



22 Parkland Road
Herdsman Business Park, Osborne Park WA 6017
PO Box 1494 Osborne Park DC WA 6916
08 9492 9200

15 April 2026

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

To Whom It May Concern,

The Housing Industry Association (HIA) Western Australia is pleased to support the funding submission of Mesothelioma and Dust Diseases Australia (MADDA) to the Western Australian Department of Health.

HIA represents builders, contractors, and tradespeople working across the residential building sector. Our members are regularly engaged in construction, renovation, and maintenance activities where asbestos and hazardous dust exposure remains an ongoing risk, particularly in older housing stock. Despite increased awareness and regulatory controls, the legacy of asbestos in Western Australia continues to present a significant challenge for industry.

Western Australia continues to experience one of the highest rates of mesothelioma in Australia, at 4.2 cases per 100,000 people—almost double the national average. This aggressive and terminal disease, caused almost exclusively by asbestos exposure, continues to have a profound impact on workers, families, and communities.

MADDA provides an important and practical service supporting individuals and families affected by mesothelioma. Their nurse-led support program delivers care navigation, advocacy, and psychosocial support, helping patients to better understand their diagnosis and access appropriate services. In Western Australia, where there are currently no dedicated mesothelioma support nurses within the public health system, this service fills a clear gap.

In addition to supporting those affected, MADDA plays a key role in raising awareness of asbestos risks across the community and industry. Their work with training providers and industry stakeholders contributes to improved understanding of safe practices and helps support ongoing efforts to reduce exposure.

From a residential construction perspective, this work is critical. The majority of asbestos-containing materials are found in older homes, and ongoing education and awareness are essential to protecting both workers and homeowners.

MADDA is seeking ongoing funding to expand its specialist nursing support service and continue its advocacy and awareness programs. HIA supports this request and recognises the importance of investing in services that both support affected individuals and contribute to preventing future disease.

Yours sincerely
HOUSING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Michael McGowan
Executive Director – Western Australia