23 November 2012

An Australian first – Mesothelioma Guidelines announced

To mark Asbestos Awareness Week (25 to 30 November 2012), the Asbestos Diseases Research Institute will announce guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of Malignant Pleural Mesothelioma at an event on Tuesday, November 27.

The guidelines will be available for public consultation on 21 January 2013. ADRI is calling on interested community members to save the date and register their interest to receive a copy of the draft guidelines.

Australia has one of the highest rates of malignant mesothelioma in the world however does not have guidelines of this kind.

ADRI has taken the initiative to address this gap by enlisting a steering committee led by Dr Andrew Penman to develop the guidelines.

The team has conducted an extensive medical literature review, which is subject to rigorous criteria set by the National Health and Medical Research Council.

The evidence-based guideline will provide healthcare professionals with recommendations to diagnose and treat this debilitating illness. Importantly the guidelines will ensure patients are afforded the highest level of care in a consistent manner.

Dr Penman said Australia had the highest incidence of mesothelioma in the developed world.

“Given the toll this disease takes on patients and families, the availability of guidelines is an important step in ensuring that every person receives the most appropriate care,” he said.

“Opening the report to public consultation is a vital step in the development of the guidelines to ensure matters of importance to patients, families, the health care community, and other stakeholders are recognised and addressed.”

Following consultation, the guidelines will be finalised and submitted to the National Health and Medical Research Council.

An asbestos education model house ‘Betty – the ADRI House’ will also be on display at the event. ‘Betty’ is part of the ‘Don’t play renovation roulette’ campaign, which raises awareness of diseases caused by inhaling asbestos fibres while renovating or maintaining homes.

‘Betty’ will visit Concord on Tuesday, November 27. If you are interested in attending, please contact Caline Haddad from the Sydney Local Health District at sydneymedia@sswhs.nsw.gov.au or (02) 9515 9607.

Where: Asbestos Diseases Research Institute, Gate 3, Hospital Road, Concord
When: 4:00pm to 6:00pm, Tuesday 27 November 2012