



File fA16826449
Contact commissioner@worksafe.wa.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR MADDA FUNDING SUBMISSION TO THE WA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

I write in support of the funding submission of Mesothelioma and Dust Diseases Australia (MADDA) to the Western Australian Department of Health.

As WorkSafe Commissioner for Western Australia, I am acutely aware of the ongoing risks associated with asbestos and hazardous dust exposure across a range of industries, particularly within construction, maintenance, and infrastructure sectors. While regulatory frameworks and safety standards have strengthened over time, the legacy of asbestos exposure in Western Australia continues to result in serious, life-limiting and largely preventable disease outcomes.

Western Australia continues to experience the highest rate of mesothelioma in Australia, reflecting the long-term impact of historical occupational exposure. This reality underscores the importance of a comprehensive response that addresses not only prevention and early diagnosis, but also the physical, psychological, and emotional needs of individuals and families affected by asbestos-related disease.

MADDA plays a valuable role in delivering this integrated response. Through its advocacy, education, and awareness initiatives, MADDA contributes to improved understanding of asbestos and dust-related risks across industry and the broader community. This work aligns with, and supports the objectives of, the National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Awareness and Management, particularly in relation to education, awareness, and coordinated responses to asbestos-related harm. These initiatives also complement existing work health and safety regulatory and educational frameworks aimed at reducing exposure and promoting safe systems of work.

Importantly, MADDA provides a specialist, nurse-led support service for individuals and families affected by mesothelioma and other dust diseases. This model delivers not only practical care coordination and system navigation, but also vital psychosocial support. Individuals facing a mesothelioma diagnosis, and their family, often experience significant psychological distress, anxiety, and uncertainty alongside their physical illness. MADDA's ongoing engagement with patients helps address these mental and emotional impacts, supporting wellbeing, dignity, and quality of life throughout the course of the disease.

From a work health and safety perspective, the combination of prevention, education, and support is critical. Supporting those affected, while continuing to strengthen awareness and risk reduction, is essential to addressing both the current and future impact of asbestos-related disease.

MADDA is seeking \$250,000 in ongoing funding to expand its specialist nursing support service and continue its advocacy and awareness programs. I support this request and recognise the value of sustained investment in initiatives that improve physical and mental health outcomes, align with national asbestos strategies, promote awareness and prevention of dust disease, and support the goals of work health and safety in Western Australia.

I am also aware that MADDA's funding proposal is supported by a range of stakeholders across industry, unions and the healthcare sector, which is testament to the need for this service.

Please contact me if I can provide further information in relation to this letter of support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S. North." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sally North
WorkSafe Commissioner

22 April 2026