



**LVAT**

**Latrobe Valley  
Asbestos Taskforce**

# **Latrobe Valley Asbestos Survey 2020**

**REPORT**

OFFICIAL



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## BACKGROUND

The Latrobe Valley Asbestos Benchmark Survey 2020 is the second of a series to be conducted annually by the Latrobe Valley Asbestos Taskforce (the taskforce), which was commissioned by the Victorian Government in 2019 to review how asbestos is managed, handled and disposed of across the broader Latrobe Valley region. The scope of the taskforce is broad, and encompasses both public and private, residential, commercial and industrial sites and locations.

The results of this survey have been compared to the results of the initial 2019 benchmark survey, to track changes in the level of awareness, knowledge and attitudes towards asbestos across the wider Latrobe Valley community that result from engagement and educational activities, and other influences.

Identical questions were asked of respondents to the 2019 survey, which had been devised to broadly align with the National Benchmark Survey<sup>1</sup> undertaken by the Asbestos Safety and Awareness Agency (ASEA)<sup>2</sup>. This is to enable the comparison of Latrobe Valley results with national trends.

The survey was published online on the Engage Victoria platform<sup>3</sup> and was open from 30 November to 21 December 2020, with hard copies available via phone request to the DELWP Traralgon office.

The survey was promoted broadly on social media, and advertised in local papers across Baw Baw Shire, Wellington Shire, and the City of Latrobe. In total, 109 responses were received with 66 people (61%) identifying as DIY Home renovators and completing the home renovator section; no hard copy surveys were returned.

The percentage of respondents aged below 25 was again very low (1%), and as such the results cannot necessarily be considered to be representative of this age group.

The information collected in this survey will be used by the taskforce to develop education campaigns to improve understanding of the dangers of asbestos exposure across the community, particularly in the residential setting.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.asbestossafety.gov.au/research-publications/national-benchmark-survey-awareness-and-attitudes-asbestos-2018>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.asbestossafety.gov.au/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://engage.vic.gov.au/latrobe-valley-asbestos-survey>

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Latrobe Valley has long been linked to asbestos, with power stations primarily built using asbestos containing materials, as well as workers' housing for State Electricity Commission employees, and also for other industries such as Victorian Railways. Consequently, many people in the Latrobe Valley have succumbed to asbestos related disease.<sup>4</sup>

As detailed in a recent study published by the taskforce,<sup>5</sup> it was also common for planning schemes in the mid-20th century to mandate the use of asbestos cladding for the rebuilding of properties following bushfires. Due to its widespread popularity as a building product, it is thought that Australian homes built between 1940 and 1990 are very likely to contain asbestos.

Today there continues to be a high level of awareness of asbestos and asbestos-related issues in the Latrobe Valley:

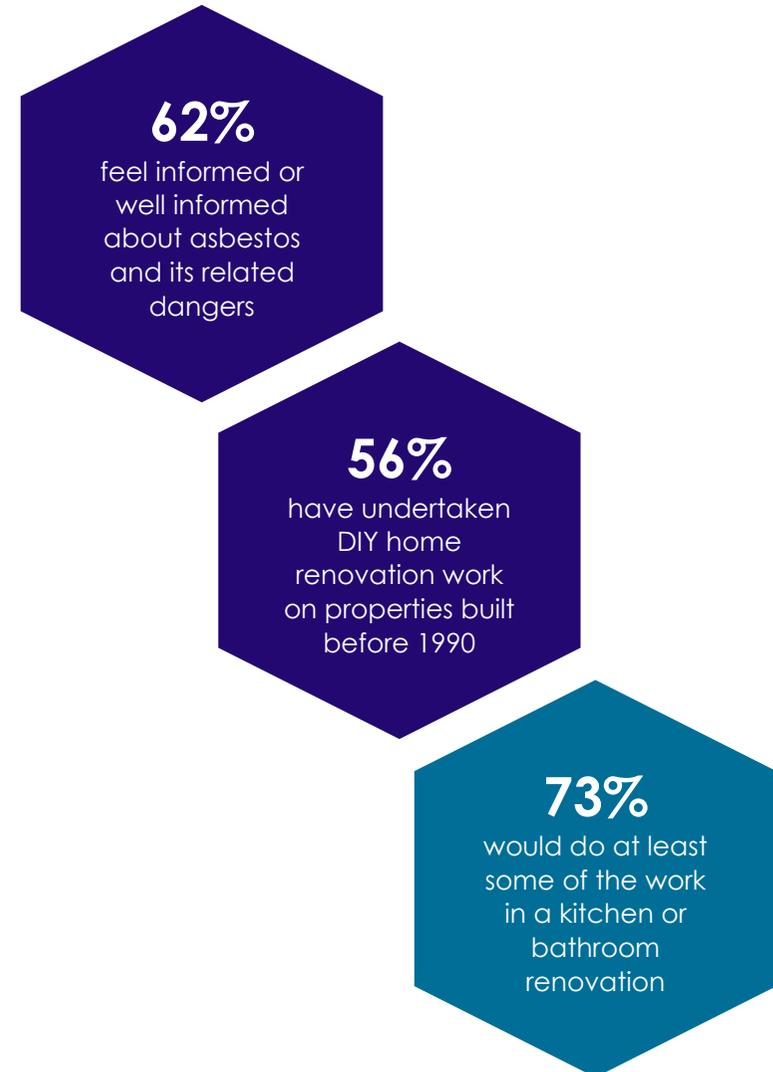
- 88% agree that asbestos is very common in Australian buildings
- 83% agree that even a small amount of asbestos can be very dangerous
- 96% agree that anyone doing renovations needs to be mindful of asbestos.

The two most highly rated concerns regarding asbestos are illegal dumping and the health impacts of asbestos exposure.

In 2019, 37% were concerned about asbestos in power stations, however this has now fallen to 20%. It is noted that a large program of asbestos removal works was undertaken in 2020 at Hazelwood power station and is now almost complete. Another likely factor for this decrease could be the small sample of respondents aged over 65, which is 6% compared to 20% in the 2019 survey. The over-65 age group is more closely linked to asbestos-related diseases, due to the long latency period between exposure and diagnosis, and therefore the assumption follows that this group is more aware of cases arising from workers in Latrobe Valley's power stations.

<sup>4</sup> Begg, S., Vos, T. and Stone, C., Mesothelioma as a marker for asbestos-related lung disease in Victoria. Health of Victorians, The Chief Health Officer's Bulletin., 2001. 1: p. 10–12.

<sup>5</sup> Estimating the volume of residential asbestos remaining in the Latrobe Valley, 2020. <https://www.asbestostaskforce.net/publications/>



It is acknowledged that the significant decrease in the number of respondents aged over 65 is likely to have a bearing on all areas of the survey, as this age group is more likely to have been involved in home renovations in their lifetime, know more people with asbestos-related disease, and therefore have a greater understanding of the risks of asbestos exposure and higher awareness levels of asbestos-related issues.

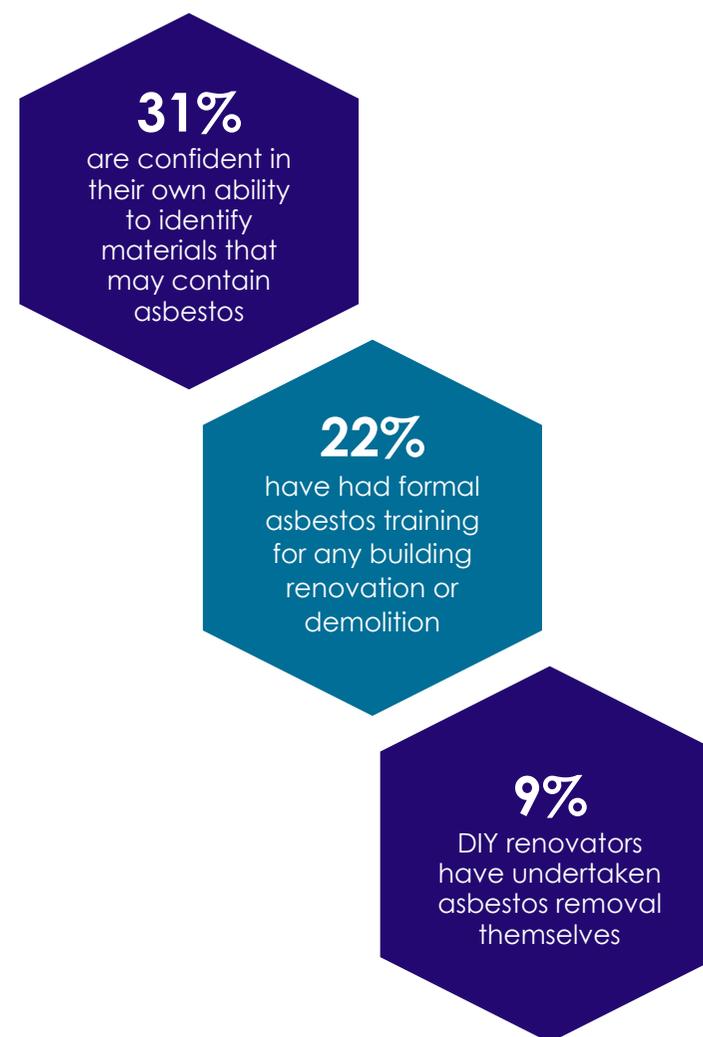
This survey has returned a figure of 37% who said they have known someone who has died or whose health has been affected as a result of asbestos exposure. In the 2019 survey, this was 65%. Another factor may be the higher number of respondents who have never either lived or worked in the Latrobe Valley; up to 14% from 6% in 2019.

While almost one third (31%) of all respondents are confident in their own ability to identify asbestos containing materials, only 22% have had any formal training. Over half (56%) have been involved in renovations on properties built before 1990 and 73% state they would do at least part of the work in a kitchen or bathroom renovation themselves.

In responding to the questions about home renovations, 61% completed this section of the survey, with more than half saying they had undertaken home renovations in the past three years, and one in five saying they intended to undertake renovations in the next 12 months.

With regards to home renovation works recently completed, there has been a decrease in the number who undertook a risk of asbestos exposure assessment themselves, instead of engaging professionals. This figure has gone from 36% in 2019 to 15% in 2020, which can only be viewed as positive. However, 9% are still doing asbestos removal themselves. Reasons for doing so include believing they had the skills/knowledge to remove asbestos properly (30%), and to save money (50%).

Overall, the survey reveals similar trends that were identified in the 2019 benchmark survey: the identified need for increased education and awareness, more accessible and low-cost disposal options, and greater levels of regulation and compliance.



