

**ACT
ADMINISTRATION
ASBESTOS
BRANCH**

**A BRIEF GUIDE TO:
WHO WE ARE
AND WHAT WE DO
AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT
ASBESTOS**

How we got to be here

The Asbestos Branch of the ACT Administration was set up in late October 1988 as a result of the Federal Government decision to undertake a survey to determine the extent of the asbestos problem in the ACT prior to its removal from private residences under a Federal Government scheme.

Who runs the Asbestos Branch

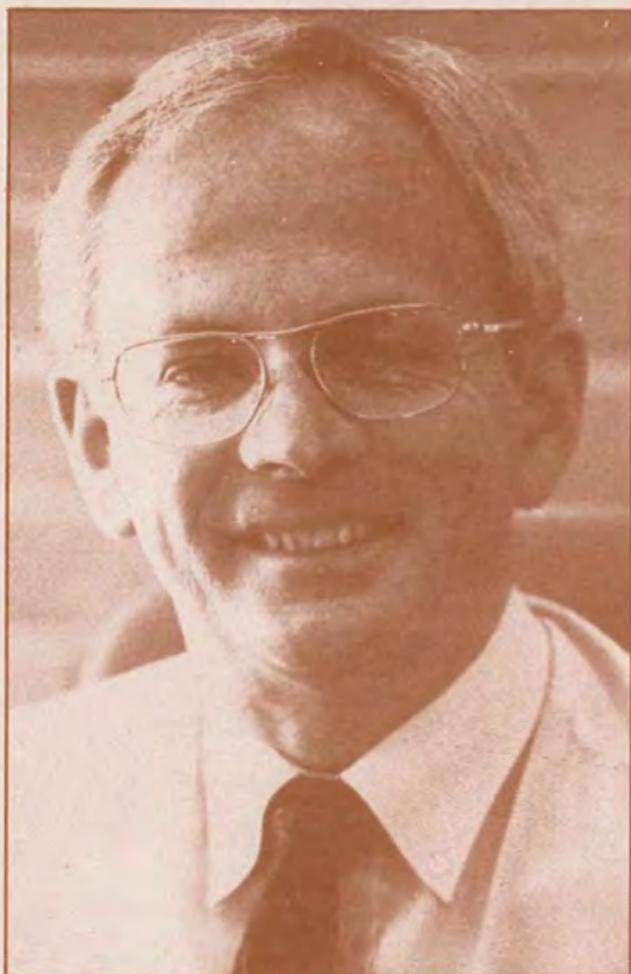
The Branch General Manager is John Flutter who reports to the City Manager through the Director of the Transport and Works Division. Other key officers of the Branch are:

Rod Usback: Project Operations Manager

Rod is responsible for the operational side of the survey and the removal of asbestos.

Bruce McKenzie: Policy and Administration Manager

Bruce is responsible to ensure that the program works to its budget and is also responsible to ensure that all of the necessary support is available to the officers working in the field.



John Flutter, Branch General Manager

In addition Bruce is also responsible for the support services section who arranges for access to houses when required and during the removal phase, they will also arrange for alternative accommodation for householders whilst the asbestos is removed.

What we do

Our work has been divided into three distinct phases. Phase One which is already under way involves a team of inspectors checking the roof space of all Canberra homes built before 1979 to determine whether they are insulated with loose asbestos fluff.



Phase Two will commence whilst Phase One is being carried out and during this phase all houses which are found to contain asbestos will have the roof area sealed from the living area at no cost to the residents. Where it is apparent that a large amount of asbestos fibre has entered the living areas of the house the interior of the house will also be thoroughly cleaned during this phase.

Phase Three will be the safe, efficient removal and disposal of the asbestos from those homes which have been affected. It is anticipated that Phase Three will commence early in 1989.

What we are doing for you

Survey of all ACT houses built prior to 1979 to check whether or not they contain asbestos.

Rapid notification of the result of the survey to the house holder (2-3 days after the survey if it has been necessary to take a sample of the insulation for testing).

If the test of a house confirms the presence of asbestos, immediate contact will be made by a liaison officer from the Asbestos Branch who will provide detailed advice about the next step. The branch will also provide advice on the sealing program. This will be carried out to ensure all houses are thoroughly cleaned and safe to live in.

Provision of information services both to the public and the media to ensure that all of the ACT residents are kept informed of the latest information about asbestos.



What should I do about asbestos that may be in my roof now?

If your house was constructed prior to 1979 do not enter the roof space until you receive confirmation that ceiling insulation is not asbestos.

Until you receive confirmation that your house does not contain asbestos make sure that any person who may have to enter the roof space is aware of the need to take special precautions prior to entering the ceiling. The Asbestos Branch will provide information and check particular cases as circumstances may require.

Because of the high level of training and the safety precautions taken the inspectors carrying out the survey are not at risk from asbestos.

Dwellings that contain asbestos sheeting do not pose any risk to health provided the sheeting is not damaged or altered (cut, sawn, sanded or drilled) so as to produce dust.

Should you have asbestos in your roof, it is recommended that you not enter into a contract for removal if you wish to receive the maximum benefit from the Government scheme.

If you have any questions concerning asbestos please ring us on **39 6276**.



Produced by ACT Administration
Office of City Management Asbestos Branch

