

CFMEU

CONSTRUCTION

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LETTER OF INDUSTRY SUPPORT FOR MADDA FUNDING SUBMISSION
TO THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

To Whom It May Concern,

The Construction, Forestry, Mining & Energy Union of Workers (CFMEUW) is proud to support the funding submission of Mesothelioma and Dust Diseases Australia (MADDA) to the Western Australian Department of Health.

The CFMEUW represents thousands of workers across the building and construction industry, an industry that has been disproportionately impacted by asbestos exposure and dust-related diseases. Asbestos remains prevalent in Western Australia's built environment, and the devastating consequences of past exposure continue to be felt by workers and their families.

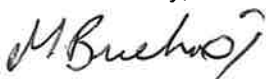
The legacy of asbestos in Western Australia is tragic and profound. WA records one of the highest rates of mesothelioma in the world, at 4.2 cases per 100,000 people compared to the national average of 2.2. Each year, between 700–900 Australians are diagnosed with this aggressive terminal cancer, with asbestos exposure being the only known cause, and national health system costs estimated at \$32.1 million annually. MADDA provides a vital, worker-focused service that fills a critical gap in the current health system.

Their nurse-led support service delivers practical care navigation, advocacy, and psychosocial support to workers and families facing a mesothelioma diagnosis. This includes assistance in understanding treatment options, accessing appropriate services, and planning for end-of-life care—ensuring no worker is left to face this disease alone. In Western Australia, where there are currently no dedicated mesothelioma support nurses within the public system, this service is essential.

For the CFMEUW, this is not just a health issue, it is a workplace justice issue. Too many workers have gone to work, done the right thing, and paid the ultimate price years later. We have a responsibility to ensure that those workers, and their families, are properly supported and that future generations are protected from the same fate.

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

Yours Sincerely,



Mick Buchan
Secretary CFMEUW