# SECTION 1 GENERAL POPULATION

## Asbestos awareness

### Information and messaging

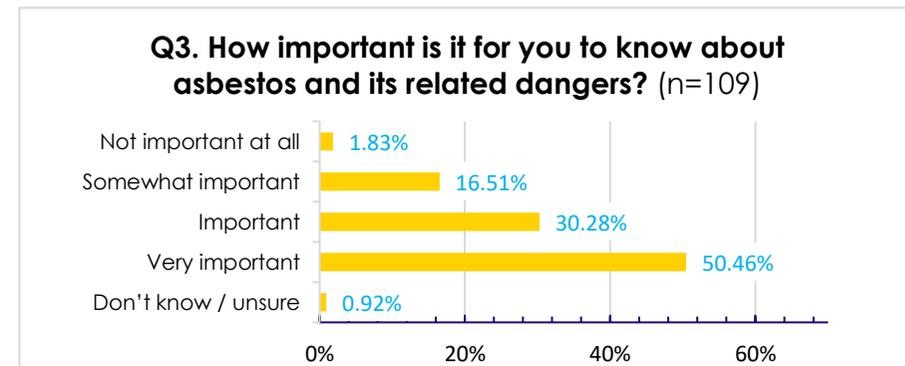
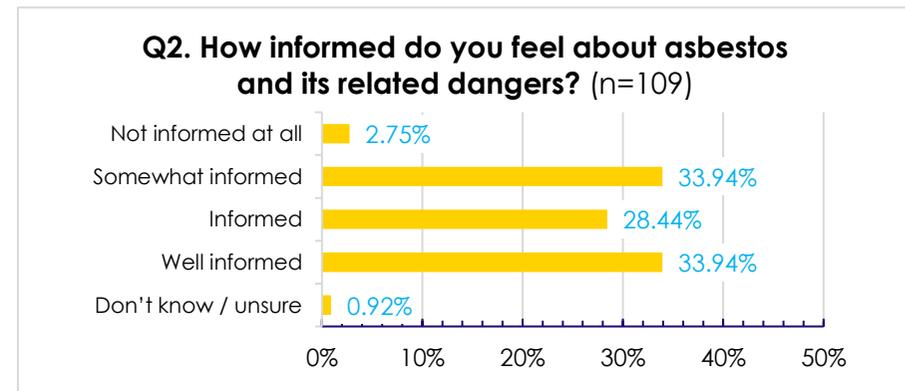
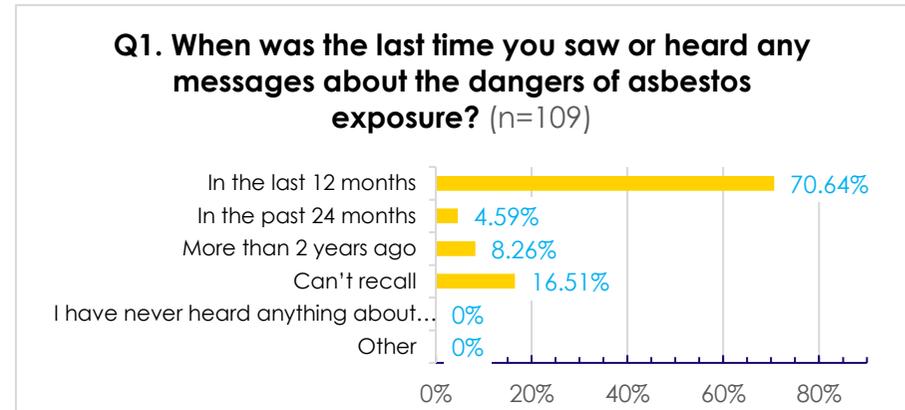
Of the 109 respondents to the survey, 62% feel informed or well informed about asbestos and its related dangers.

71% reported being exposed to messages about the dangers of asbestos in the last 12 months, and of these respondents, 75% rate their knowledge of the dangers associated with exposure to asbestos as good or very good. This is a higher rate than for all respondents at 65%.

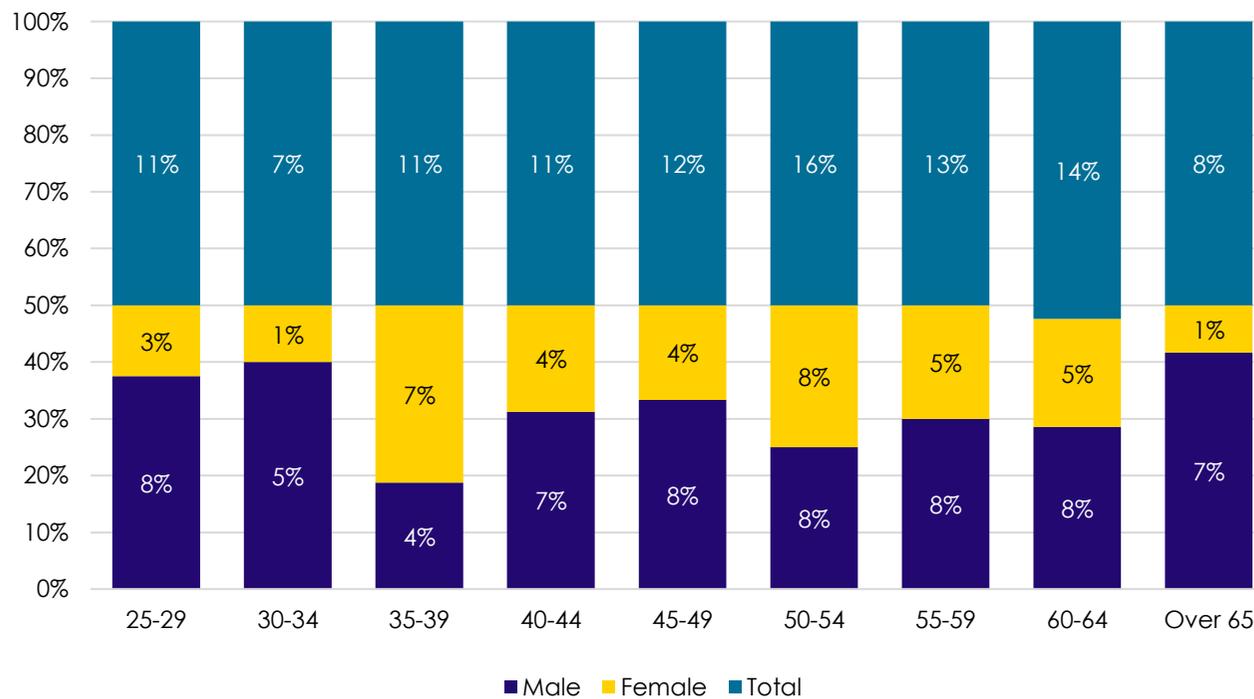
51% believe that it is very important for them to know about asbestos and its related dangers, which is a significant drop from the 74% in the 2019 survey who believed it was very important.



2019: **79%**



**Table 1. Respondents who have been exposed to messages about the dangers of asbestos in the past 24 months by age and gender, 2020 (n=77)\*†**



\*One respondent replied "Prefer not to say" to the question "What gender do you identify as?" For simplicity, this response has been removed from the table.

†Age brackets with no respondents have been removed from the table.

## Identifying asbestos containing materials

65% rate their knowledge of asbestos-associated dangers as good or very good and 31% are confident or very confident in their own ability to identify ACMs.

30% are confident in their own ability to identify situations where they or others may be at risk of exposure to asbestos, which is lower than the 43% returned in the 2019 survey.



2019: 71%

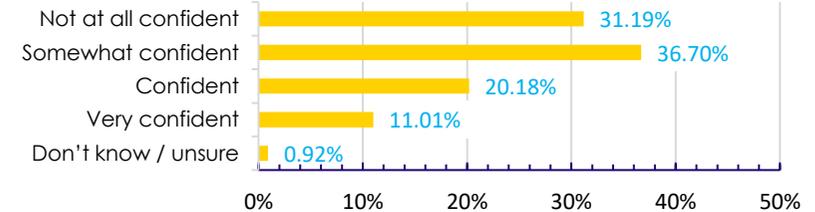


2019: 39%

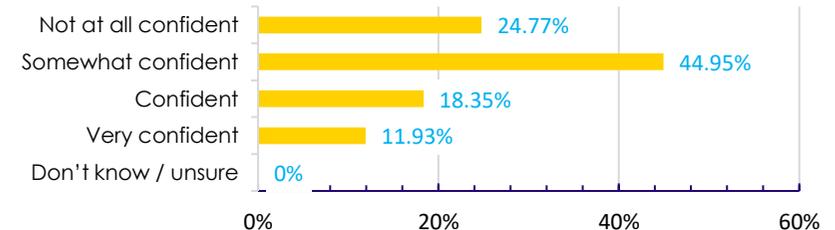
### Q4. How would you rate your own knowledge of the dangers associated with exposure to asbestos? (n=109)



### Q5. How confident are you in your own ability to identify materials that may contain asbestos? (n=109)



### Q6. How confident are you in your own ability to identify situations where you or others may be at risk of exposure to asbestos? (n=109)

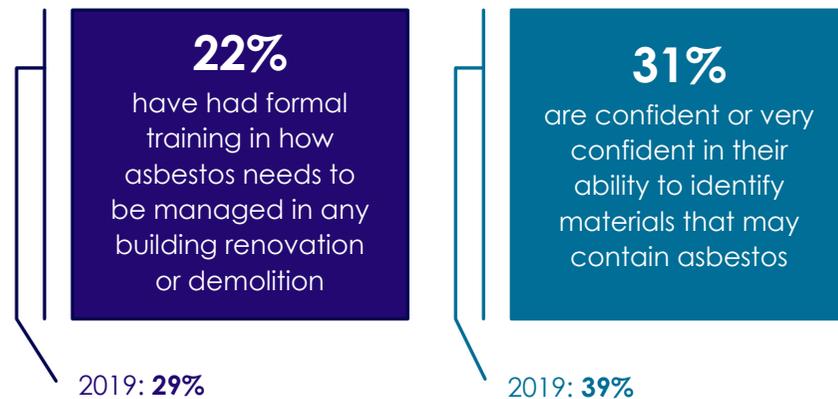


## Formal training

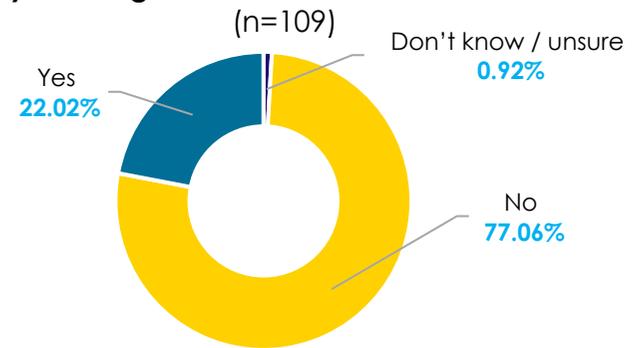
Of the 22% of respondents who have had formal training, 35% said it was delivered in the workplace, and 56% via an external training organisation.

Even though 22% had received formal training, 31% respondents said they were confident or very confident in their ability to identify materials that may contain asbestos.

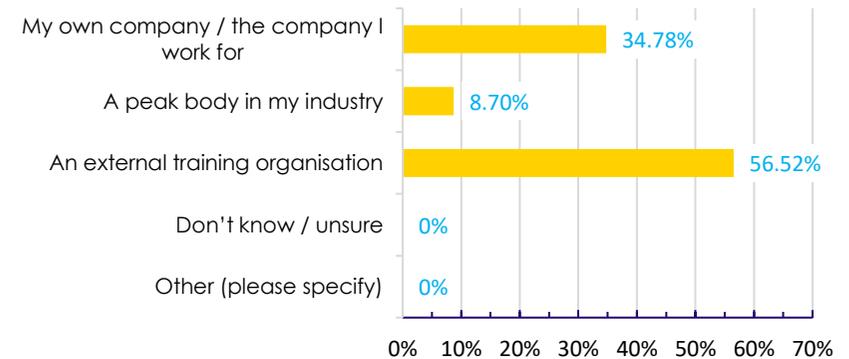
Fewer people reported having received formal training than in 2019, which may again be affected by the smaller number of respondents in the over 65 age group.



## Q7. Have you had any formal training in relation to asbestos and how it needs to be managed in any building renovation or demolition work?



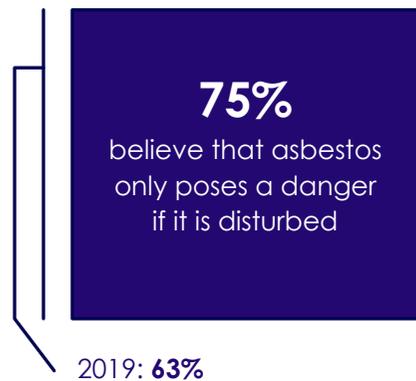
## Q8. Who delivered this training? (n=23)



## Awareness of the dangers and presence of asbestos

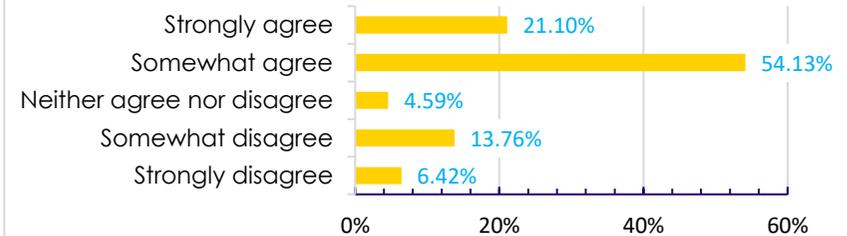
For the series of questions 9a to 9f, respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with each statement.

