



LVAT

**Latrobe Valley
Asbestos Taskforce**

Latrobe Valley Asbestos Survey 2021

REPORT

OFFICIAL



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BACKGROUND

The Latrobe Valley Asbestos Benchmark Survey 2021 is the third in a series to be conducted annually by the Latrobe Valley Asbestos Taskforce (the taskforce). The taskforce 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 and the 2020 survey. This is 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 and 2020 surveys, with additional questions included this year around disposal methods and access to disposal facilities.

The survey was published online on the Engage Victoria platform¹ and was open from 1 - 30 September, with hard copies available via phone request to the Traralgon office of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

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, 144 responses were received with 100 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 be considered 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.

¹ <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 for other industries such as Victorian Railways. Consequently, many people in the Latrobe Valley have succumbed to asbestos related disease.²

As detailed in a 2020 study published by the taskforce,³ 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.

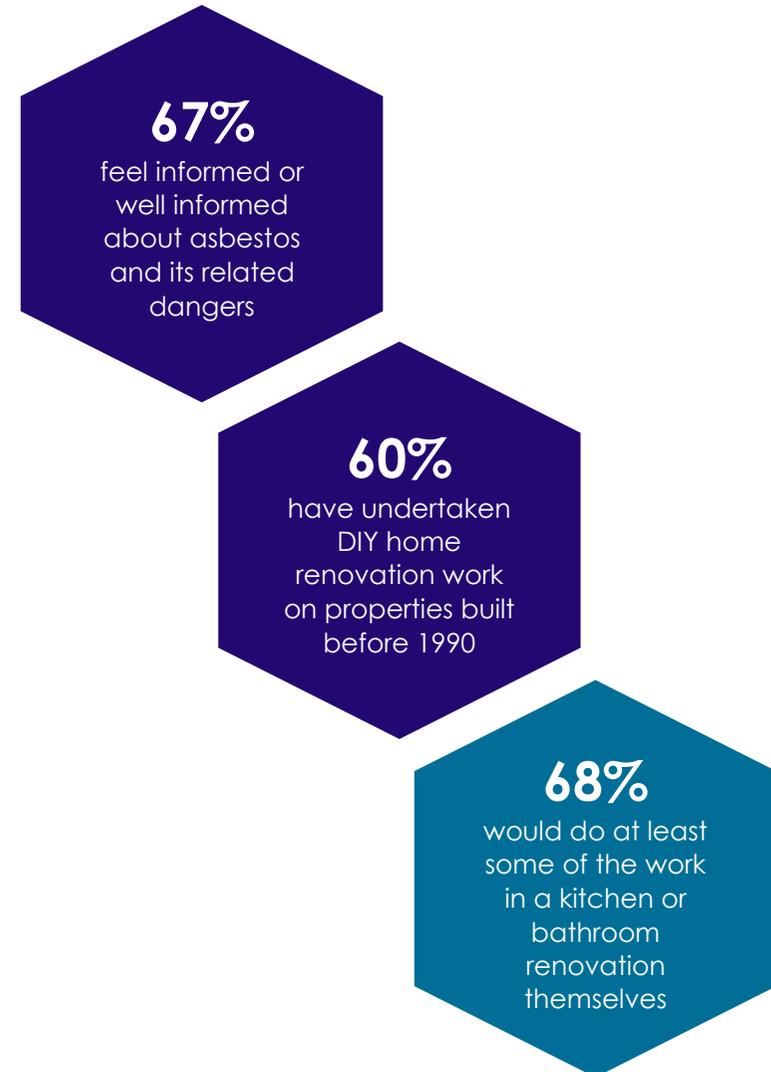
Today there continues to be a high level of awareness of asbestos and asbestos-related issues in the Latrobe Valley:

- 92% agree that asbestos is very common in Australian buildings
- 85% 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 12%. It is noted that a large program of asbestos removal works commenced in 2020 at Hazelwood power station and is now almost complete.

Another factor for this decrease could be the small sample of respondents aged over 65, which is 11% 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



² 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.

³ Estimating the volume of residential asbestos remaining in the Latrobe Valley, 2020. <https://www.asbestostaskforce.net/publications/>

follows that this group is more aware of cases arising from workers in Latrobe Valley's power stations.

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.

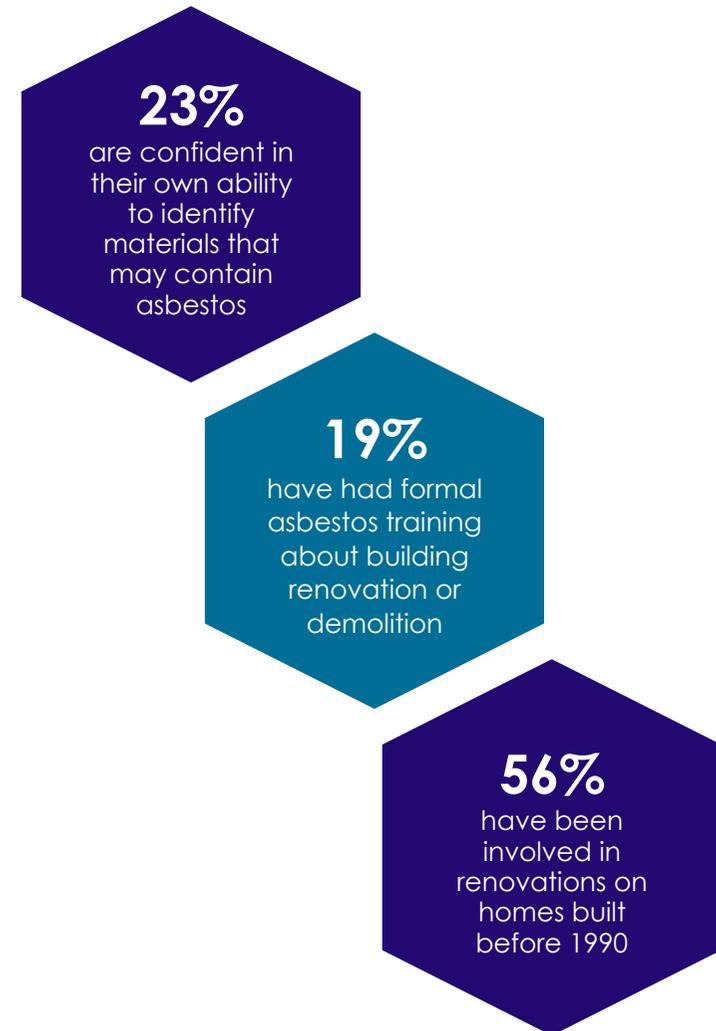
Another factor may be the higher number of respondents who have never either lived or worked in the Latrobe Valley; almost three times as many from the initial benchmark survey (up to 17% from 6% in 2019).

A positive result in this year's survey has been the continuing decline in the number of people who say they are confident or very confident in their own ability to identify asbestos-containing materials (ACMs). This has fallen from 39% in 2019, to 31% in 2020 and 23% in 2021. Further, there has been a corresponding increase in training. In 2020, 22% of those who said they were confident or very confident in identifying ACMs had undertaken formal training, but in 2021, this has increased to 39%. This highlights that those undertaking training understand that it is almost impossible to identify the thousands of products that contain asbestos.

Over half (56%) have been involved in renovations on properties built before 1990 and two thirds (68%) 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, 69% 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.

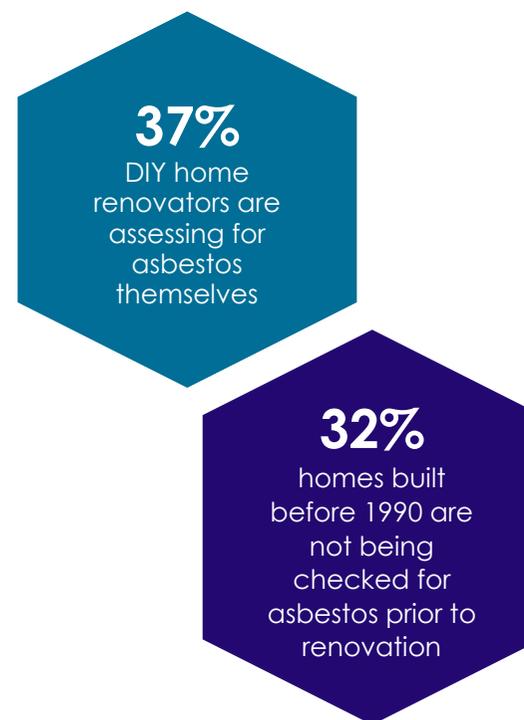
With regards to home renovation works recently completed, the number of home renovators assessing for the presence of asbestos themselves is still very high at 37% (33% in 2020, 36% in 2019). This is of concern as only



laboratory testing can confirm this for certain; it is impossible to tell by simply looking at a product whether it contains asbestos or not.

Overall, the survey reveals some positive changes, particularly the increased awareness of the difficulty in identifying asbestos-containing materials, and the increase in those who strongly agree they would seek specialist advice if they were unsure something contained asbestos (up to 57% from 46% in 2020).

Of concern is that one in three properties (32%) built before 1990 are still not being assessed for asbestos prior to renovation, which signifies a key area in which to concentrate efforts. This is especially important as 70% of respondents indicated they were planning to undertake home renovations in the future, and 30% of all home renovators surveyed did all of the renovation works themselves without any professional help from tradespersons.



SECTION 1 GENERAL POPULATION

Asbestos awareness

Information and messaging

Of the 144 respondents to the survey, 67% feel informed or well informed about asbestos and its related dangers having a 5% increase on last year.

71% reported being exposed to messages about the dangers of asbestos in the last 12 months, and of these respondents, 77% rate their knowledge of the dangers associated with exposure to asbestos as good or very good.

69% believe that it is very important for them to know about asbestos and its related dangers, which is a significant increase from the 51% reported in the 2020 survey. It is more consistent with the 74% in the 2019 survey who believed it was very important, which may be due in part to the high number of respondents aged over 65 in the 2019 benchmark survey.

