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**Lisa Singh,
MP**

Minister for
Workplace
Relations

Tuesday, 6
October 2009

Government tackle asbestos issue with determination

Minister for Workplace Relations, Lisa Singh MP, today announced action to reduce the impact of asbestos on Tasmanians.

"I'm not interested in the politics of sitting on the sidelines complaining about an issue, I want to get stuck in and make a difference.

“That is what we are doing in dealing with asbestos.

“We have:

- Introduced vendor disclosure legislation so that future property buyers can be warned of the presence of asbestos in a house they buy.
- Set as priority for the removal of the asbestos sheet roofing from Hobart’s Princes Wharf 1 shed.
- **Begun working with the Commonwealth through the stimulus package and the Building in Education Revolution spending to remove asbestos from schools.**
- Set in place a whole of Government response as a result of the work of the Asbestos Steering Committee.

“That response will consider such issues as priorities for removal and disposal, costs to business, individuals, the public and government and legal and compensation issues.

“This is a terrible disease and what it makes it more terrible is that it can be prevented by protecting people from exposure to asbestos

“Inhaling asbestos fibres can lead to asbestosis and mesothelioma. They can lay undetected for decades and yet end life within months of detection,” Ms Singh said

“Each year twelve Tasmanians die from these diseases.

“These are people who worked for years in unsafe work environments and helped make this state what it is today.

“Cleaning up asbestos in our community is a massive job but we owe it to those who have suffered from it not to delay in making our community as safe from asbestos as we can.”