75% agree that asbestos only poses a danger if disturbed. This is higher than the 63% recorded in the 2019 results. This may indicate that more awareness is needed about asbestos product deterioration, and reminders that simple activities such as putting a hook or nail into a wall that may be asbestos cement sheet may release asbestos fibres, and presents a very real risk of asbestos exposure.



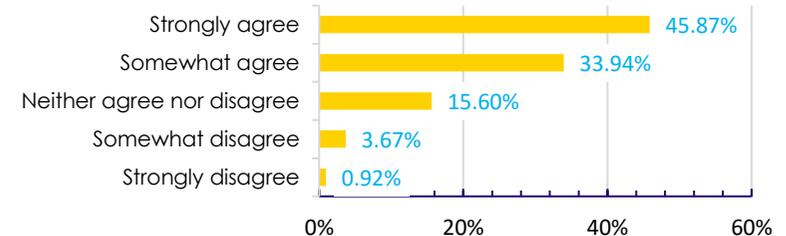
### Q9a. Asbestos only poses a danger if disturbed (e.g. as part of a building demolition activity)

(n=109)



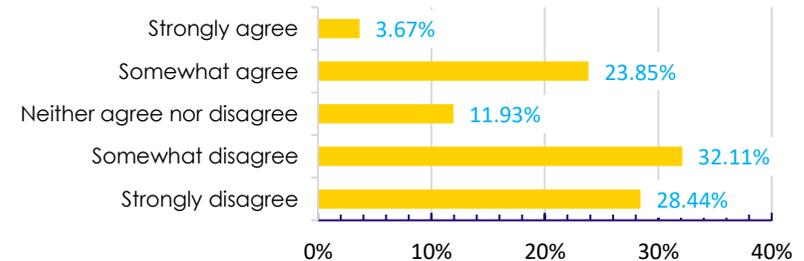
### Q9b. I would pay for specialist advice if I was unsure something contained asbestos

(n=109)



### Q9c. Asbestos is not a major concern for me

(n=109)



**83%**

agree that even a small exposure to asbestos can be very dangerous

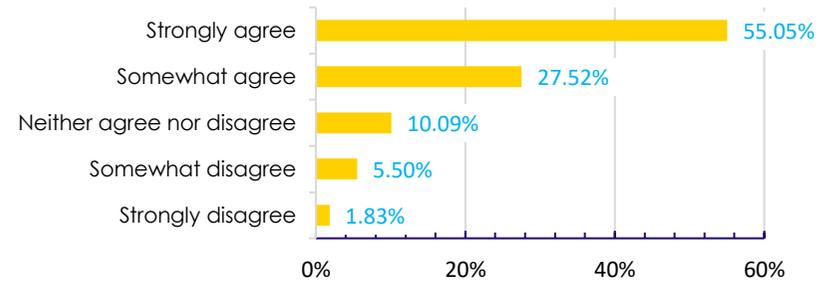
2019: **89%**

**96%**

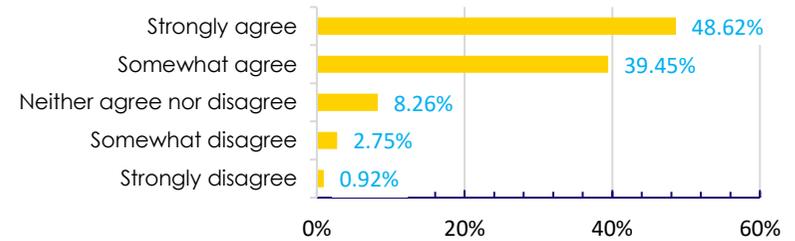
agree that anyone doing renovations needs to be very mindful of asbestos

2019: **98%**

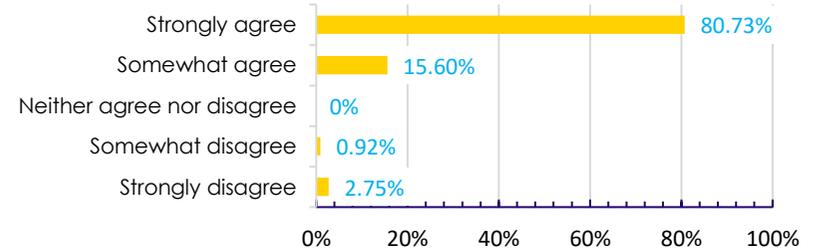
**Q9d. Even a small exposure to asbestos can be very dangerous (n = 109)**



**Q9e. Asbestos is very common in Australian buildings (n = 109)**



**Q9f. Anyone doing renovations needs to be very mindful of asbestos (n = 109)**



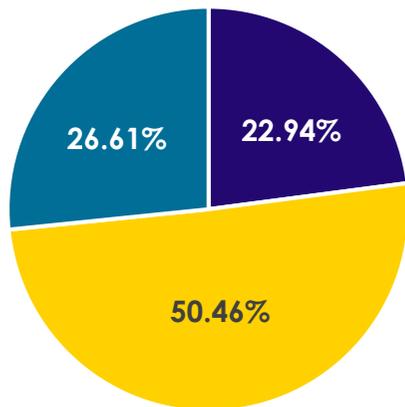
## Home renovation activity

Many respondents undertake home renovation works themselves, with only 19% indicating they do not like DIY home renovation projects at all.

Almost three in four (73%) say they would undertake at least some – if not all – of the work themselves in the renovation of a bathroom or kitchen.

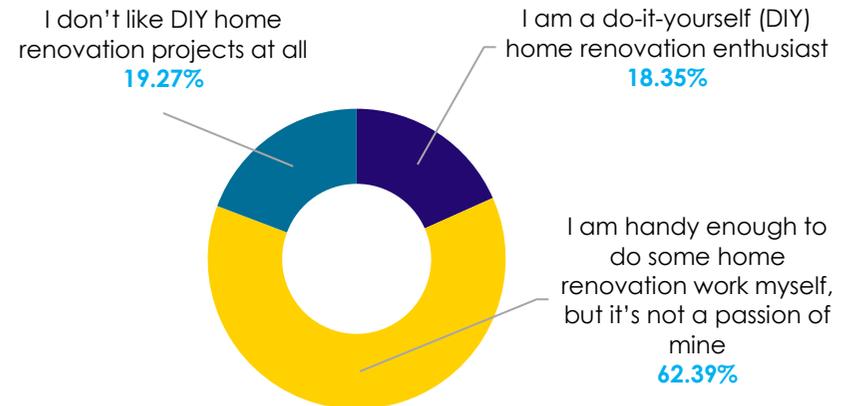
Of the DIY renovation work undertaken, the majority (56%) have worked on properties built before 1990.

**Q10. Imagine you need to renovate the bathroom or kitchen in your own home. Which of the following best describes how you would approach this?** (n=109)

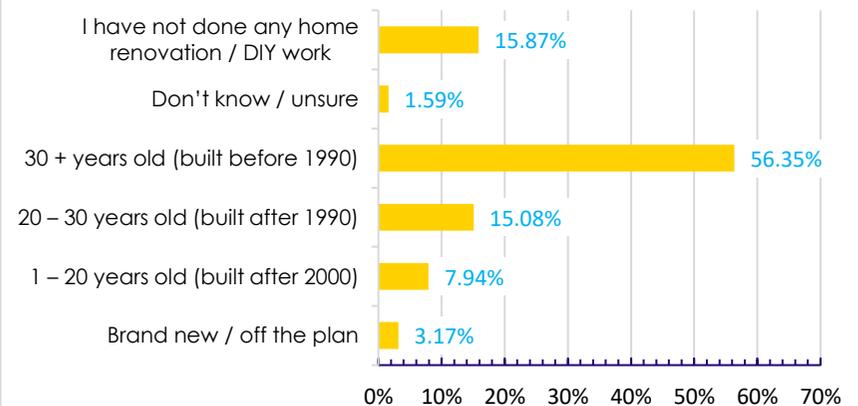


- I would do as much of the work involved as possible – even if I had to learn new skills or processes along the way
- I would do at least some of the work, but use paid professionals for parts of the job where specialist knowledge or skills are required
- I would get paid professionals to undertake the whole job on my behalf

**Q11. Which of the following best describes you?** (n=109)



**Q12. In terms of any home renovation / DIY work you have undertaken, roughly how old are the properties you have worked on?** (n=126\*)

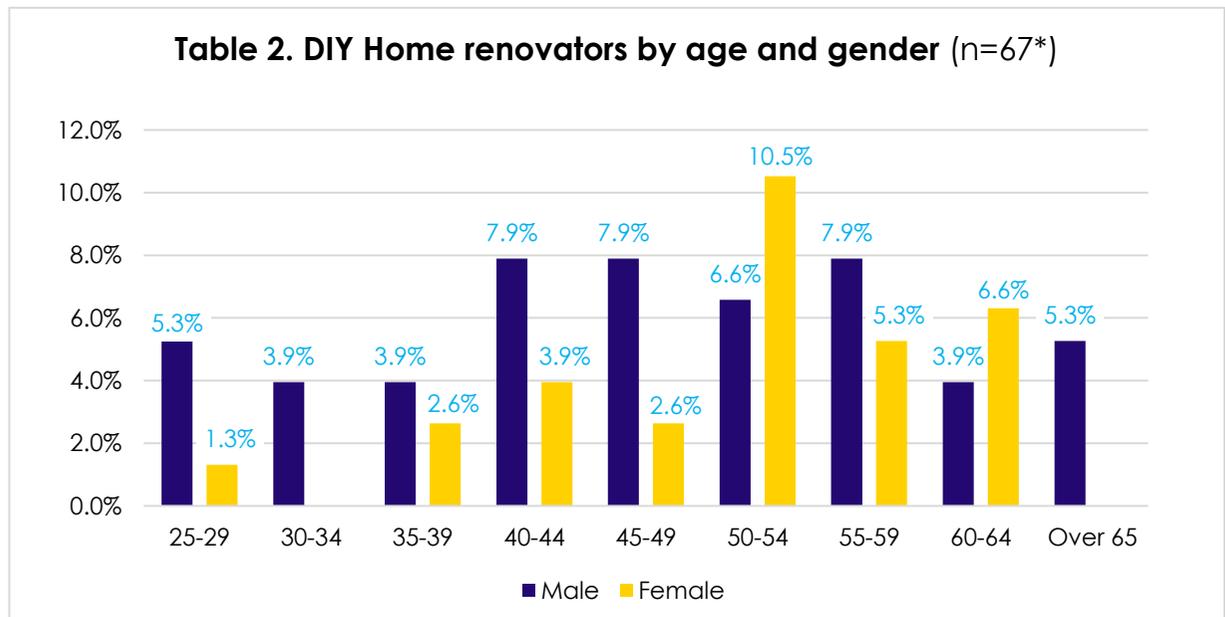
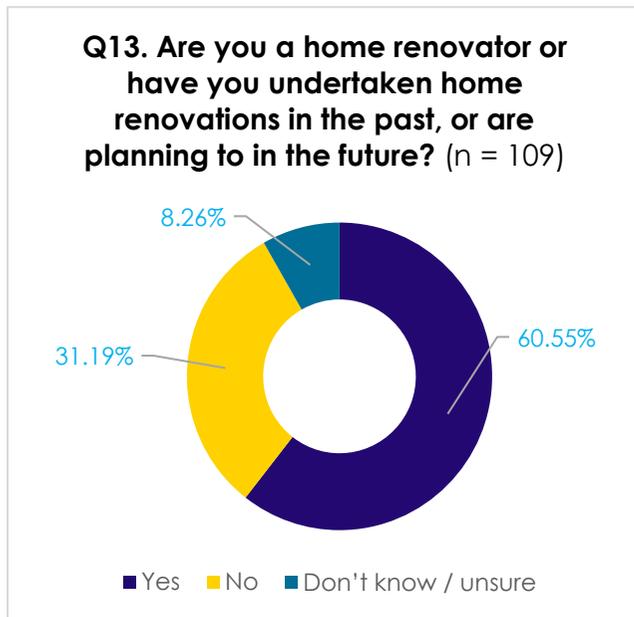


## HOME RENOVATOR QUESTIONS

Of the 109 people who participated in the survey, 68 (62%) answered “Yes” to the question “Are you a home renovator or have you undertaken home renovations in the past, or are planning to in the future?” For those who answered yes, the following questions numbered 14 to 23 pertaining to home renovation activities were asked.