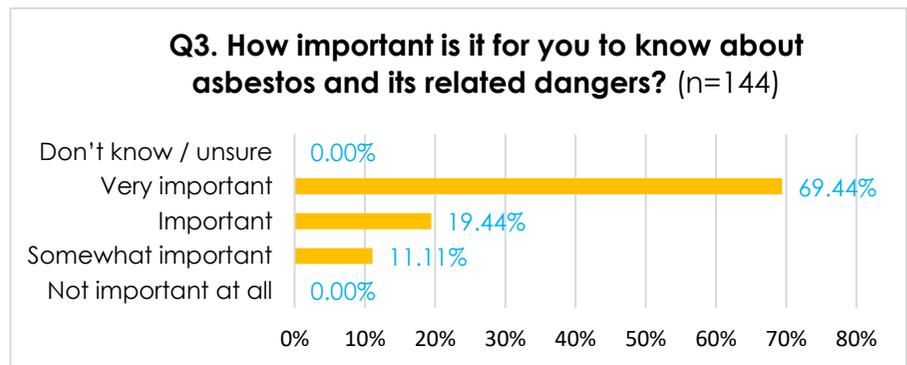
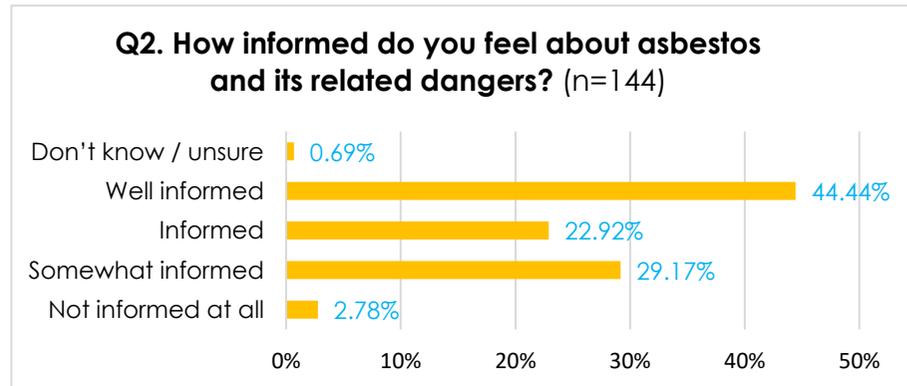
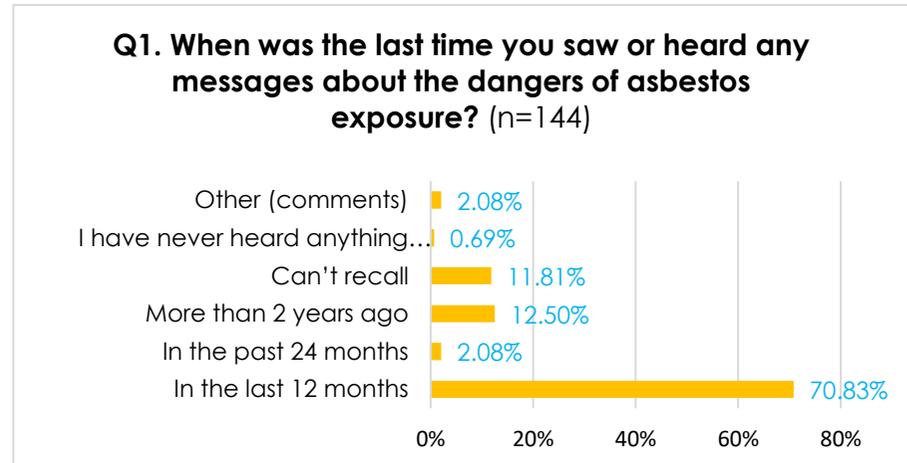
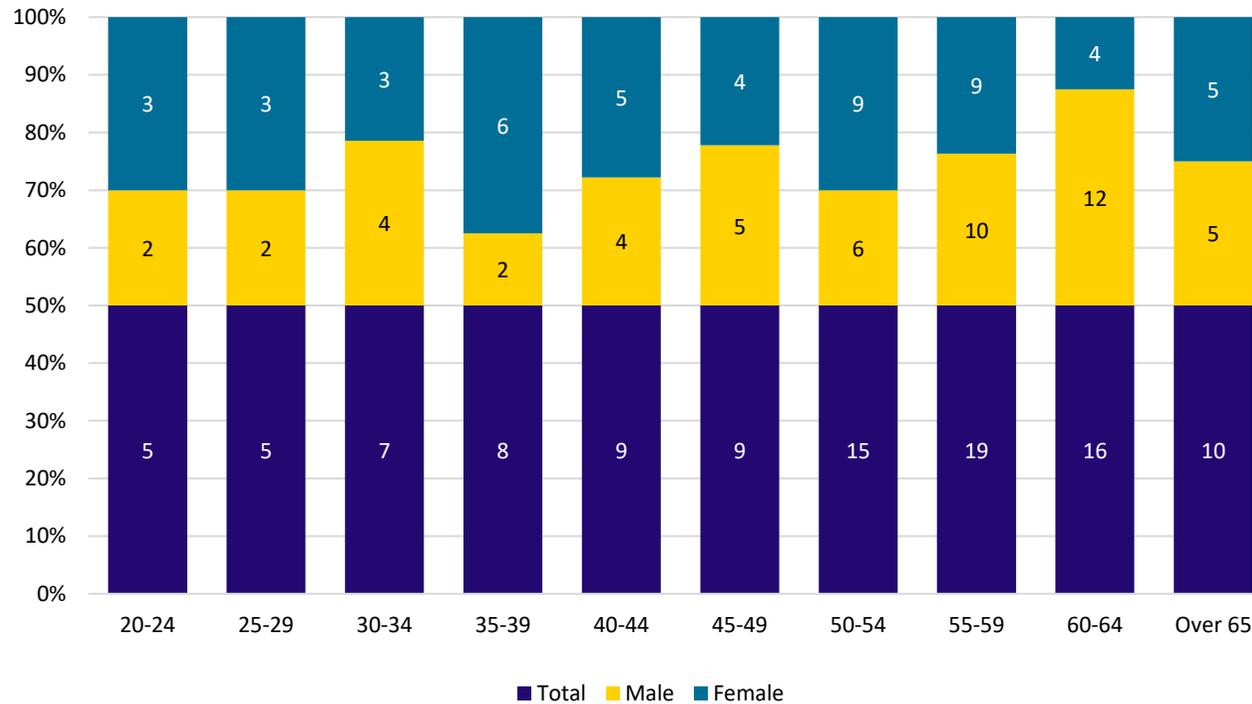


Table 1. Respondents who have been exposed to messages about the dangers of asbestos in the past 24 months by age and gender, 2021 (n=105)*†



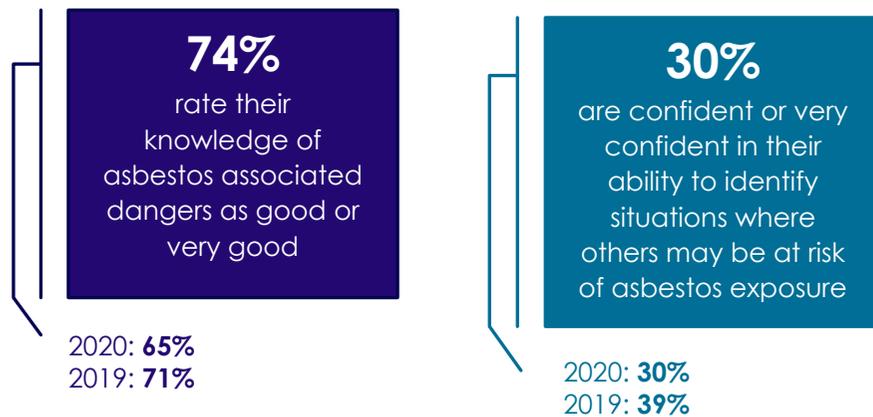
*One respondent replied "Prefer not to say" to the question "What gender do you identify as?" For simplicity, this response has been removed from the table.

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

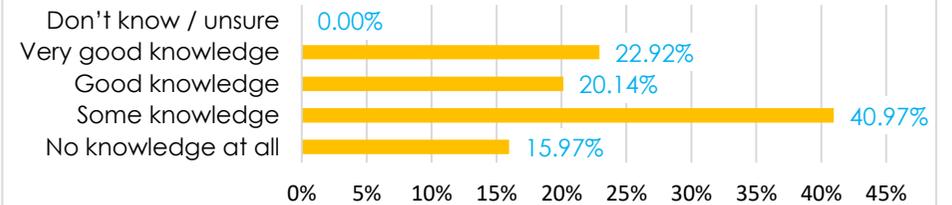
Identifying asbestos containing materials

74% rate their knowledge of asbestos-associated dangers as good or very good and 23% are confident or very confident in their own ability to identify ACMs.

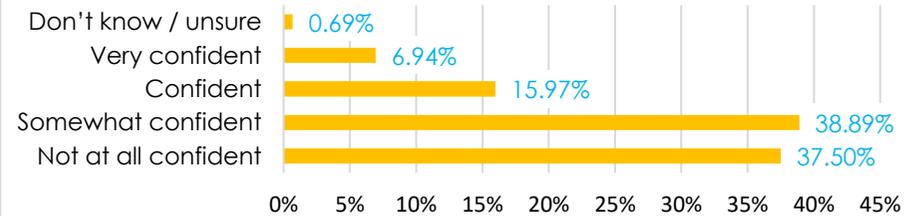
30% are confident in their own ability to identify situations where they or others may be at risk of exposure to asbestos, which is lower than the 39% returned in the 2019 survey.



