



Australian Government
Department of Defence
Defence People Group

**Assistant Secretary People Policy
and Employment Conditions**
BP33-3-002
Brindabella Circuit
Canberra ACT 2609

DP/PPEC/OUT/2015/156

Mr David Jamison

National President
The Defence Force Welfare Association
PO Box 4166
KINGSTON ACT 2604

Dear Mr Jamison,

I am writing to inform you of a number of resources available in relation to the Mr Fluffy home insulation issue, and to request your assistance in informing your members.

In the period from the late 1960s to the late 1970s, a significant number of homes located in Canberra and surrounding areas were installed with loose fill asbestos insulation, commonly referred to as "Mr Fluffy". Although a removal program was initiated by the Commonwealth Government in 1988, checks undertaken in 2014 of some of the affected houses revealed the presence of residual asbestos fibres. Consequently, those homes have been deemed to be unsafe for continued habitation.

This issue has received extensive media coverage. It is expected some former and currently serving ADF members and Defence APS employees who resided in Canberra in the 1970s and 80s may be concerned the home they occupied during this time was insulated with loose fill asbestos.

Housing for ADF members and their families during the 1970s and 80s was provided to Defence by the States and Territories under an agreement with the Commonwealth Government. The residences provided under this arrangement were typically public housing stock. In the Australian Capital Territory, this housing was provided under direct arrangement with the Commonwealth Government prior to the introduction of the ACT Government.

I have enclosed a copy of the media release recently issued by the Department of Defence which provides information on the avenues available to obtain further advice on asbestos. I would be most grateful for your support in conveying this information to your members, perhaps by placing information on your website and including a small article in any relevant magazines, newspapers or flyers that your organisation may produce.

Defence News and Media

Defence response to Mr Fluffy home insulation

3 July 2015 | Media Release

On 1 July 2015 the ACT Government Asbestos Response Taskforce released a register of residential addresses in the ACT affected by loose-fill asbestos insulation (also known as Mr Fluffy insulation).

Current and former Defence personnel who resided in Canberra in the 1970s and 1980s may be concerned the home they occupied during this time was insulated with loose fill asbestos.

Current and former Defence personnel who suspect they may have been exposed to asbestos as a result of their employment with Defence can participate by calling 1800 DEFENCE (1800 333 362) and asking to be put through to the Defence Asbestos Exposure Evaluation Scheme (DAEES), or by visiting <http://www.defence.gov.au/dpe/ohsc/programs/Asbestos/>.

Anyone who believes they may have lived in a Canberra home containing loose fill asbestos is encouraged to read the information available on the Asbestos Response Taskforce website.

The Taskforce has a process that enables former tenants and home owners to establish if a property they resided in contained loose-fill asbestos and was part of a removal program.

The ACT Government recently passed legislation that provides for a register of the addresses of affected residential premises to be made publicly available.

The register will enable legislative and regulatory requirements, such as the mandating of asbestos management plans for these properties, attachment of new planning permissions and the capacity to break residential tenancies to take place.

More information is available on the ACT Government Asbestos Response Taskforce website at: <http://www.asbestostaskforce.act.gov.au>.

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