Most respondents were aged between 40 – 59 years (see Table 2 below).

The results suggest that DIY activity remains high in the Latrobe Valley, with the vast majority of respondents (88%) doing at least some of the work themselves and two out of five (41%) planning to undertake renovations in the next 12 months.

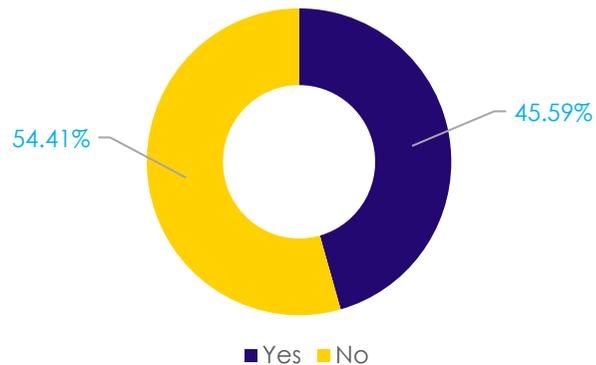


\*One respondent answered: “Prefer not to say” to the question “What gender do you identify as?” For simplicity of the chart display, this response has been removed from the table.

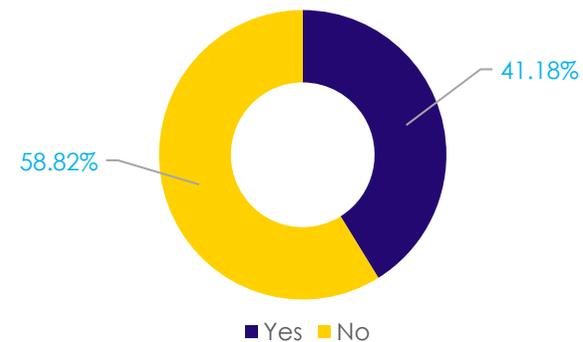
## Recent works on properties built between 1940 – 1990

Q.14 Over the past 3 years, have you ever undertaken any of the following to a residence built or renovated between 1940 and 1990:

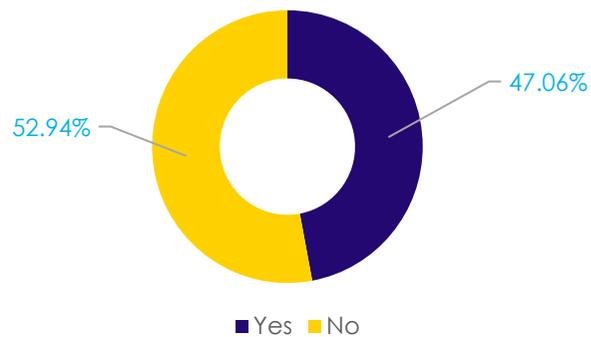
**Q14a. Renovation work that involved knocking down either internal or external walls?** (n=68)



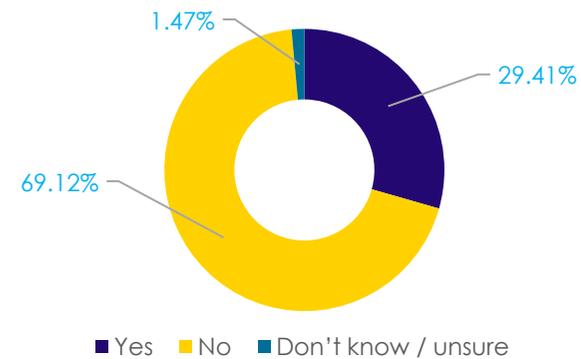
**Q14c. A kitchen renovation, including the removal of existing fittings, fixtures, wall tiles / splashbacks and/or flooring?** (n=68)



**Q14b. A bathroom renovation, including the removal of existing fittings, fixtures, wall tiles / splashbacks and/or flooring?** (n=68)



**Q14d. Demolition of any external buildings (e.g. outhouses, sheds, fencing or other buildings)?** (n=68)



## Who did the work?

Nearly 90% of DIY home renovators did at least some of the work themselves, with 12% doing all the work themselves without involving professional trades. This is a significant decline from the 27% who stated in 2019 that they did all the work themselves.

Only about one in eight (12%) engaged trade professionals for the entire works. This highlights the ongoing popularity of DIY home renovation activities.

I believe there needs to be a coordinated approach by all Asbestos Agencies in delivering one education document / message to the public on the dangers of asbestos products.

My husband and I renovated our house about 16 years ago and were exposed to asbestos.

### Q15. Which of the following best describes how the work was undertaken? (n=41)

76%

I did some of the work myself/had family friends help and used tradespeople or building professionals for the remainder of the work

12.2%

Tradespeople or building professionals did all of the work on my behalf

12.2%

I did all of the work myself/had family friends help but with no use of professional tradespeople

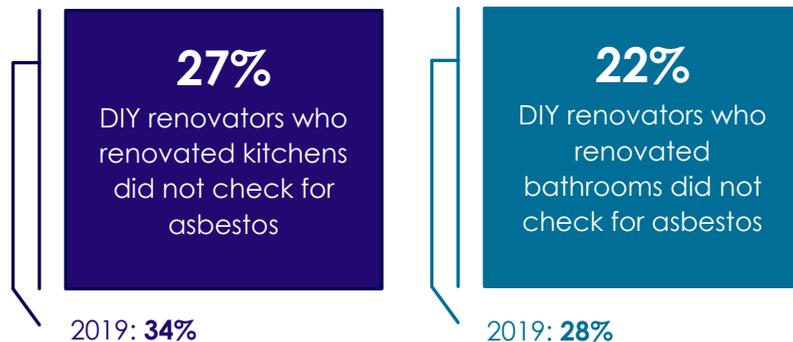
## Assessment of risk of asbestos exposure

### Was an assessment undertaken?

For the renovation on properties built between 1940 and 1990, 60% of the respondents reported that an assessment for risk of asbestos exposure was undertaken. One third (33%) said that no assessment was undertaken, which is almost identical to the previous survey (32%).

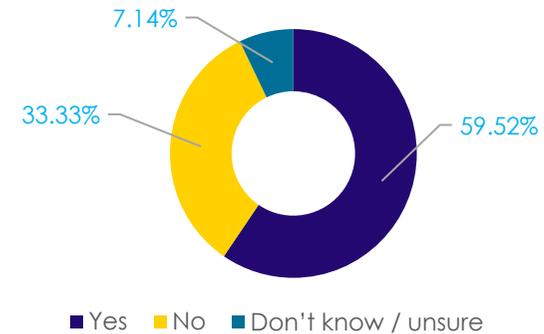
Of the 60% who reported that an assessment had been undertaken, 68% had renovated kitchens, 72% bathrooms, 68% had knocked down either internal or external walls, and 52% had demolished external buildings.

Of those who renovated kitchens, 27% did not assess the planned work to see if there was risk of asbestos exposure, nor 22% of those who renovated bathrooms. It is concerning that more than one-fifth have commenced renovation works on kitchens and bathrooms that are likely to contain asbestos without doing asbestos assessments.

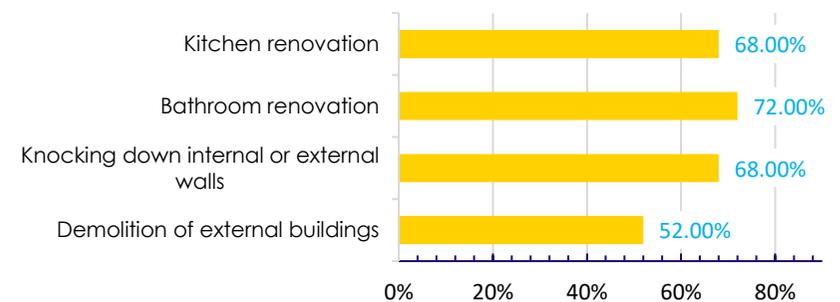


### Q16. Prior to undertaking any of the work, was any assessment of the planned work undertaken to determine the risk of exposure to asbestos?

(n=42)



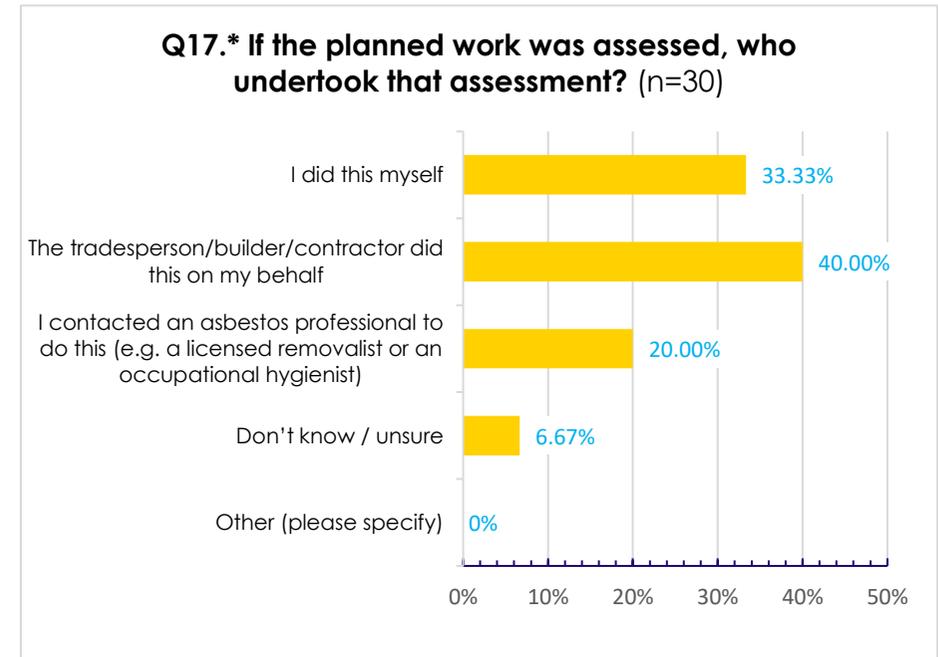
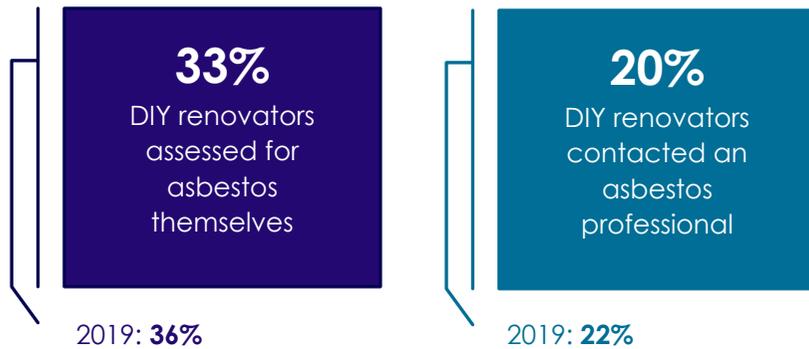
### Table 3. Areas in which assessments were undertaken to determine the risk of exposure to asbestos. (n=25)



## Who did the assessment?

By removing the results for the “not applicable” response for question 17, one-third (33%) did the assessment for risk of exposure to asbestos themselves. While this is higher than the national figure of 22%, it is lower than the 36% returned in the 2019 survey.