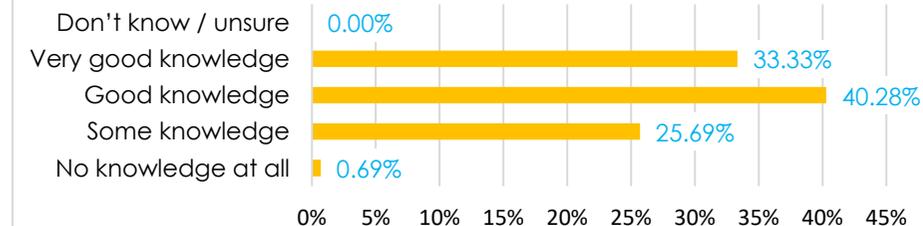
Q5. How would you rate your own knowledge regarding where to safely and legally dispose of asbestos once it's removed? (n=144)



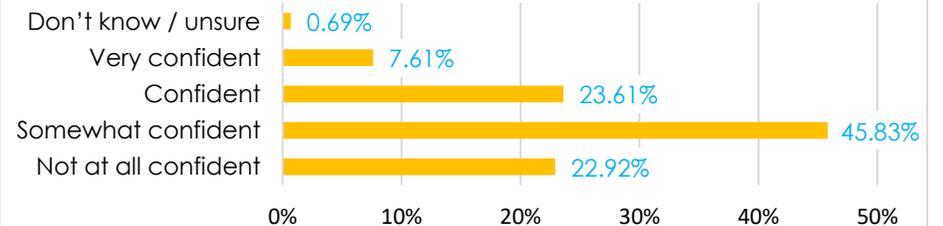
Q6. How confident are you in your own ability to identify materials that may contain asbestos? (n=144)



Q4. How would you rate your own knowledge of the dangers associated with exposure to asbestos? (n=144)



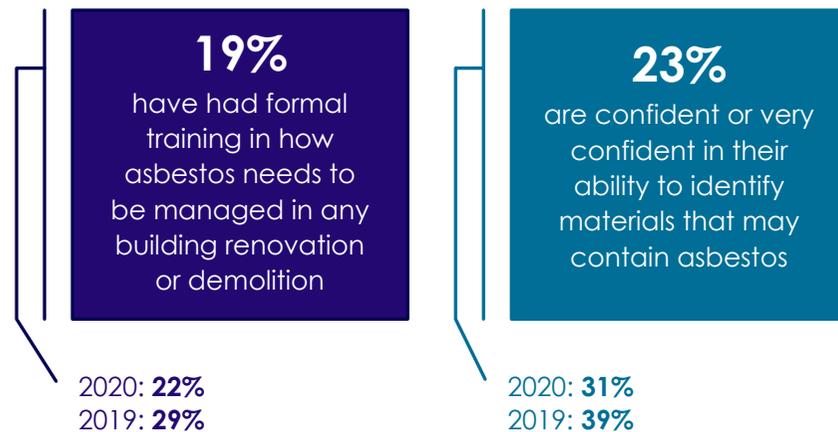
Q7. How confident are you in your own ability to identify situations where you or others may be at risk of exposure to asbestos? (n=144)



Formal training

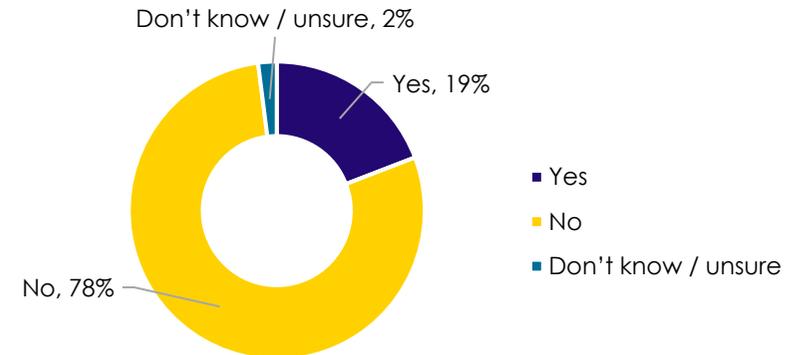
Of the 19% of respondents who have had formal training, 36% said it was delivered in the workplace, and 23% via an external training organisation. For those who responded "Other", nearly all mentioned the Asbestos in the Home removal kit and training delivered by Latrobe City Council.

Of the respondents who said they were confident or very confident in their ability to identify materials that may contain asbestos (23%), two out of five (39%) had received formal training.

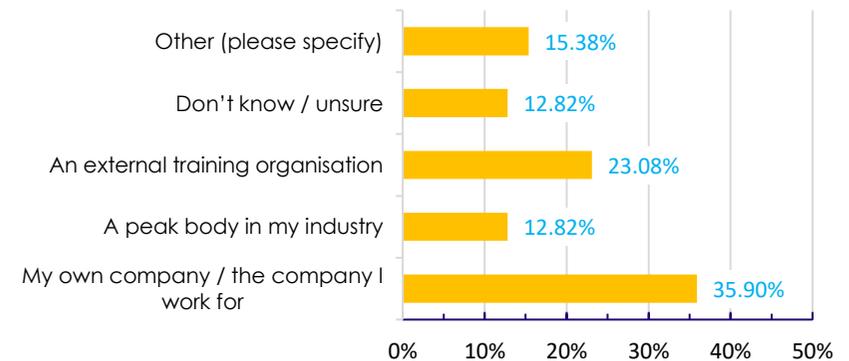


Q8. Have you had any formal training in relation to asbestos and how it needs to be managed in any building renovation or demolition work?

(n=144)



Q9. Who delivered this training? (n=39)



* Respondents that stated they had done their own research or have not had formal training have been excluded from this table.

Awareness of the dangers and presence of asbestos

For the series of questions 10a to 10f respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with each statement.

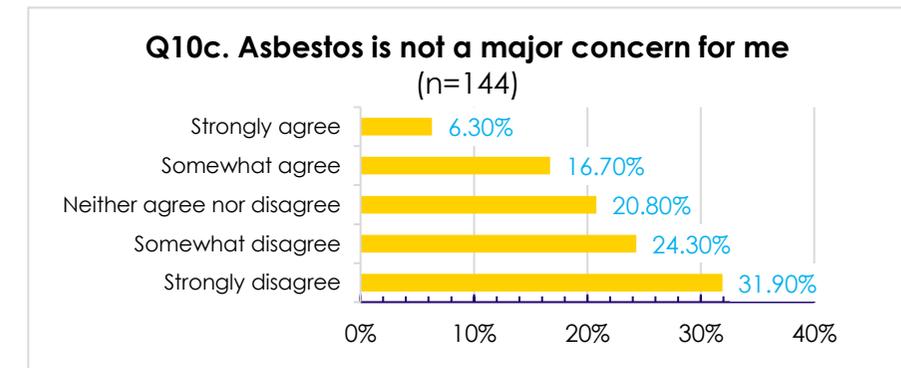
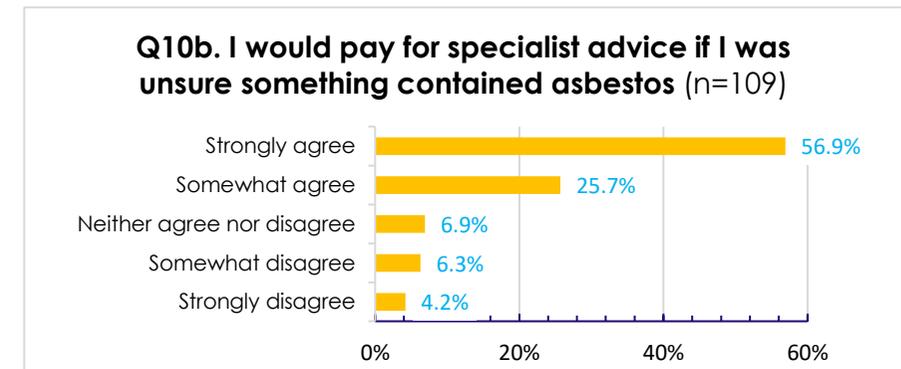
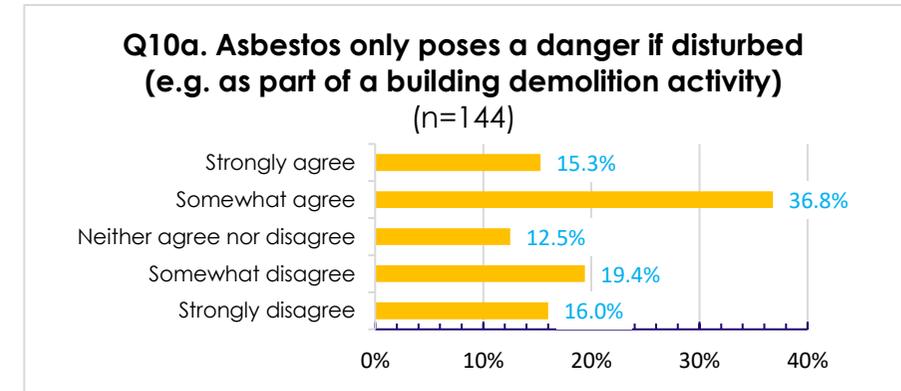
1 in 2 people agree that asbestos only poses a danger if disturbed compared to 3 out of 4 respondents in the 2019 survey. This indicates there needs to be more awareness about asbestos product deterioration and the risk of fibres being released naturally.



2020: **46%**
2019: **45%**



2020: **75%**
2019: **63%**



85%

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

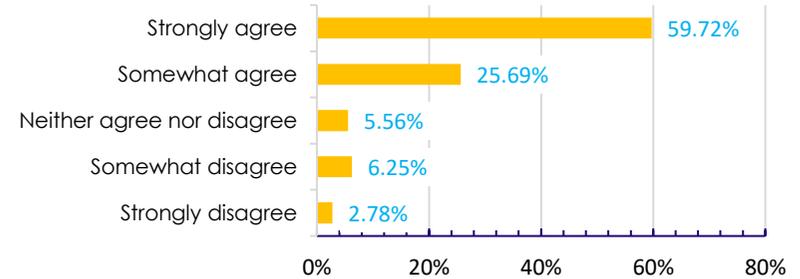
2020: **83%**
2019: **89%**

96%

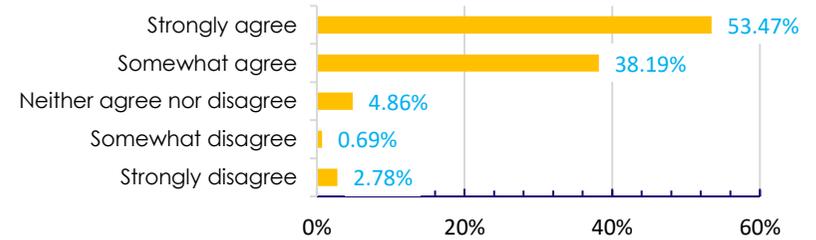
agree that anyone doing renovations needs to be very mindful of asbestos

2020: **96%**
2019: **98%**

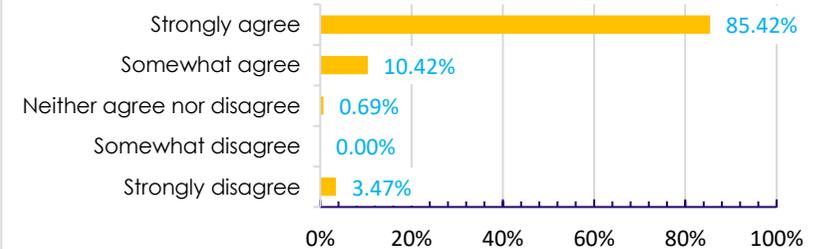
Q10d. Even a small exposure to asbestos can be very dangerous (n = 144)



Q10e. Asbestos is very common in Australian buildings (n = 144)



Q10f. Anyone doing renovations needs to be very mindful of asbestos (n = 144)



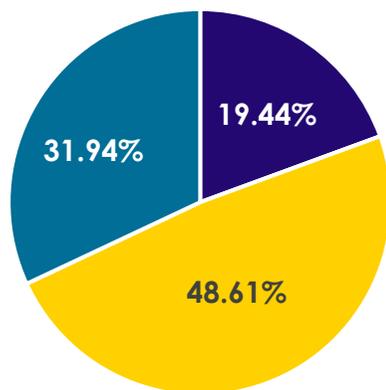
Home renovation activity

The vast majority (78%) of respondents undertake home renovation works themselves, and say they would undertake at least some – if not all – of the work themselves in the renovation of a bathroom or kitchen.

