

7 April 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

The Australian Workers' Union Western Australia Branch is pleased to support the funding submission of Mesothelioma and Dust Diseases Australia (MADDA) to the Western Australian Department of Health.

The AWU represents workers across a range of industries where exposure to asbestos and hazardous dusts remains a serious and ongoing risk. For many of our members, particularly those working in construction, infrastructure, and maintenance, the legacy of asbestos continues to have devastating long-term consequences.

Western Australia has one of the highest rates of mesothelioma in the country, at 4.2 cases per 100,000 people—almost double the national average. This aggressive and terminal disease, only known to be caused by asbestos exposure, continues to impact workers, families, and communities across the state.

MADDA provides a critical, worker-focused service that supports individuals and families facing a mesothelioma diagnosis. Their nurse-led support program offers care navigation, advocacy, and psychosocial support—helping people understand their options, access appropriate services, and navigate a complex health system. In Western Australia, where there are currently no dedicated mesothelioma support nurses within the public system, this service fills a significant gap.

Equally important is MADDA's work in advocacy and awareness. Through engagement with industry, training providers, and government, MADDA is helping to improve understanding of asbestos and dust-related risks and promote safer work practices. This work is essential to protecting current and future workers from preventable disease.

For the AWU, supporting workers means both standing behind those affected and working to prevent further harm. MADDA's work delivers on both fronts.

MADDA is seeking \$250,000 per annum in ongoing funding to expand its specialist nursing service and continue its advocacy and awareness programs. The AWU strongly supports this request and encourages the Western Australian Department of Health to invest in this vital service.

Yours sincerely



Brad Gandy
Branch Secretary
The Australian Workers' Union
West Australian Branch