40% reported that the tradesperson / builder / contractor did this on the respondent's behalf (up from 31% in 2019) and 20% engaged an asbestos professional to perform the assessment, which is slightly lower than the 2019 survey (22%).



\* The “not applicable” response has been removed from this table.

## Removal of asbestos

### Was removal of asbestos required?

Almost half (48%) reported that asbestos did not need to be removed, while 43% did remove asbestos containing materials, up from 30% in 2019. 10% did not know or were unsure if asbestos removal had been undertaken.

Of the 20% who engaged an asbestos professional for the assessment, 83% subsequently engaged a licensed asbestos removalist to remove the ACMs.

Of the 30% who performed their own assessment, 57% went on to remove it themselves, which is significantly higher than the 31% reported in 2019. Only 14% engaged a licensed removalist.

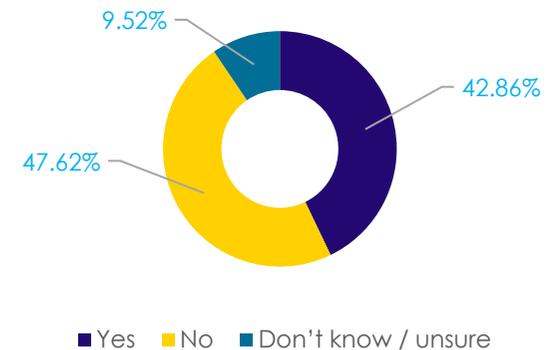
Of those who engaged a tradesperson/builder/contractor to perform the assessment, 27% subsequently engaged a licensed asbestos removalist, while 64% reported that asbestos did not need to be removed. This is more than four times higher than in 2019, when 14% reported that it did not need to be removed.

### Who removed the asbestos?

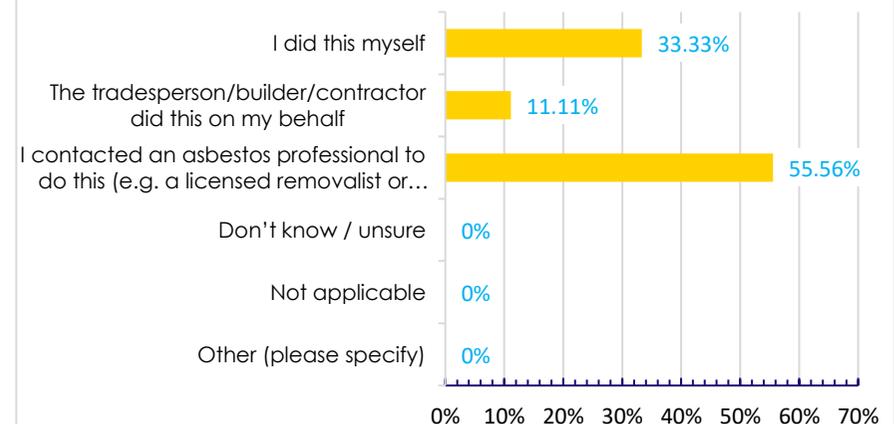
By removing the results for the "not applicable" response for question 19, the data shows that more than half (56%) engaged a licensed removalist to remove the asbestos.

However, a significant percentage did the removal themselves; 33%, which is almost twice as many reported in 2019 (18.75%), and more than the national figure of 20%. 11% engaged the tradesperson/builder/contractor undertaking the works to perform the removal.

### Q18. Did asbestos need to be removed as part of the renovation/construction or demolition process? (n=42)\*



### Q19. Which of the following best describes how the asbestos was removed and disposed of? (n=18)\*

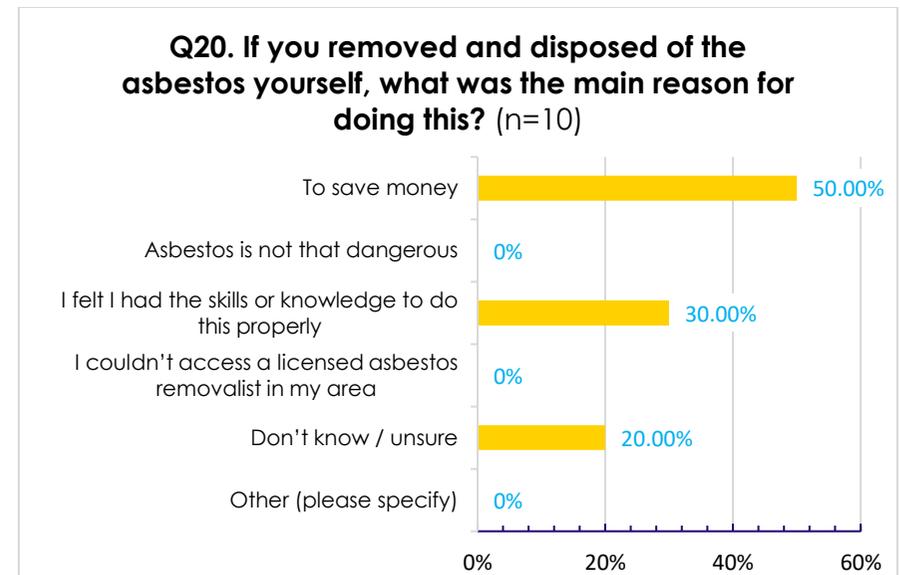


\* The "not applicable" response has been removed from this table.

### Why the DIY renovator removed the asbestos themselves

Half of the respondents who removed asbestos-containing materials themselves state that the reason was to save money. This is significantly more than both the 2019 survey results and the national survey results at 37% and 39% respectively.

In the national survey, 46% of respondents said they removed the asbestos themselves, stating that they believe they have the skills/knowledge to do so. This survey returned a result of 30% compared to 57% in 2019.

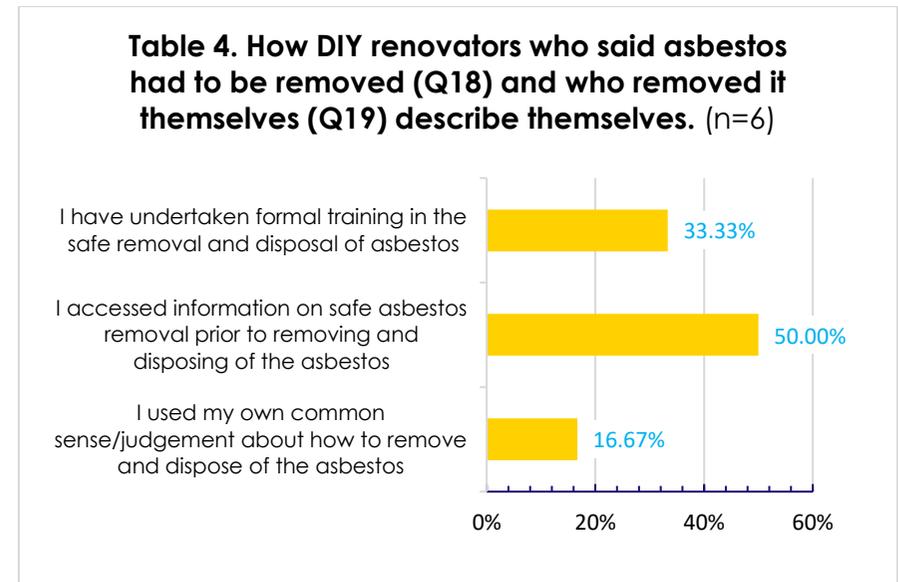
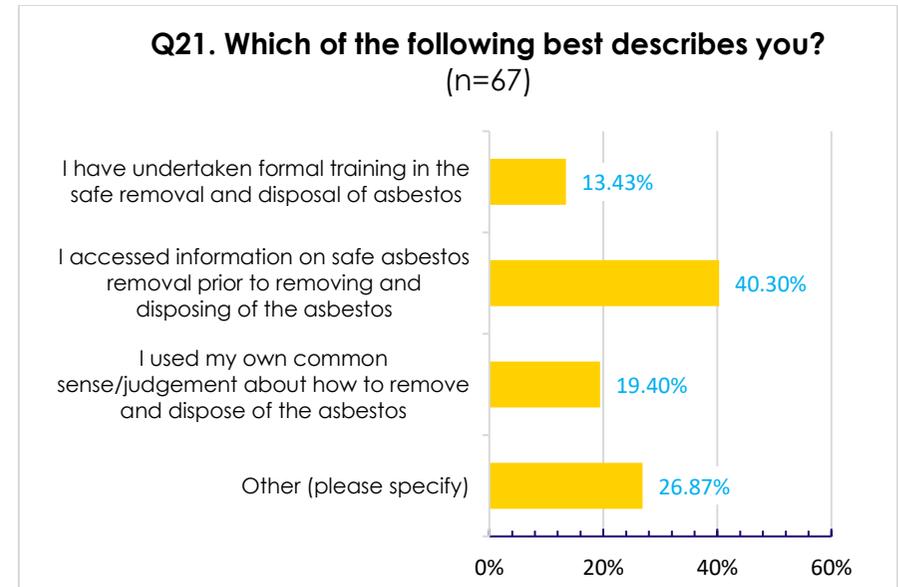
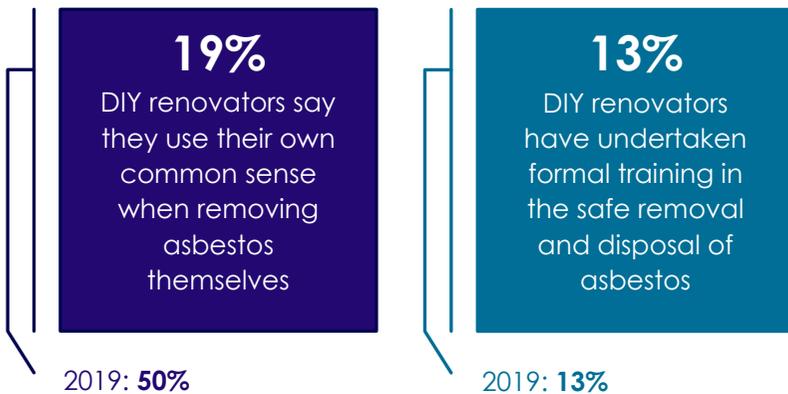


My daughter recently bought a house and we don't know if there is any asbestos in or around the house. She is hoping to [do] some renovations in the future. We are worried about removal and associated costs.

## DIY Renovators asbestos awareness level

All survey participants were required to answer Q.21 and these results can be seen in the Q21 chart at right.

Table 4 shows the responses from those who identified in Q.18 that asbestos needed to be removed, and who also reported in Q.19 that they did this removal themselves.

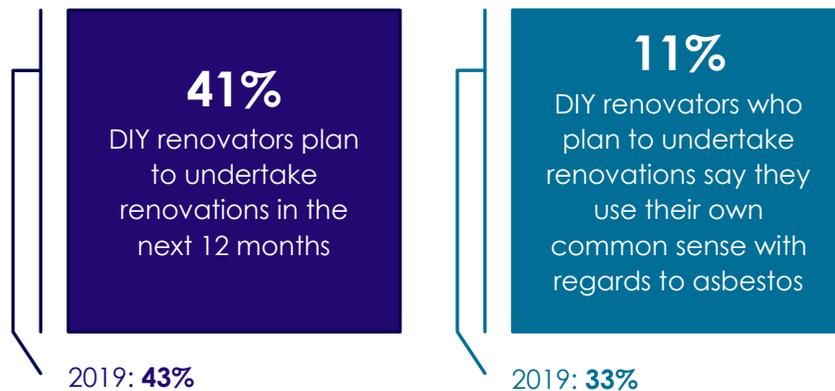


## Future renovations

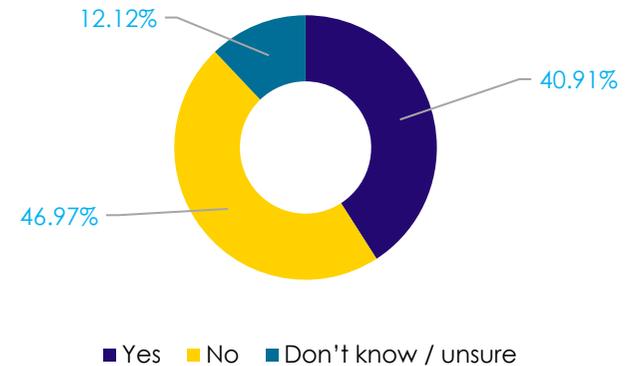
Two out of five (41%) DIY home renovators reported that they were likely to do renovation work on properties built or renovated between 1940 – 1990 in the next 12 months.

