



**DANGER:
ASBESTOS**

ACT Asbestos Health Study: The Mr Fluffy Case

The Issue

Between the late 1960s and 1979, houses in the ACT and southern NSW were insulated with loose-fill asbestos. Despite remediation, asbestos was still found in many of the 'Mr Fluffy' houses years later. In recent years, the number of people reporting exposure to asbestos, and subsequent health complications has risen.

Expected Project Outcomes

The study team will estimate the prevalence of mesothelioma among individuals who have lived in houses containing loose-fill asbestos and compare these to the relative rates of mesothelioma in the general ACT population. They will also calculate the rates of other types of cancers associated with long-term exposure to asbestos. These findings should provide much needed information about health complications arising from exposure to loose-fill asbestos which will be an integral part of the larger body of work being undertaken by the ACT Government's Asbestos Response Taskforce. www.asbestostaskforce.act.gov.au

How Data Linkage Will Help

A team from the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health (NCEPH) will use data from the cohort of ACT residents living in the affected houses and link it to the National Death Index and the Australian Cancer Database. They will also have a comparison group of non-exposed controls from the general ACT population. The AIHW Data Integration Unit will conduct the linkage.