Of the home renovation work undertaken, 3 out of 5 (60%) have worked on properties built before 1990, which was up slightly from 2020 (56%) but lower than the 68% reported in 2019. The higher figure in 2019 could be linked to the high number of respondents aged over 65 in the original benchmark survey.

Q11. Imagine you need to renovate the bathroom or kitchen in your own home. Which of the following best describes how you would approach this?

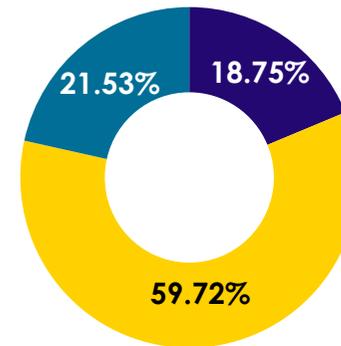
(n=144)



- 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

Q12. Which of the following best describes you?

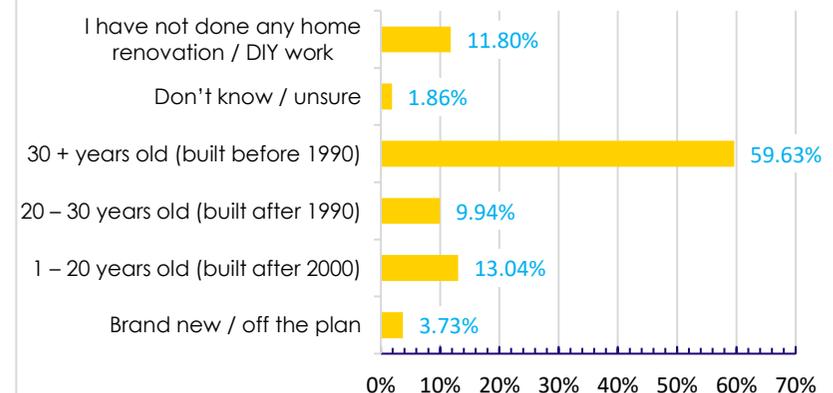
(n=144)



- I am a do-it-yourself (DIY) home renovation enthusiast
- I am handy enough to do some home renovation work myself, but it's not a passion of mine
- I don't like DIY home renovation projects at all

Q13. In terms of any home renovation / DIY work you have undertaken, roughly how old are the properties you have worked on?

(n=144*)



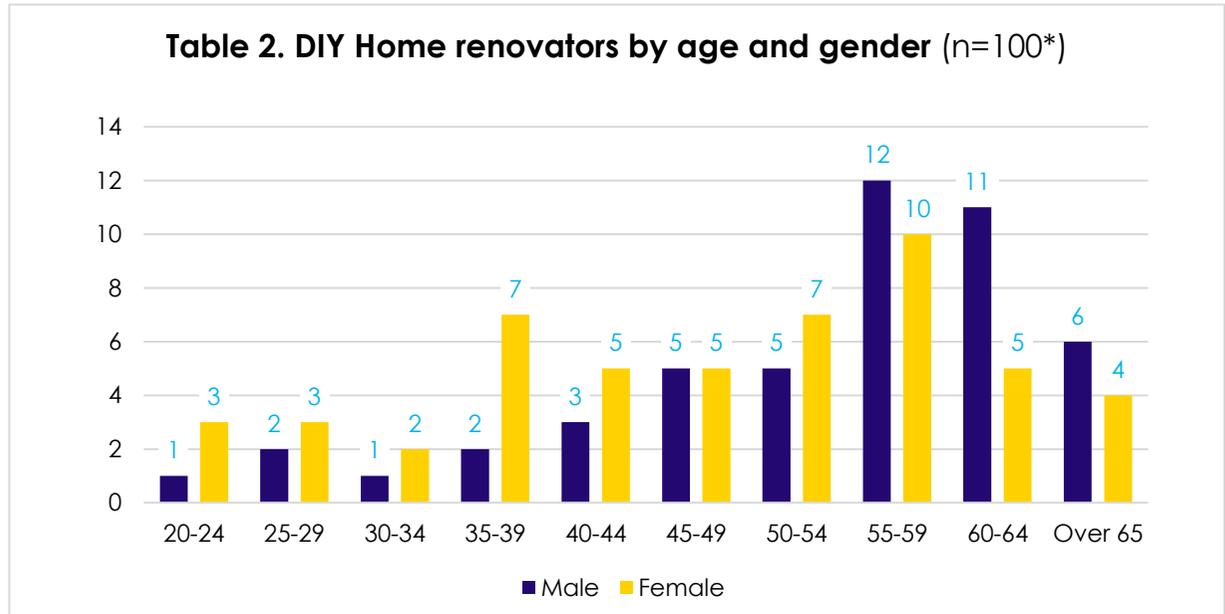
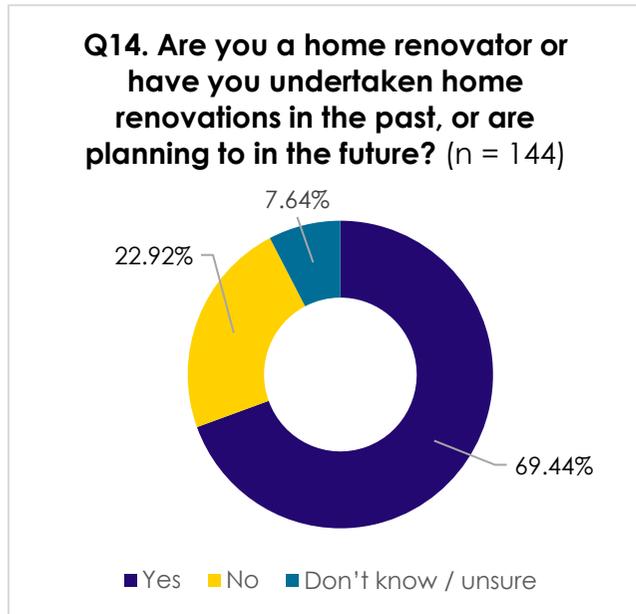
* For this question respondents could choose more than one answer.

HOME RENOVATOR QUESTIONS

Of the 144 people who participated in the survey, 100 (69%) 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 15 to 24 pertaining to home renovation activities were asked.

Most respondents were aged between 50 -64 years (see Table 2 below).

The results suggest that DIY activity remains high in the Latrobe Valley, with the majority of respondents (78%) doing at least some of the work themselves and one third (35%) planning to undertake renovations in the next 12 months.

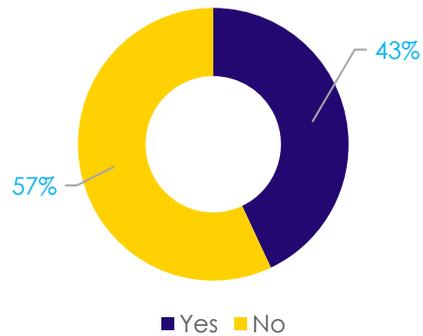


*One respondent answered: “Prefer not to say” to the question “What gender do you identify as?” For simplicity of the chart display, this response has been removed from the table.

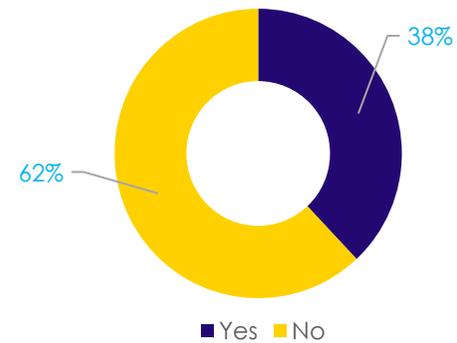
Recent works on properties built between 1940 – 1990

Q.15 Over the past 3 years, have you ever undertaken any of the following to a residence built or renovated between 1940 and 1990:

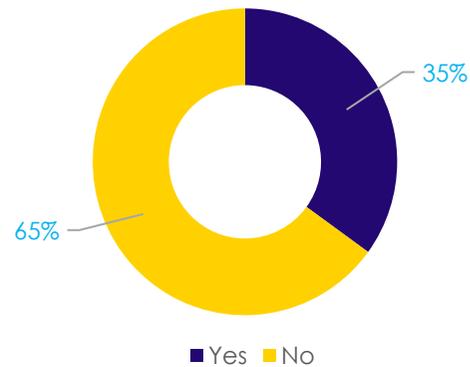
Q15b. A bathroom renovation, including the removal of existing fittings, fixtures, wall tiles / splashbacks and/or flooring? (n=100)



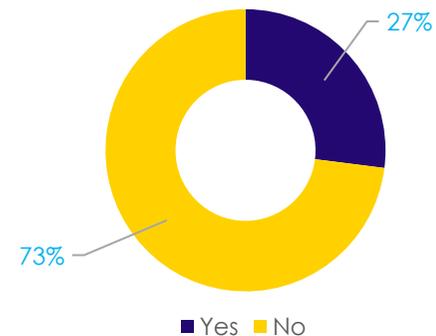
Q15c. A kitchen renovation, including the removal of existing fittings, fixtures, wall tiles / splashbacks and/or flooring? (n=100)



Q15a. Renovation work that involved knocking down either internal or external walls? (n=68)



Q15d. Demolition of any external buildings (e.g. outhouses, sheds, fencing or other buildings)? (n=100)



Who did the work?