23% said they intended to knock down internal walls; 30% said they would work on a bathroom, 23% plan to work on a kitchen and 17% plan to renovate buildings such as outhouses and sheds or fencing.

Of those who intend to undertake renovations, 11% have had formal training, 44% have accessed information on safe asbestos removal prior to removal and disposal, and 11% reported to use their own common sense when it came to asbestos removal and disposal.

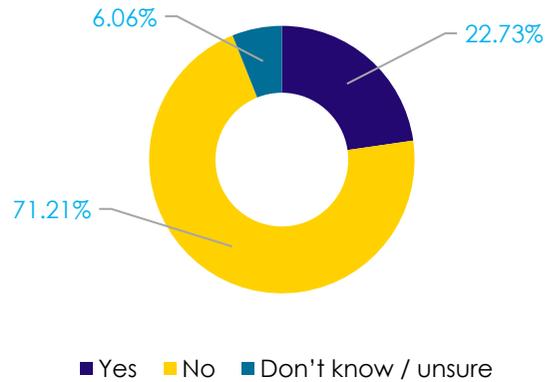


**Table 5. DIY renovators undertaking renovation work on properties built between 1940 – 1990 in the next 12 months (n=66)**

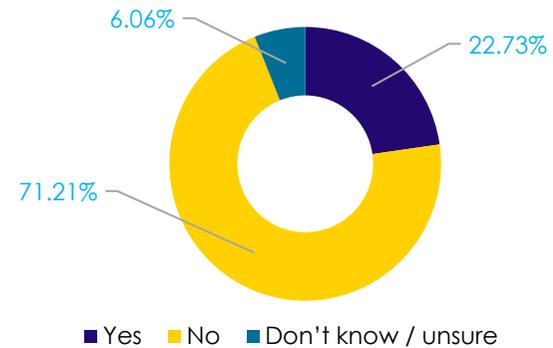


**Q22. Over the next 12 months, are you likely to undertake any of the following to a residence built or renovated between 1940 and 1990?**

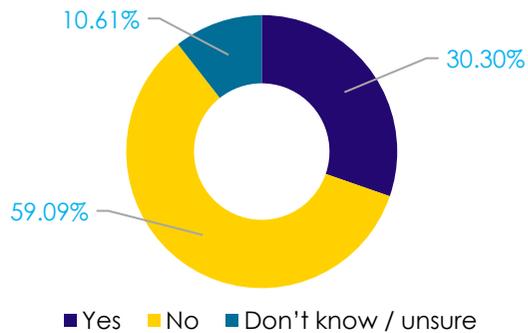
**22a. Renovation work that involves knocking down either internal or external walls? (n = 66)**



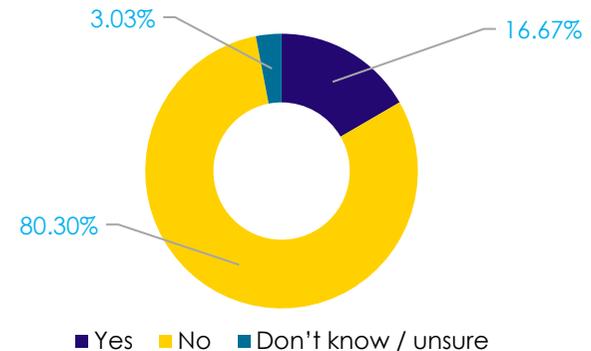
**22c. A kitchen renovation, including the removal of existing fittings, fixtures, wall tiles/splashbacks and/or flooring? (n = 66)**



**22b. A bathroom renovation, including the removal of existing fittings, fixtures, wall tiles/splashbacks and/or flooring? (n = 66)**



**22d. Demolition of any external buildings (e.g. outhouses, sheds, fencing or other buildings)? (n = 66)**



## Attitudes towards asbestos

Over 90% of home renovation respondents take asbestos and its dangers very seriously and 89% consider asbestos to be a key consideration when preparing to undertake a renovation.

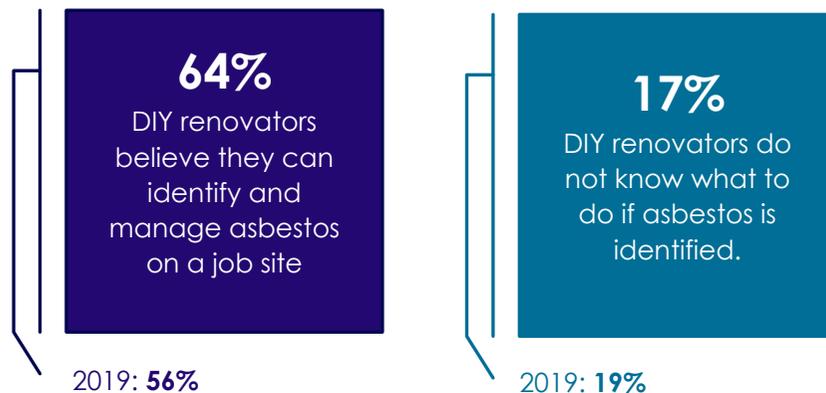
85% say that they know how to protect themselves from exposure to asbestos, which is higher than the 78% reported in 2019.

While 74% believe that they have enough information about asbestos to make informed decisions when doing renovations, 16% do not feel confident in this regard.

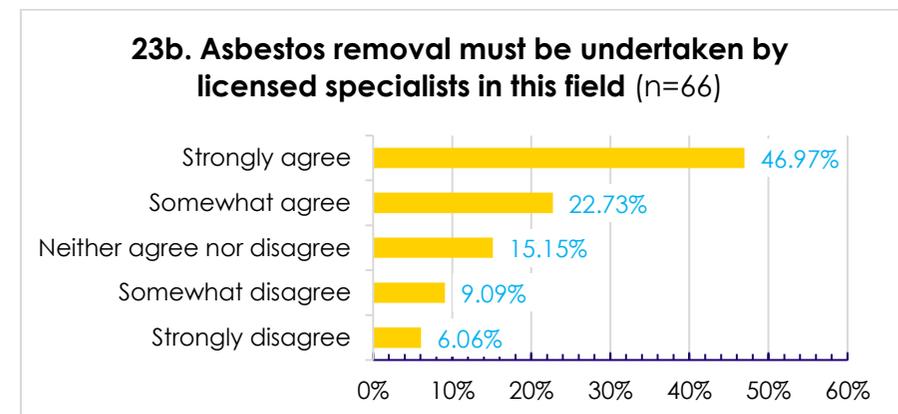
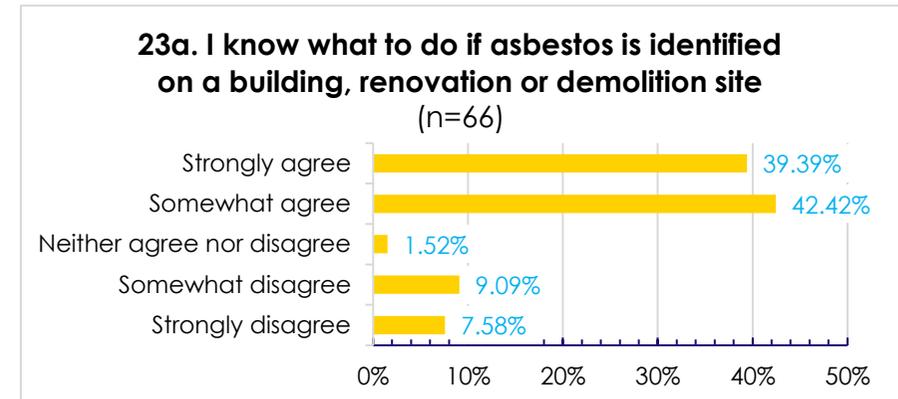
The responses reveal that the majority (70%) consider engaging a licensed professional to remove asbestos is the correct thing to do where asbestos is identified on their site. However, 17% report not knowing what to do if asbestos is identified.

With regards to identifying and managing asbestos on a job site, nearly two thirds (64%, up from 56% in 2019) believe they have sufficient knowledge to do this themselves.

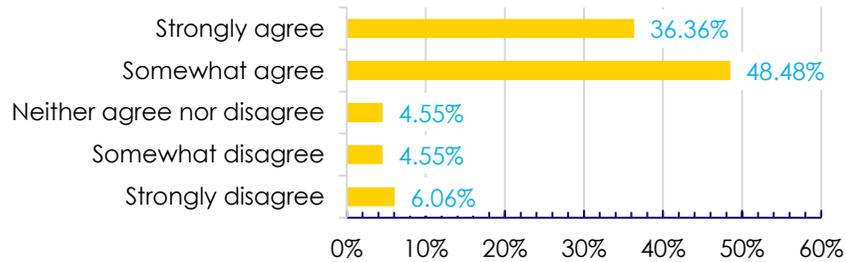
Nearly three quarters (71%) of respondents remain concerned about potentially being exposed to asbestos.



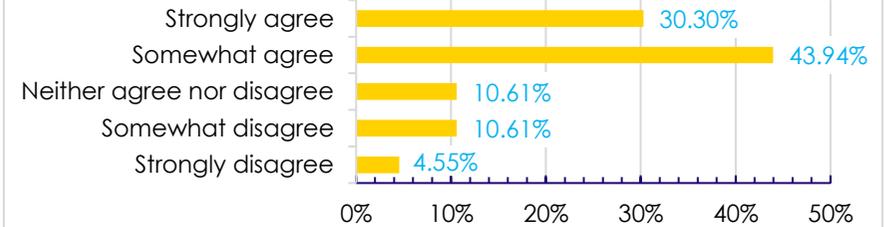
## Q.23 Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:



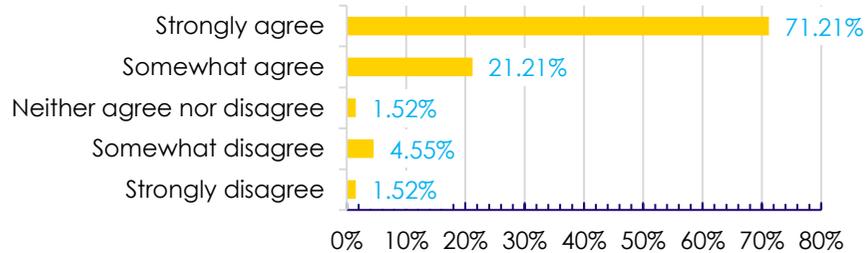
**23c. I know how to protect myself from exposure to asbestos (n=66)**



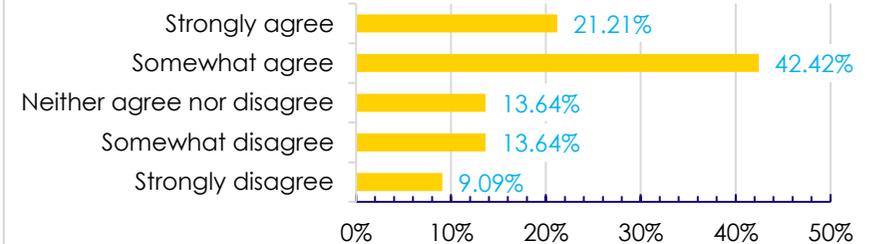
**23f. I have enough information about asbestos to make informed decisions when doing any renovation work (n=66)**



