

9 April 2026

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

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for Mesothelioma and Dust Diseases Australia (MADDA) and its funding submission to the Western Australian Department of Health.

I write in my personal capacity as a former medical oncologist and as a researcher with a longstanding professional focus on mesothelioma and asbestos-related diseases. Over many years, I have seen first-hand the profound clinical, psychosocial, and practical challenges faced by people diagnosed with mesothelioma, as well as the significant impact on their families and carers. Despite advances in treatment and research, mesothelioma remains an aggressive disease with poor outcomes, and Western Australia continues to carry a disproportionate burden due to historical asbestos exposure.

Patients with mesothelioma often require highly coordinated care across multiple specialties, alongside access to clear, disease-specific information and sustained psychosocial support. Evidence from both clinical practice and research highlights the value of structured care navigation models, particularly for people with rare and complex cancers, where fragmentation of care can be common.

In this context, MADDA provides an important and distinctive service. Its nurse-led model offers care navigation, patient advocacy, and practical and emotional support across the disease trajectory, from diagnosis through treatment, end-of-life care, and bereavement. From my experience, services of this nature play a critical role in improving patient experience, supporting families, and assisting patients to navigate an often complex health system.

Beyond direct patient support, MADDA also contributes to advocacy and awareness relating to asbestos-related disease, supporting broader efforts to reduce future harm through prevention, education, and engagement with relevant stakeholders. Given the long latency of asbestos-related disease, continued attention to prevention remains essential.

MADDA is seeking ongoing funding to sustain and expand its specialist nursing support service and associated activities. From my professional perspective, this represents a sensible and evidence-informed investment in patient-centred care for a group with significant unmet needs.

I therefore commend MADDA's funding application to the Department for consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Anna Nowak
UWA Medical School