Four out of five (83%) DIY home renovators did at least some of the work themselves, with 30% doing all the work themselves without involving professional trades.

This is a significant increase from the 12% in 2020 who said they did all of the work themselves, and may be due to the COVID-19 Pandemic lockdowns enforced in Victoria, with more people staying at home and undertaking home renovation/improvement activities. However, in the 2019 benchmark survey, 27% stated they did all the work themselves, so it is difficult to say whether the Pandemic interrupted a downward trend, or whether the 2020 figure was an anomaly.

Only one in seven (14%) engaged trade professionals for the entire works. This highlights the ongoing popularity of DIY home renovation activities.

Q16. If you answered Yes to any of the above, which of the following best describes how the work was undertaken? (n=63)



It is important that homeowners continue to be allowed to remove small quantities of asbestos from their own homes using appropriate methods.

I feel overwhelmed with the challenges of doing the renovations I need to do in my house. Asbestos is one concern of many - others are how do I find reliable tradesmen to do the work I want.

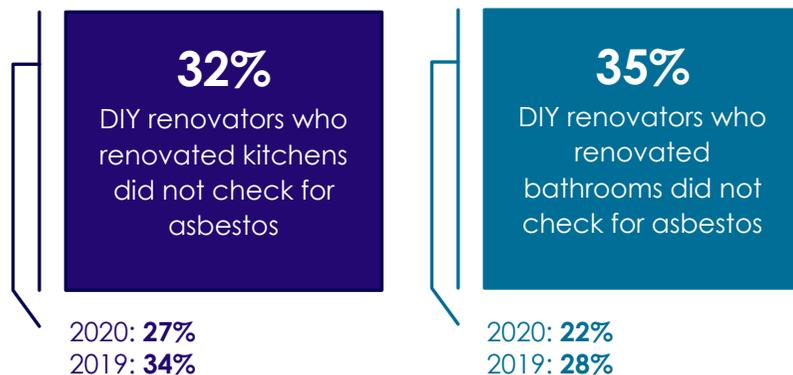
Assessment of risk of asbestos exposure

Was an assessment undertaken?

For the renovation on properties built between 1940 and 1990, 59% of the respondents reported that an assessment for risk of asbestos exposure was undertaken. One third (32%) said that no assessment was undertaken, which is almost identical to both previous survey results of 33% in 2020 and 32% in 2019.

Of the 59% who reported that an assessment had been undertaken, 58% had renovated kitchens, 56% bathrooms, 54% had knocked down either internal or external walls, and 63% had demolished external buildings.

Of those who renovated kitchens, 32% did not assess the planned work to see if there was risk of asbestos exposure, nor 35% of those who renovated bathrooms. It is concerning that one in three DIY renovators did not check for asbestos in areas that are likely to contain asbestos before commencing works.



Q17. Prior to undertaking any of the work, was any assessment of the planned work undertaken to determine the risk of exposure to asbestos?

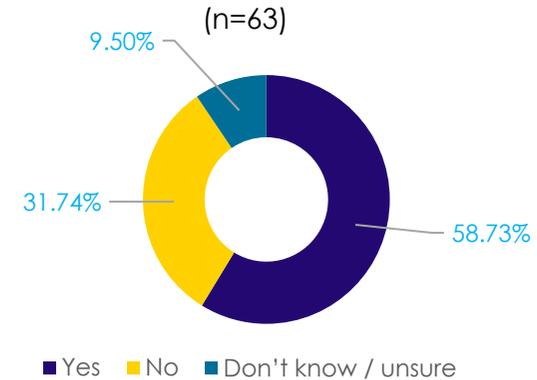
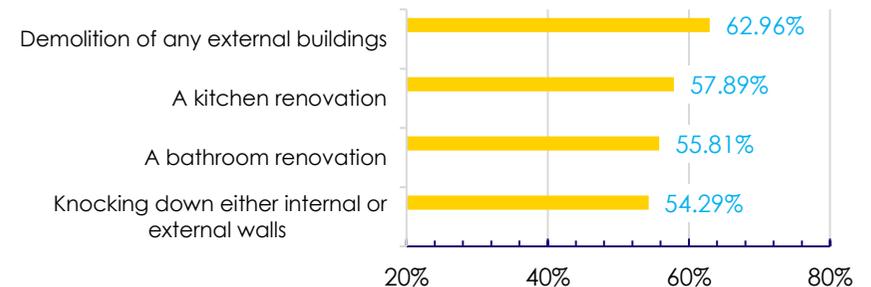


Table 3. Areas in which assessments were undertaken to determine the risk of exposure to asbestos (n=63)

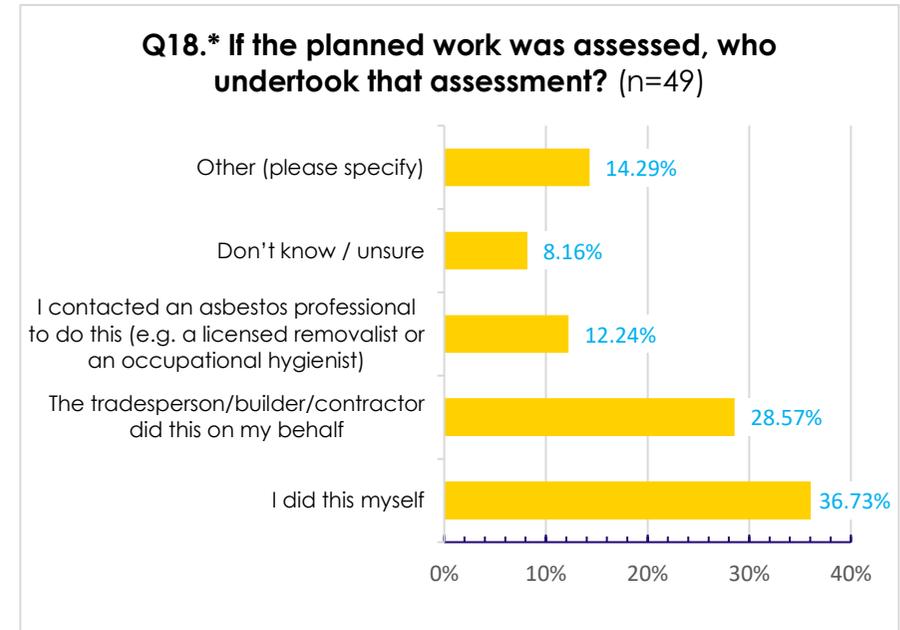
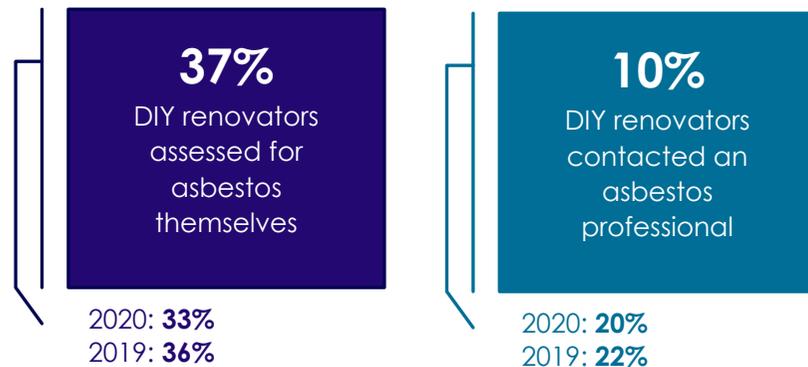


Who did the assessment?

By removing the results for the “not applicable” response for question 18, more than one-third (37%) did the assessment for risk of exposure to asbestos themselves. This was 33% in 2020, and 36% in 2019, which indicates little change.

29% reported that the tradesperson / builder / contractor did this on the respondent's behalf, which is a significant drop from 40% in 2020 and 31% in the 2019 survey.

Only one in ten people engaged an asbestos professional to perform the assessment, which is significantly lower than the previous surveys of one in five people. The COVID-19 Pandemic lockdown in Victoria may have meant that access to asbestos professionals was restricted.



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

Removal and disposal of asbestos

Was removal of asbestos required?

In this survey, far fewer people reported that asbestos had to be removed, down to 24% from 43% in 2020. Of the 15 respondents who said asbestos had to be removed, only 2 reported doing it themselves. This change in the number of respondents (see table Q20 and Q21) means comparisons to previous results cannot be considered robust enough to be reported.

Of the 37% who performed their own assessment, half went on to remove it themselves, which is significantly higher than the 31% reported in 2019.

Of those who engaged a tradesperson/builder/contractor to perform the assessment, none of them subsequently engaged a licensed asbestos removalist.

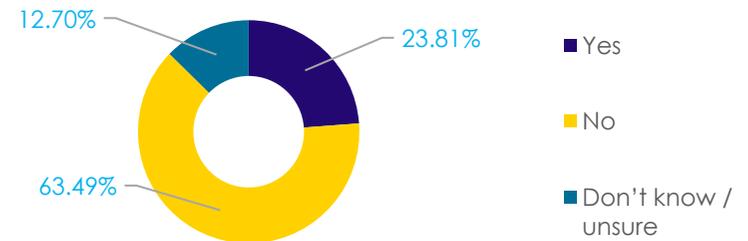
Who removed the asbestos?

By removing the results for the “not applicable” response for question 20, the data shows that more than half (53%) engaged a licensed removalist to remove the asbestos.

