Make sure that no development funds, and no Australian money, funds asbestos products

SSTUWA
State School Teachers' Union of WA

Australians understand the toxic legacy of asbestos and **we can take a leading role in standing up for sustainable and healthy development**.

As a Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA supporter, we're asking you to **sign our petition** to tell the Australian government that **no Australian or international development funds should finance asbestos overseas!**

We know that Australia aid money is **at risk of financing the asbestos industry** in Asia through the Asian Development Bank, which provides tens of billions of dollars in loans and grants each year.

This money is **not properly regulated** to ensure that no asbestos products are used in development and aid projects.

Currently, the Asian Development Bank's 'Safeguard Policy' prohibits investments that include raw asbestos, but it does not prohibit **asbestos cement sheeting** where the asbestos content is less than 20%, which includes almost all asbestos cement sheeting.



Above: In Vietnam, asbestos roof sheeting leaves communities a health time-bomb.

This means that **victims of natural disasters can be sheltered under roof sheeting contaminated by asbestos**. It means that communities can be given an **asbestos time-bomb** in the form of asbestos sheeting.

Treasurer Josh Frydenberg is a Governor of the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and he can raise this issue at the highest level. Australia provides over $12 billion dollars to the Asian Development Bank and the Treasurer can use his voting power and influence to make sure that **no development funds, and no Australian money, funds asbestos products**.

Help us tell the Treasurer to **make sure that no Australian money finances asbestos in Asia** by closing the loophole that allows for asbestos products to contaminate development projects and humanitarian aid.



Above: Asbestos roof sheeting dumps in South East Asia leave communities exposed to dangerous asbestos.

Sixteen years after the asbestos ban came into force in Australia, **4,000 Australians die of asbestos related diseases**

In Solidarity,

Kate Lee
Executive Officer

Authorised by Sally Dennis, General Secretary, The State School Teachers' Union of W.A.
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