

Merseyside Asbestos Victims Support Group

(Registered Charity No. 1033724)

3rd Floor, Oriel Chambers

14 Water Street

Liverpool

L2 8TD

Tel: 0151 236 1895

Email: info@asbestosdiseases.org.uk

Web: asbestosdiseases.org.uk

**PRESS RELEASE.....NO EMBARGO TIME.....PRESS RELEASE.....NO
EMARGO TIME.....UP-DATED WITH VICTIMS NAMES. ISSUE DATE 11.04.2014.**

**Lisa Singh Australian Senator for Tasmania to
Speak in Liverpool on 15th April 2014**

[Asbestos Victims launch campaign for justice and research.](#)

Lisa Singh, an Australian Labor Party Senator (representing Tasmania) will be speaking at 5.30 pm in the Conference Room, 6th Floor, Cotton Exchange Building, Old Hall Street Liverpool, L3 9LQ on Tuesday 15th April 2014. Lisa is a driving force in pushing the Australian Government to address the appalling asbestos legacy in Australia. Lisa co-founded the Asbestos Free Tasmania Foundation, an advocacy group which campaigns to highlight the dangers of [asbestos](#) and provide help and support to sufferers of asbestos-related diseases.

Her interest in minimising the impact of asbestos-related disease continues in the Senate and she co-founded the Parliamentary Group on Asbestos Related Disease (PGARD) in 2011. This group allows Parliamentarians to come together to raise awareness and to stop the burden of asbestos related diseases. As a result, in 2013 the Australian Government showed decisive leadership by establishing the [Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency](#) in order to protect Australians and to work towards the elimination of asbestos-related diseases. This was a positive step forward in creating a national approach to the eradication and handling of asbestos.

Lisa said "I'm honoured to be invited by the members of the Merseyside Asbestos Victims Support Group to hear about the experience of Liverpool residents dealing with deadly asbestos fibres. Our two countries share a bond going back some two hundred and fifty years. But unfortunately, we also share a darker bond of suffering: that forged by asbestos disease. I believe we have an obligation to ensure Australia's and the UK's tragic history, still unfolding, does not repeat itself by our

international neighbours. We know that asbestos exposure kills so there is no excuse why it should continue to be mined, used and exported. It is my hope that the deadly scourge of asbestos is never repeated and that our children will grow up free from fear of asbestos exposure and free from asbestos disease in our towns and cities throughout the world."

Lisa will be speaking to highlight the plight faced by victims in Australia and report on the global campaign to ban asbestos and deliver justice to its victims.

Mrs. Yvonne Nield of Crosby who lost her husband, George aged 64 yrs. to mesothelioma in February this year will say "I am here to meet Lisa and highlight the dire need for society and in particular the government to take action and address the appalling lack of funding for research into finding a cure for this insidious disease. She added " George and I were looking forward to his retirement and spending more time together with our children, Stacey, Leah, Amy, Gemma, Donna, Michelle, Stephen and Grandchildren Instead he was taken away from us by a man made disease caused by employer's total disregard for health and safety at work in past decades and their failure to comply even with the most rudimentary precautions that existed at the time"

Mrs. Marjorie Magee, Trustee of the support group who lives in Birkenhead lost her husband to mesothelioma in June last year. She will say "Our family were devastated when Geoff died aged 64 yrs., he was the life and soul of the party and travelled with me to Parliament and the All-party Parliamentary Panel on Asbestos so that MP's could hear first-hand what a traumatic experience someone with this disease goes through" She added" We welcome the introduction of the Mesothelioma Act which will compensate victims who are unable to trace employers or insurers for a compensation case. Our reservations with the new legislation is it only provides 80% of what a victim would have normally been entitled to. Victims of this horrible disease pay with a 100% of their lives, payments under the Act should be no less, an ammendment to the Bill when it was going through Parliament to address this inequality was defeated as was the ammendment to secure funding for research into finding a cure"

John Flanagan, Information Officer for the Group said "We broadly welcome the Mesothelioma Act as it provides compensation for up to 300 victims per year who have been unable to trace their former employers or their insurers to obtain compensation. Our reservations are the Act makes no provision for funding research to find a cure. Current funding by the [Medical Research Council](#) and [National Institute for Health Research](#) was only £2.2 million in 2012-13 while other cancer research funding is in the tens of millions of pounds. The government also capped the level of compensation paid to 80% of that provided for under cases taken against insurers under the present legal avenue. This calculator deprives full justice to up to 300 victims per year however if

the Act is extended to cover all mesothelioma victims seeking compensation, as I believe it will be, then the insurance industry will profit twice from victims, once by pocketing the insurance premium from their employer while they were working and again by paying them only 80% of what they are entitled to under the present system. We are demanding any new government to amend the Act to address these glaring shortfalls in justice for victims of asbestos."

The group can be contacted on 0151 236 1895 or email info@asbestosdiseases.org.uk website www.asbestosdiseases.org.uk

NOTES FOR EDITORS

<http://www.theyworkforyou.com/wrans/?id=2014-01-07a.270.0>
[Medical Research Council](#) and [National Institute for Health Research](#) spending on mesothelioma reached £2.2 million in 2012–13

Mrs Yvonne Nield and Mrs. Marjorie Magee will be available before and after the event for interview and photo. They will have photos of their lost loved ones. Contact John Flanagan, Information Officer for the group on 0151 236 1895 or mobile 0779 101 9641. To arrange interviews.

- We are limited to 80 seats so all interested please contact us on 0151 236 1895 or visit our website for more details. Allocation of tickets for the event will be on a first come basis. A buffet will be provided and there will be an opportunity to speak/take photos with Lisa after her presentation
- **Mesothelioma** is a fatal tumour found principally in the lung pleura for which the only known cause is exposure to asbestos and life expectancy is about 12 months from diagnosis. Uniquely, among asbestos-related diseases mesothelioma can be caused by low exposure to asbestos.
- The 2008 latest figures for mesothelioma diagnoses are 2,400 and in 2008 there were 2,249 deaths. Mesothelioma is one of the top 20 fatal cancers. The female death rate for mesothelioma is rising exponentially and is more than three times higher in the UK than in the US.
- All forms of asbestos, including chrysotile, are proven carcinogens. All forms cause malignant mesothelioma and lung cancers. No exposure to asbestos is without risk. Yet illnesses and deaths from asbestos exposure are entirely preventable. In recent years, numerous studies have documented an anticipated rise in mesothelioma and other asbestos-related diseases over the next several decades, particularly in Asia. One recent study, in the Journal of the Asian Pacific Society of Respiratory said that Asia, with its large, developing countries, currently accounts for about 64% of the world's asbestos use.
- Medical experts say that it generally takes people 20 to 50 years after exposure to asbestos to develop mesothelioma and other asbestos-related diseases. This timetable clearly forecasts that Asia's current rate of usage is likely to lead to a huge hike in asbestos-related diseases in the coming decades.
- Each year an estimated 125 million people are exposed to asbestos and 100,000+ die from asbestos disease worldwide.