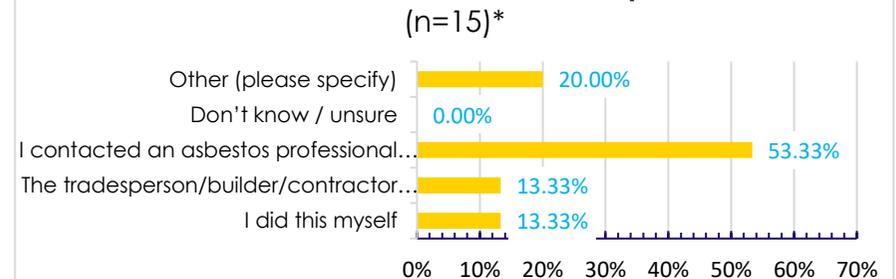
Of the 12% who engaged an asbestos professional for the assessment, all subsequently engaged a licensed asbestos removalist or were waiting for one to become available to remove the identified asbestos-containing materials.

Only two DIY renovators reported that they had removed asbestos themselves and therefore while the Q21 table has been included for the purposes of transparency, the sample size is too low to be considered representative.

Q19. Did asbestos need to be removed as part of the renovation/construction or demolition process? (n=63)

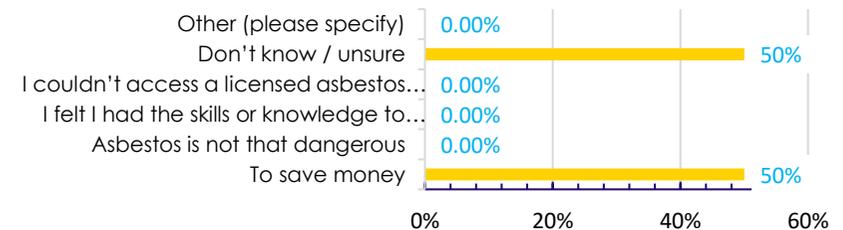


Q20.* Which of the following best describes how the asbestos was removed and disposed of? (n=15)*



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

Q21. If you removed and disposed of the asbestos yourself, what was the main reason for doing this? (n=2)



How was the asbestos waste disposed?

Two new questions were added to the survey this year around asbestos disposal.

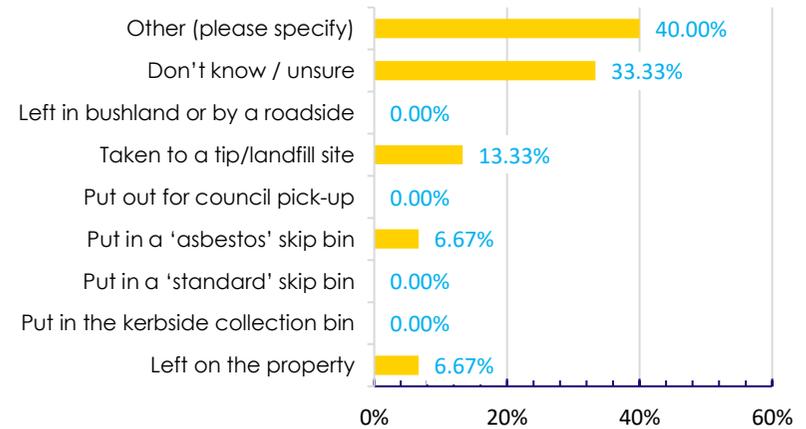
It is acknowledged that due to only 15 people identifying as home renovators who said that asbestos had to be removed, this sample size is very small.

However it does reveal that one third are unaware of what happens to the asbestos after it is removed from their properties, with only 13% knowing that it was taken to a landfill site.

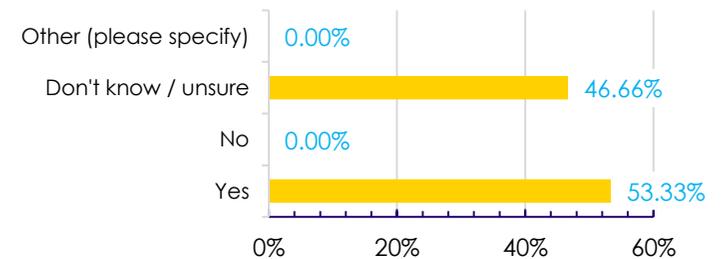
Of those who had responder "other" in Q22, which numbered five people, three indicated it had been taken to a landfill site.



Q22. After the asbestos was removed, how was it disposed of? (n= 15)



Q23. Was the asbestos waste packaged (double wrapped, sealed etc) before it was disposed of? (n= 15)

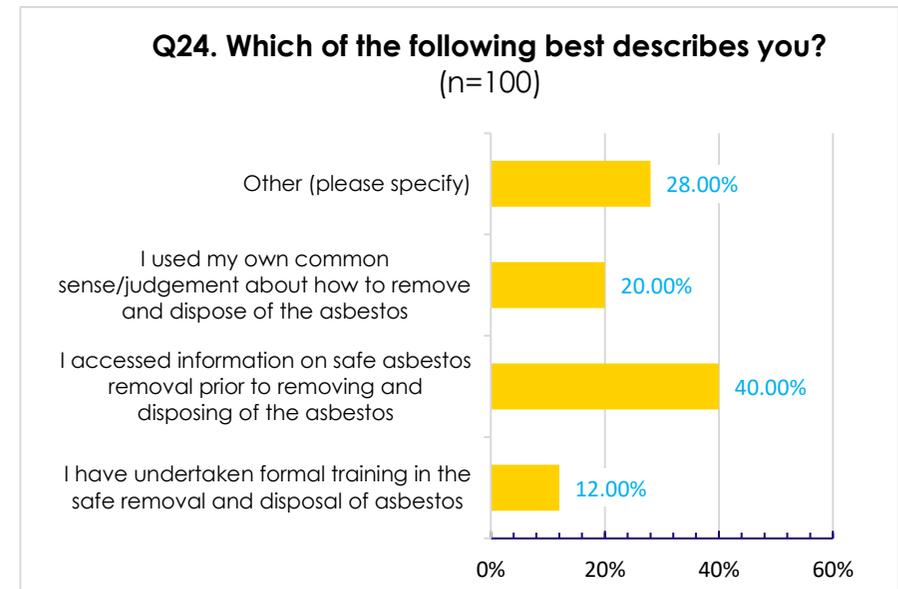
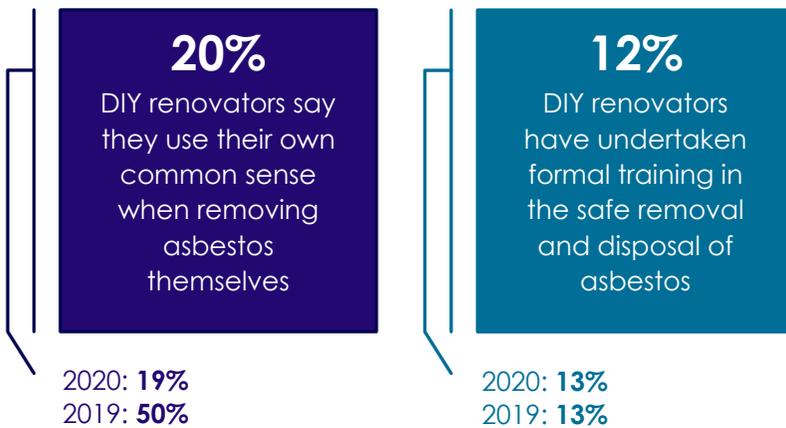


I removed the asbestos-containing material using techniques and safety equipment bought as a kit from LCC (Latrobe City Council).

DIY Renovators asbestos awareness level

One in five DIY renovators say they use their own common sense with regards to the removal and disposal of asbestos. This is in line with the 2020 survey results, which saw a drop from the benchmark 2019 survey of 50%.

Only 12% have undertaken formal training, which remains as low as it was in 2019.



Future renovations

More than one third (35%) of 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.

One in five are planning to renovate a kitchen or a bathroom or knock down walls and 14% plan to renovate buildings such as outhouses and sheds or fencing.

Of those who intend to undertake renovations, 12% have had formal training, 40% have accessed information on safe asbestos removal prior to removal and disposal, and 14% reported to use their own common sense when it came to asbestos removal and disposal.

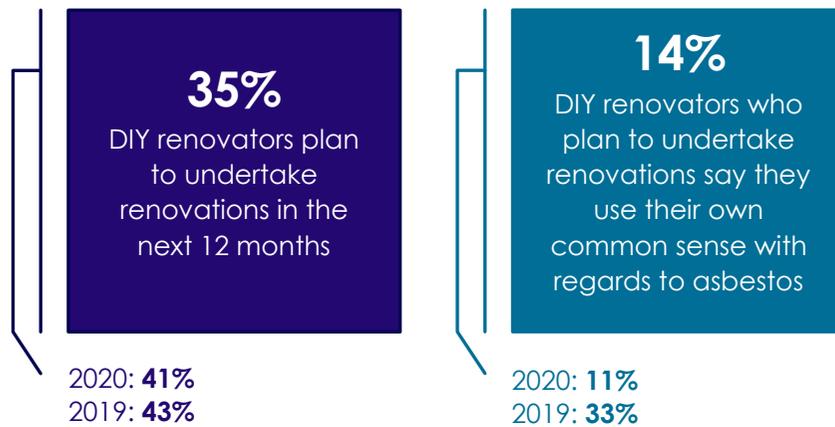
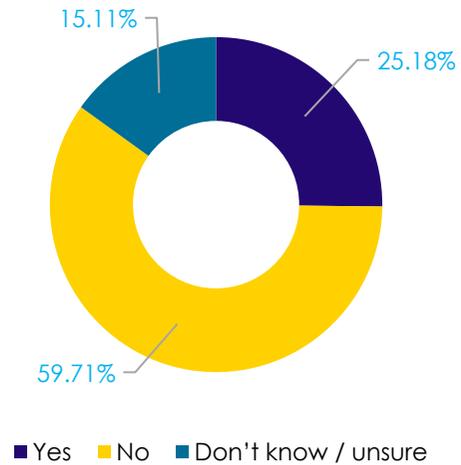


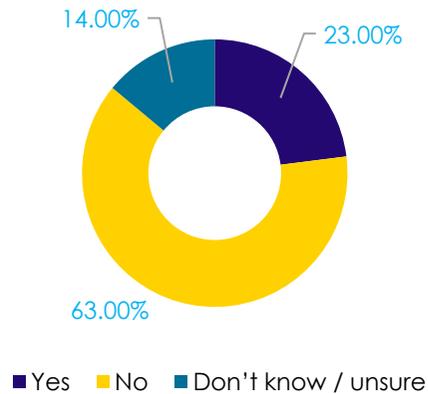
Table 5. DIY renovators undertaking renovation work on properties built between 1940 – 1990 in the next 12 months (n=100)



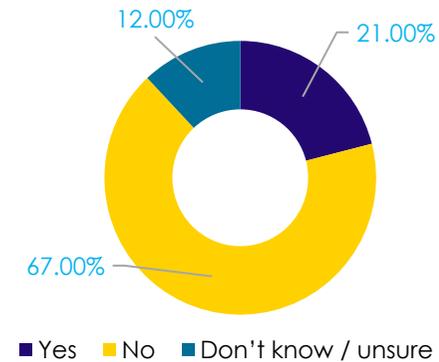
Funds are limited - when we do renovate, we'll do as much as we can on our own and try and use the uncommon commodity of common sense.