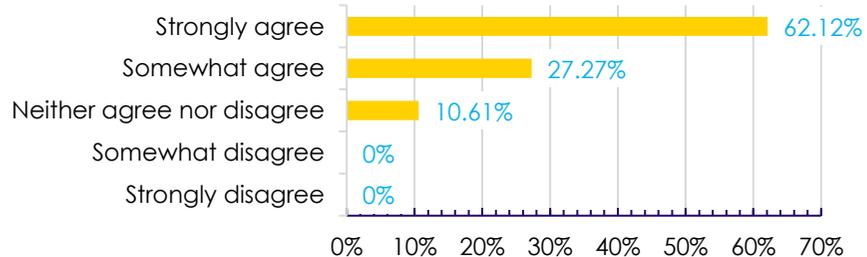
**23d. I take asbestos and its dangers very seriously (n=66)**



**23g. I have sufficient knowledge about how to identify and manage asbestos on the job site (n=66)**



**23e. When preparing for any renovation project, asbestos is a key consideration (n=66)**



**23h. I am concerned about potentially being exposed to asbestos (n=66)**



### Where people go for information about asbestos

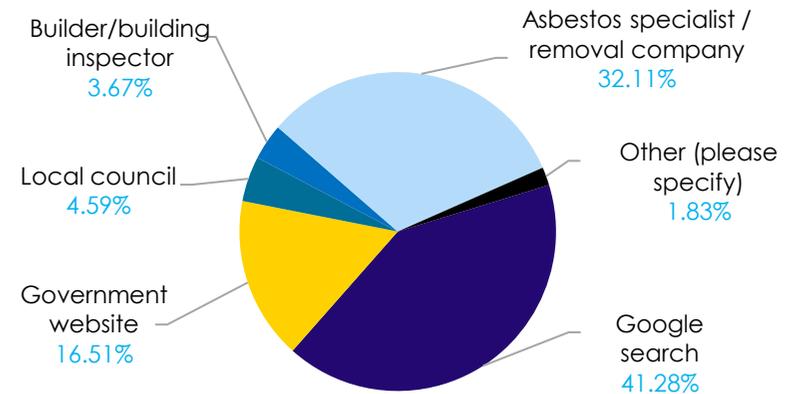
The internet is the primary source of asbestos information, with 41% using Google to search for information on asbestos. This is followed by asbestos removal companies at 32%, which is an increase from the 20% reported in 2019. There is a low reliance on local council (5%) and builders/building inspectors (4%).

Free text answers from other questions also revealed that one respondent mentioned GARDS<sup>6</sup> as their source of information, and another "All of the above."

More people are aware of the Latrobe Valley Asbestos Taskforce, with an increase to 58% from 44% saying they have heard about the taskforce.

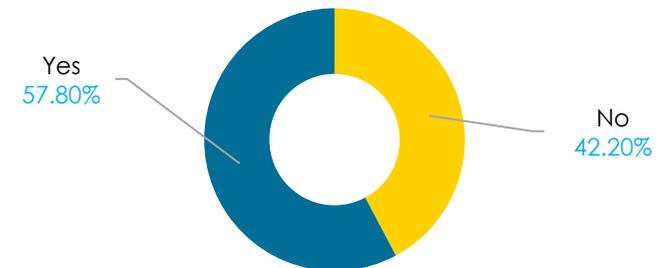
### 24. If you wanted information on asbestos and its related dangers, where would you go for this?

(n=109)



### 25. Have you heard of the Latrobe Valley Asbestos Taskforce?

(n=109)



<sup>6</sup> Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support Inc/Asbestos Council of Victoria

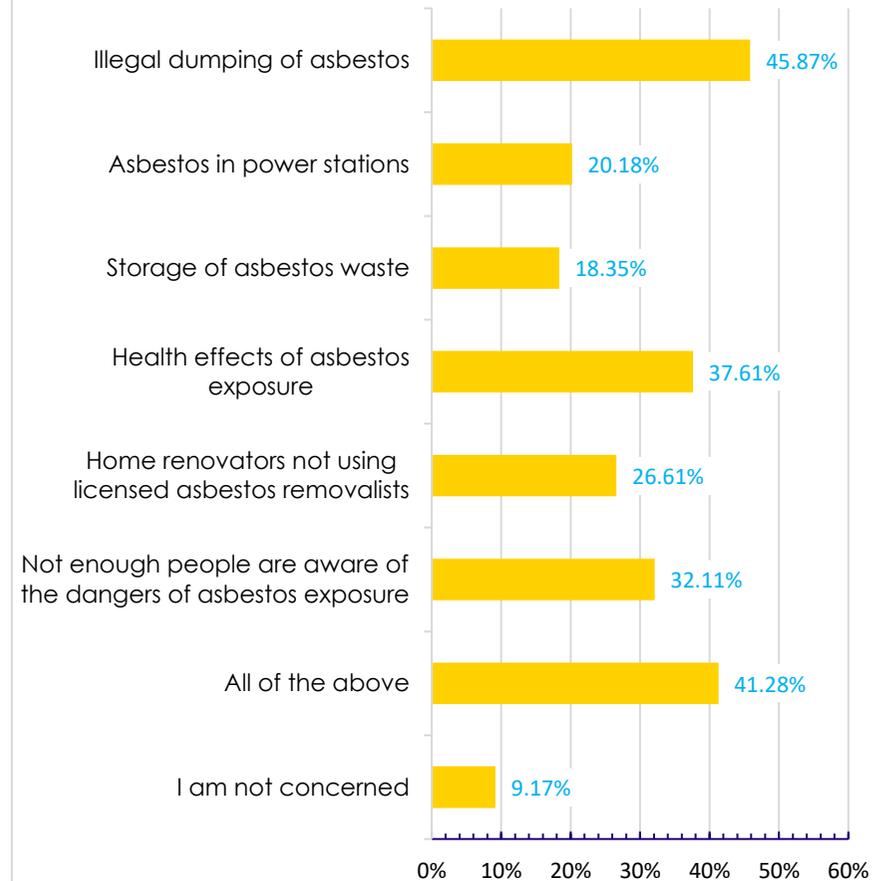
## Concerns about asbestos

The community is concerned about many asbestos related issues in the Latrobe Valley, with health effects and illegal dumping identified as the areas of greatest concern. One in three (32%) believe that not enough people are aware of the dangers of asbestos exposure, and one in four (27%) are concerned about home renovators not using licensed removalists. In 2019, 37% were very concerned about asbestos in power stations, however this has declined to 20%.

I have asbestosis along with other lung cancer. This is really important that people get the message.

Horrible stuff but persons unknown will dump it out on public land i.e. state forest or other crown lands.

### 26. What concerns you the most about asbestos in the Latrobe Valley? (n=109\*)



\*This was a multi-select question and respondents were able to select more than one answer.

## Personal impacts of asbestos

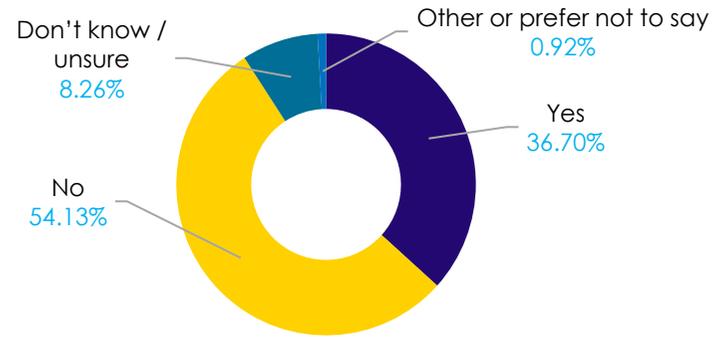
Our whole house was asbestos sheeting and lagging, as a child and I would help with the renovations. He is 86 now and I am 58... still could get us I'm told!

It's horrible to watch family members die from exposure to this product.

Where I was working, was being renovated and I was brushing the dust off the furniture and then it was discovered that the building had asbestos, the building was evacuated and we had to work in new premises until the asbestos was removed.

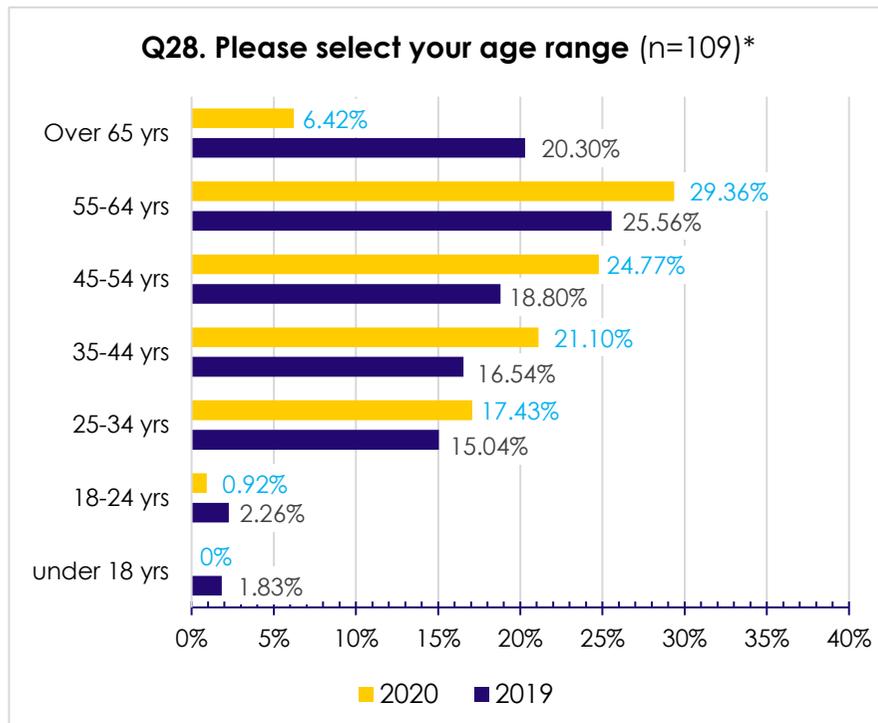
Hate the material, has taken many workers in the valley.

