that more people, specifically women, are being diagnosed with asbestos-related diseases as a result of inhaling fibres in a non-occupational setting, such as when works have disturbed asbestos-containing materials in the family home," said Cr Wortmann.

"We encourage residents to take the 20-point Asbestos Safety Check online at [www.asbestosawareness.com.au](http://www.asbestosawareness.com.au) during November and discover how you can protect yourself and your family members," he said.