



Media Release - SafeWork SA

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TRIBUTE TO ANTI-ASBESTOS CAMPAIGNER

SafeWork SA extends its sympathy to the family, friends and colleagues of Jack Watkins, who died late on Tuesday.

Mr. Watkins campaigned for decades against the dangers of asbestos, and was the President of the Asbestos Diseases Society of South Australia.

SafeWork SA worked extensively with Jack Watkins over the years in his role as an Asbestos Safety Officer, a member of the Asbestos Advisory Committee, and as a champion for countless individuals and families living or working with the effects of asbestos.

Mr. Watkins was also a member of the SA Asbestos Coalition.

At the grass roots level, Jack Watkins' tireless support for the people affected by asbestos left an indelible legacy.

His contributions helped greatly in the overall effort to develop the laws and regulations, which now make South Australia a national leader in asbestos safety management.

"Jack Watkins' continuous efforts and passion to combat the dangers of asbestos provided an inspiration to us all," said SafeWork SA Executive Director, Michele Patterson.

"Every day, he was tireless, constructive and committed to working with the asbestos industry and with SafeWork SA, to resolve this pressing issue.

"His passing is a reminder that we must continue to work collectively to ease the suffering that asbestos still causes, years after it was banned.

"Jack Watkins has left us a legacy of action and commitment that will guide our future efforts in not only preventing asbestos diseases, but in occupational health, safety and welfare generally" Ms. Patterson said.

Mr. Watkins is the second South Australian champion in the fight against asbestos to have died this year.

In September, Mr. Watkins' fellow campaigner, Colin Arthur, who was a founding member and driving force behind the Asbestos Victims Association, succumbed to asbestosis.

For answers and advice on workplace health and safety and the relevant laws, SafeWork SA operates a telephone Help Centre on 1 300 365 255 or 8303 0400. To report serious accidents or incidents, in the workplace call 1 800 777 209