Q25. Over the next 12 months, are you likely to undertake any of the following to a residence built or renovated between 1940 and 1990?

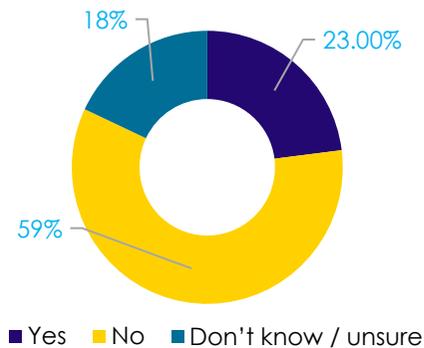
25a. Renovation work that involves knocking down either internal or external walls? (n = 100)



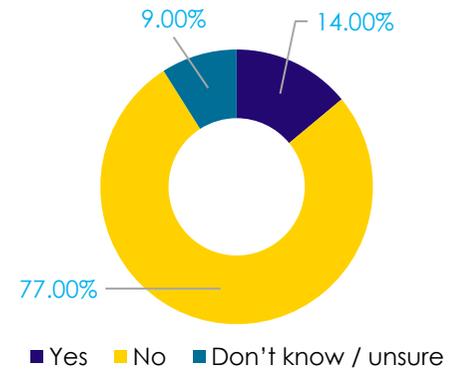
25c. A kitchen renovation, including the removal of existing fittings, fixtures, wall tiles/splashbacks and/or flooring? (n = 100)



25b. A bathroom renovation, including the removal of existing fittings, fixtures, wall tiles/splashbacks and/or flooring? (n = 100)



25d. Demolition of any external buildings (e.g. outhouses, sheds, fencing or other buildings)? (n = 100)



Attitudes towards asbestos

Over 96% of home renovation respondents take asbestos and its dangers very seriously and 87% consider asbestos to be a key consideration when preparing to undertake a renovation.

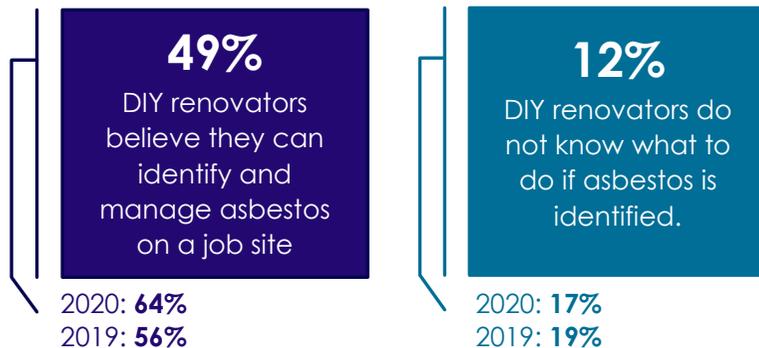
70% say that they know how to protect themselves from exposure to asbestos, which is lower than 85% in 2021 and 78% reported in 2019.

While 71% believe that they have enough information about asbestos to make informed decisions when doing renovations, 16% do not feel confident in this regard.

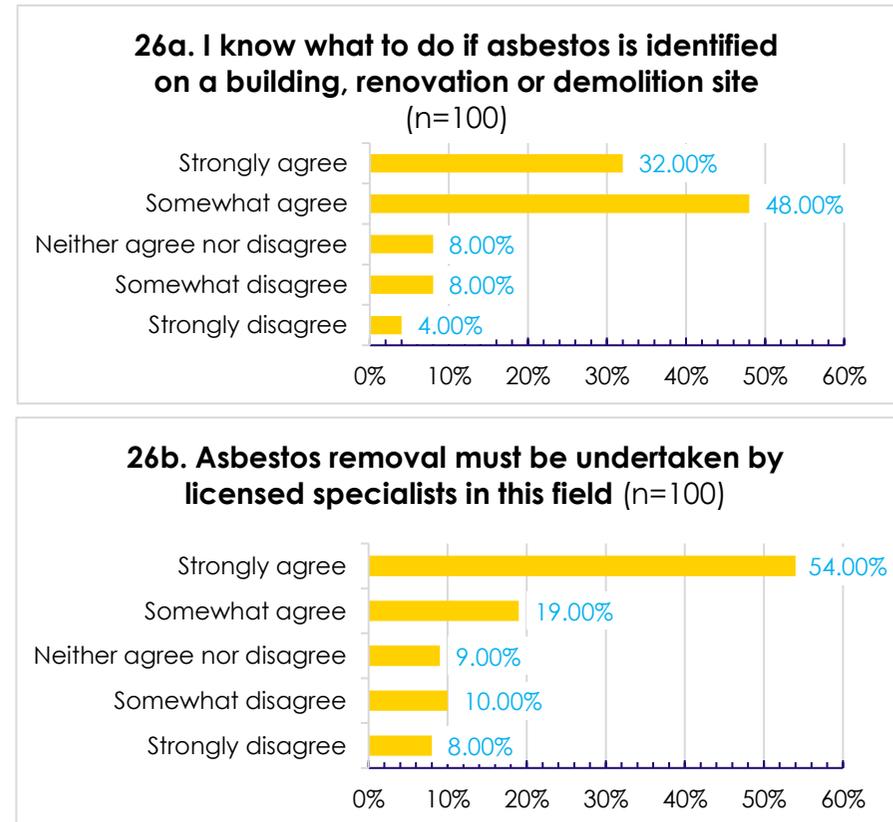
The responses reveal that the majority (73%) consider engaging a licensed professional to remove asbestos is the correct thing to do where asbestos is identified on their site. However, 12% report not knowing what to do if asbestos is identified.

With regards to identifying and managing asbestos on a job site, a decline has been observed since the initial benchmark survey in 2019. This survey showed half (49%) believe they have sufficient knowledge to identify and manage asbestos themselves (64% in 2020, 56% in 2019).

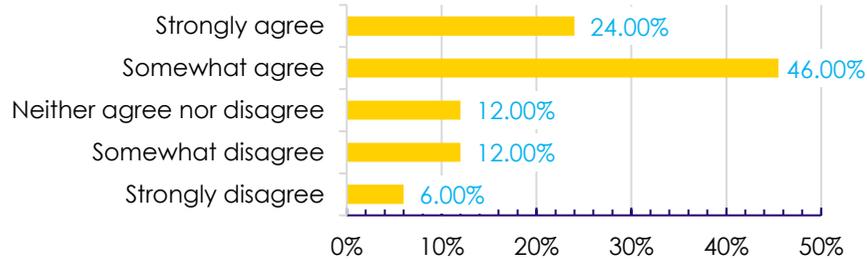
Three quarters (77%) of respondents remain concerned about potentially being exposed to asbestos, showing an increase of concern from 2020 (71%).



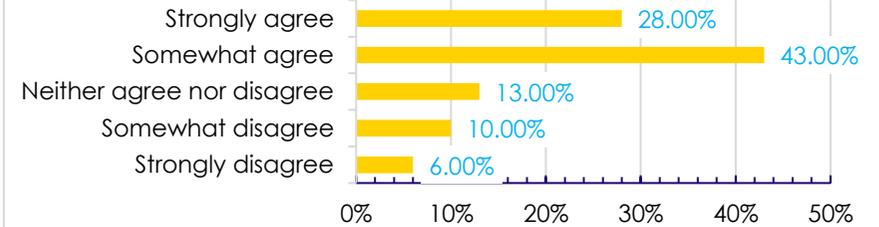
Q.26 Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:



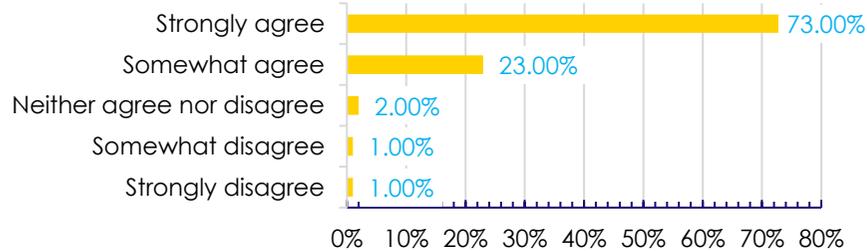
26c. I know how to protect myself from exposure to asbestos (n=100)



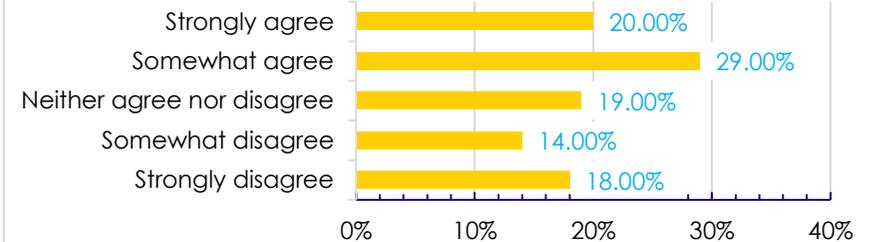
26f. I have enough information about asbestos to make informed decisions when doing any renovation work (n=100)



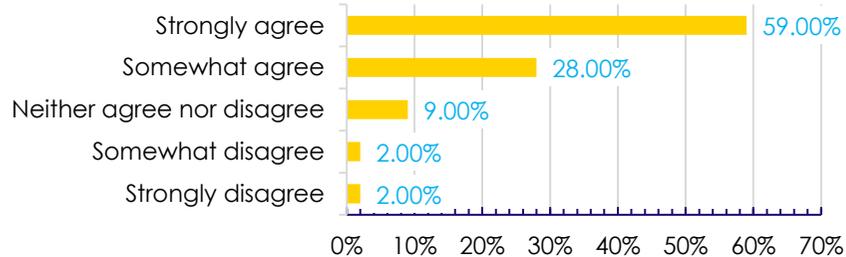
26d. I take asbestos and its dangers very seriously (n=100)