**Q27. Have you known someone from the Latrobe Valley who has died or whose health has been affected as a result of asbestos exposure? (n=109)**

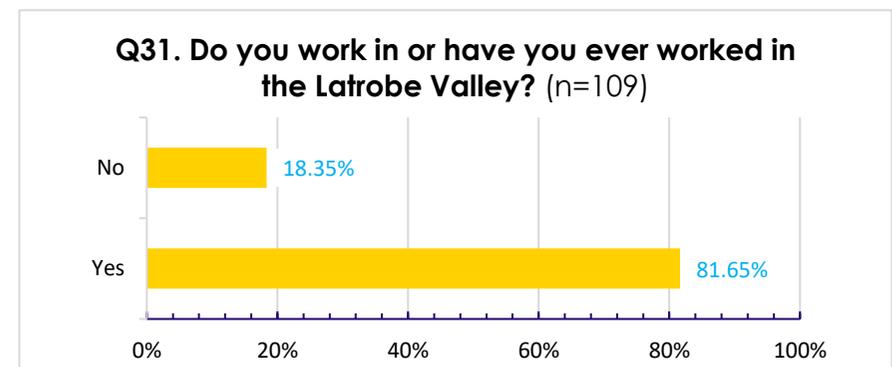
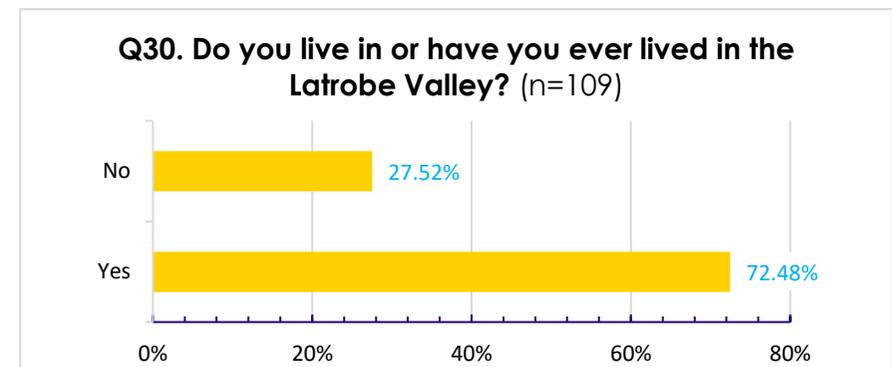
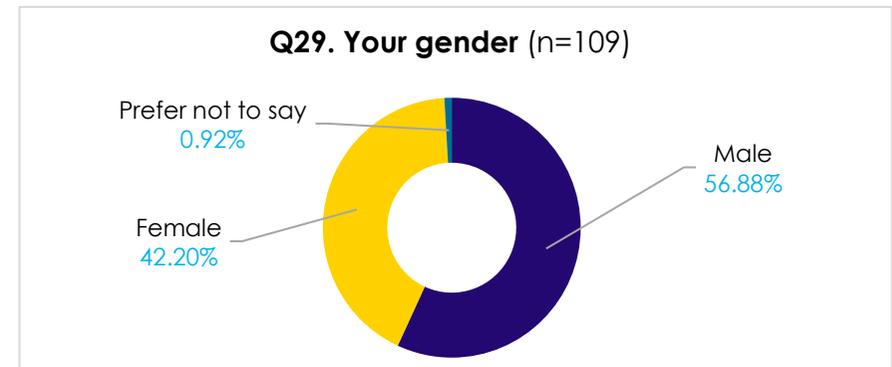


## Demographics

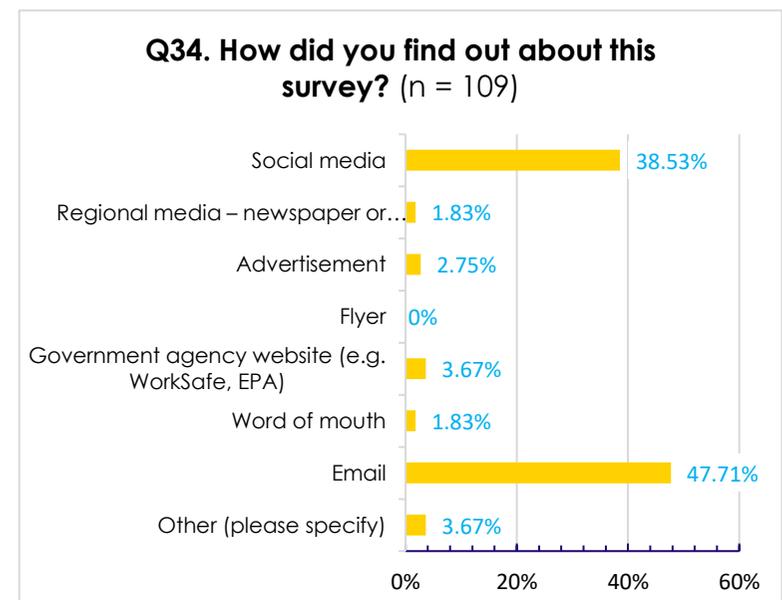
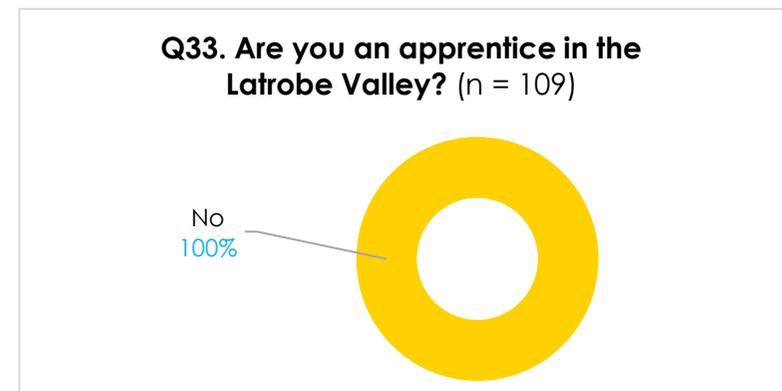
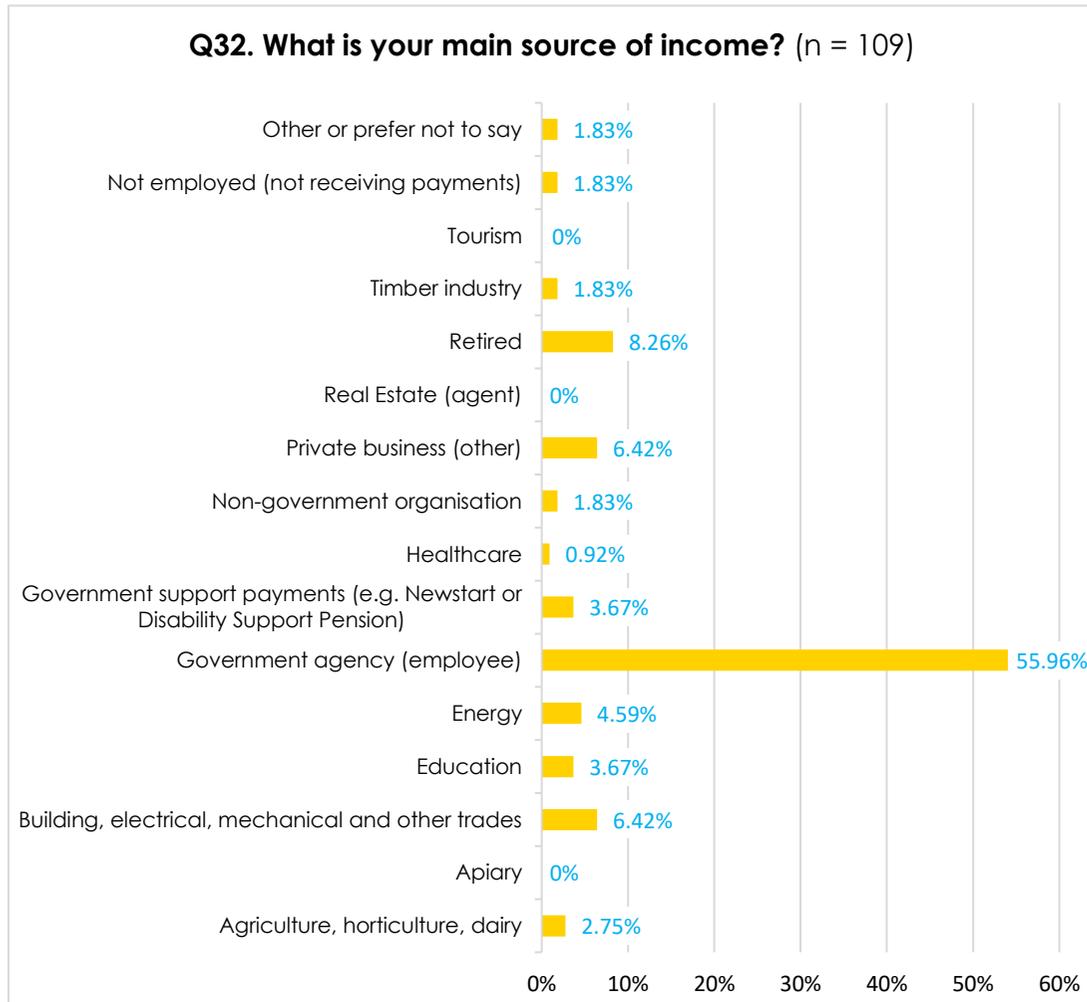
Of the 109 respondents, 15 (14%) said they had never either lived or worked in the Latrobe Valley. Male respondents outnumbered female respondents 57% to 42%. One quarter of respondents (25%) were aged between 45 to 54 years however the largest group of respondents were aged between 55 to 64 (30%).



\*in the 2019 survey, there were 133 responses to this question



The highest number of respondents work in a government agency; this was 56% up from 23% in the 2019 survey. Next are retirees at 8% then private business and trades, both at 6%. In 2019, trades accounted for the main source of income for 14% of respondents. No respondents identified as an apprentice. Half (48%) of the respondents found out about the survey via direct email, and 39% via social media – predominantly Facebook, which is higher than the 2019 survey results of 30%.



## Conclusion

As was found in the 2019 survey results, one third of homes built between 1940 and 1990 are not being assessed for asbestos prior to renovation. This is of great concern due the high likelihood of asbestos being present. Further, of the homes that are being checked for asbestos, one third are being assessed by the homeowner themselves, with few having received formal training.

DIY renovators are undertaking asbestos removal themselves to save money, and also because they believe they have the skills and knowledge to do so.

Even though one-fifth of all respondents had received formal training in asbestos awareness, almost one in three said they were confident or very confident in identifying materials that may contain asbestos.

This gap between perceived knowledge and actual knowledge is one thing that the taskforce will be mindful of when developing education materials and campaigns to increase awareness of the dangers of asbestos exposure.

## Further comments from respondents

### Managing asbestos:

- “ “ Why are there government taxes on the disposal of asbestos. If the government is serious about the spacing of this material properly it would be subsidised for its disposal rather than taxed.
- “ “ Local Govt should have a significant role in safe asbestos management which could be related to planning and building permits. Reward the behaviour you want. Make safe healthy choices easy choices.

### Housing in the Latrobe Valley:

- “ “ My house was built in 1966 and as such has "asbestos impregnated fibro". I'm too scared to do any required renos as I'm concerned the asbestos will increase the cost of renos.
- “ “ Yes. Asbestos in the home is a big problem here. I see it in back yards, bathrooms, kitchens, garden sheds near play equipment, under houses and decks, garden edging along footpaths, rooftops in shopping districts, and more. Yet all the focus has been on power stations. Surely everyone can see the irony in that you can see asbestos roofs in Moore St from the second story of the Moe library, yet the asbestos tester is one block over, and the GARDs is just down the road.
- “ “ Asbestos is not a LV issue, it is a Victorian / Australian issue and if you think the Latrobe Valley has more asbestos in homes and workplaces overall, you are deluded.

### Asbestos removal:

- “ “ I am concerned the government may make asbestos removal compulsory at great cost to the homeowner. Many pensioners/unemployed bought cheap, older homes and cannot afford the expense.
- “ “ Subsidised/ incentivised removal and disposal of asbestos would increase safe and legal disposal. Making removal and disposal expensive or complicated encourages dumping and other illegal disposal.
- “ “ Horrible stuff and very expensive to dispose of. There should be a government initiative to fund removal to avoid folks dumping it to avoid paying enormous fees.

### Asbestos Exposure:

- “ “ My father used to mix asbestos by hand in a bucket with no PPE when he worked at the timber mill in Heyfield back in the 1950's.
- “ “ I worked in the old Yallourn power station in the mid 1970's so I was exposed to a lot of asbestos, with no safety equipment.

### Reservations about the dangers of asbestos:

- “ “ Asbestos is only a risk if it's being disturbed. A lot of fear is generated by misguided information.
- Asbestos is not a problem if it is properly painted and not disturbed. If removed by contractor, it ceases to be a problem when cover by soil in landfill.

### **Awareness/education:**

- “ “ The government should be doing free courses on the dangers of asbestos and awareness in and around home renovations
- “ “ Asbestos awareness needs to be taken seriously by the Victorian Government and funding granted to providers like GARDs, who give awareness training at their own cost and initiative to Trade apprentices in TAFEs across Victoria.

### **Contact Information:**

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