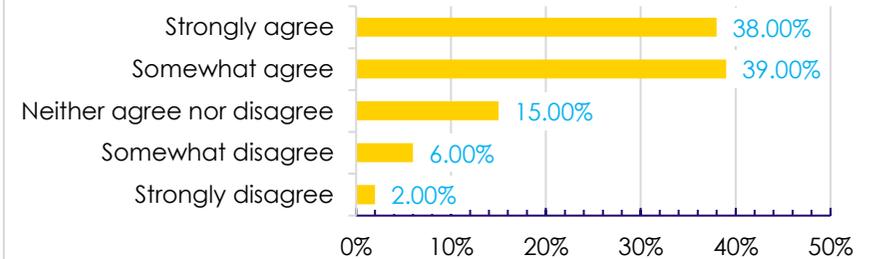
26g. I have sufficient knowledge about how to identify and manage asbestos on the job site (n=100)



26e. When preparing for any renovation project, asbestos is a key consideration (n=100)



26h. I am concerned about potentially being exposed to asbestos (n=100)



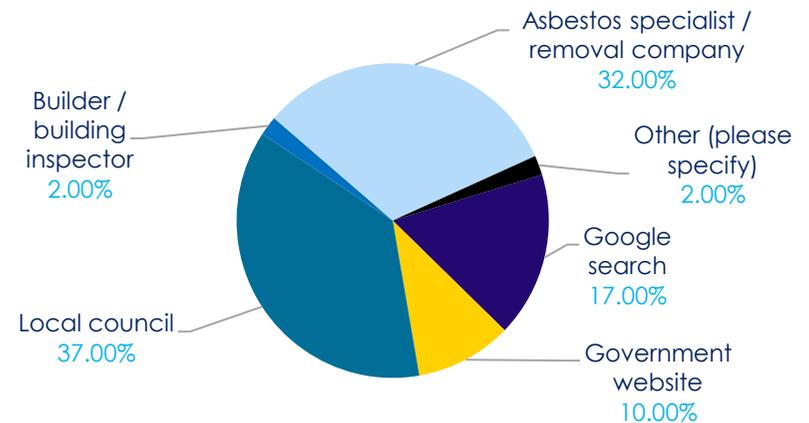
Where people go for information about asbestos

In 2021 the primary source of asbestos information changed to asbestos specialist/removal company (31%) from Google search in 2020 when 41% of respondents said they used Google to search for information on asbestos.

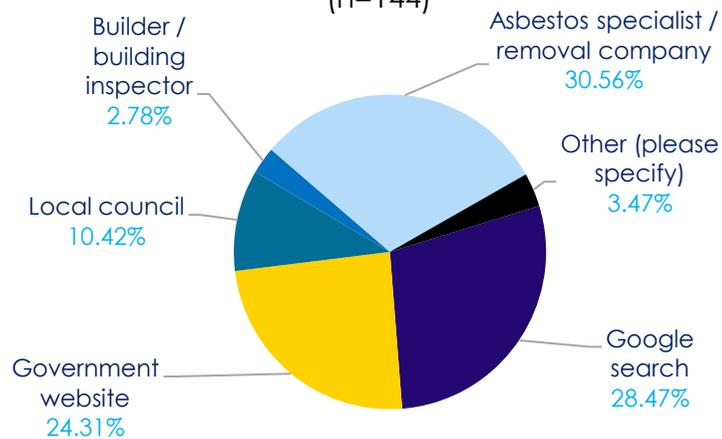
It is noted that there was an increase of 6% of people who would make their local council the first point of contact for information.

More people are aware of the Latrobe Valley Asbestos Taskforce, with an increase to 53% from 44% in 2019 saying they have heard about the taskforce.

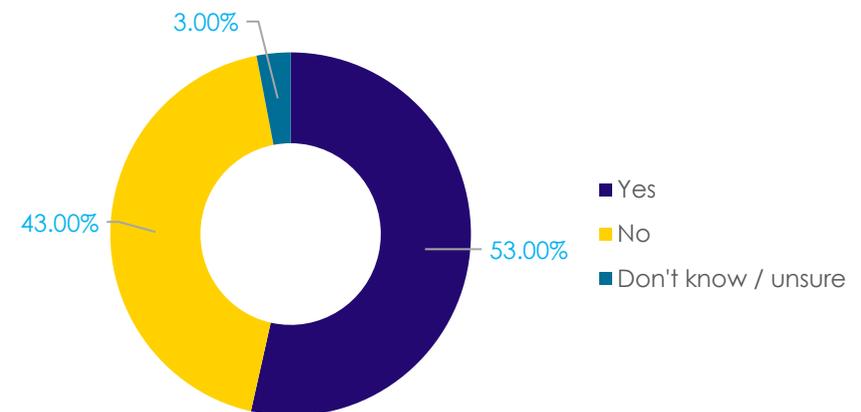
28. If you wanted information on how and where to dispose of asbestos, where would you go for this / who would you ask? (n=144)



27. If you wanted information on asbestos and its related dangers, where would you go for this? (n=144)



29. Have you heard of the Latrobe Valley Asbestos Taskforce? (n=144)



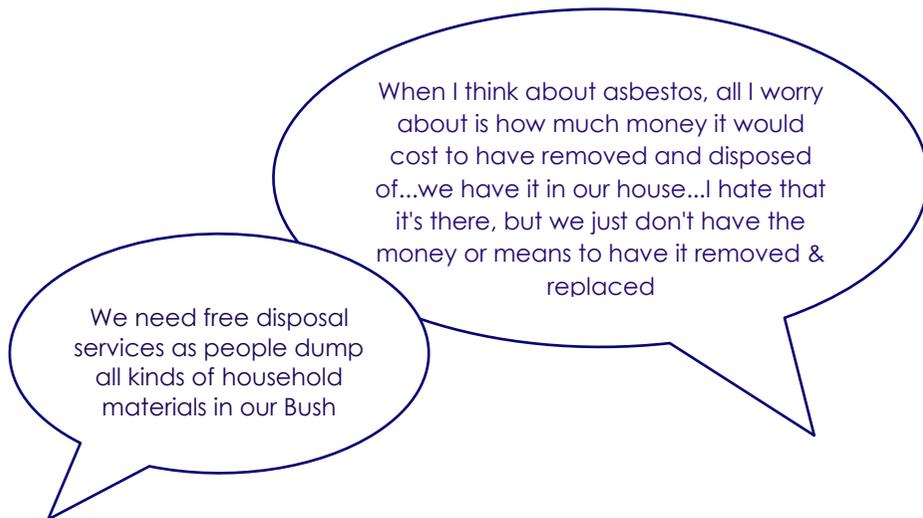
Concerns about asbestos

The community is concerned about many asbestos related issues in the Latrobe Valley, as once again the greatest concerns identified were with health effects and illegal dumping.

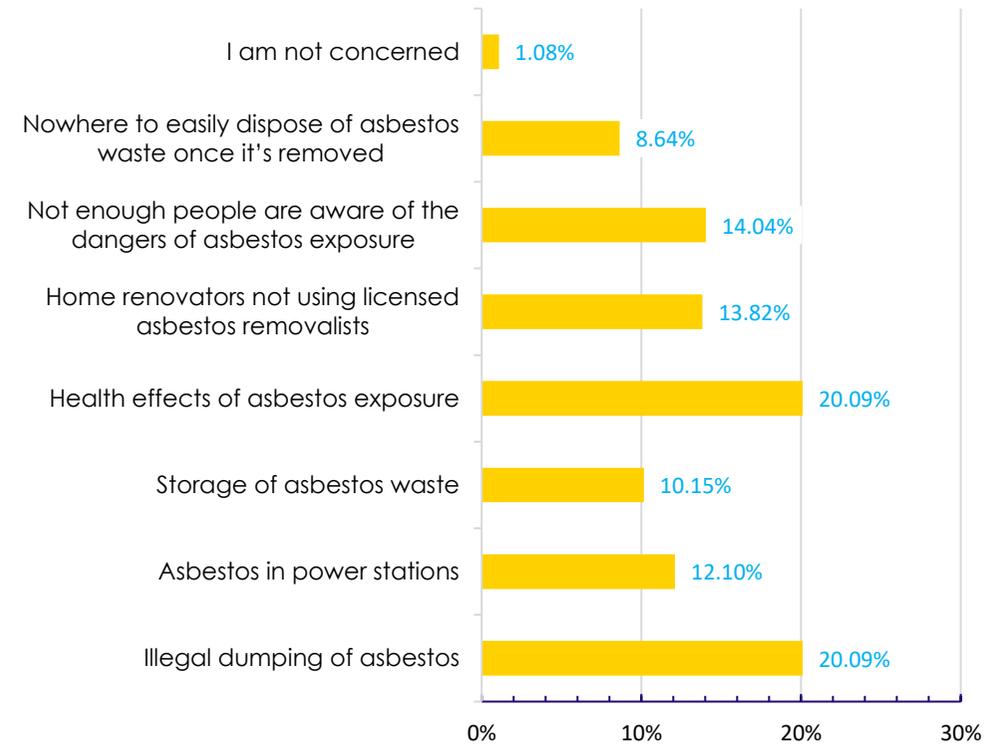
In this year's survey, new answer option was added to the list of concerns about nowhere to easily dispose of asbestos in the Latrobe Valley, highlighting that 9% of respondents had this concern.

Almost one in seven (14%) believe that not enough people are aware of the dangers of asbestos exposure, this is a decline from findings in 2020 (32%) demonstrating that there may be an increase awareness of asbestos exposure. Also on the decline is the concern that home renovators are not using licensed removalists 14% in this year's study compared to 2020 (27%).

In 2019, 37% were very concerned about asbestos in power stations, however declined to 20% in 2020 to now 12%.



30. What concerns you the most about asbestos in the Latrobe Valley? (n=144*)



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

Personal impacts of asbestos

My father and two uncles all died from asbestos related diseases. They should have lived much longer as they were otherwise healthy.

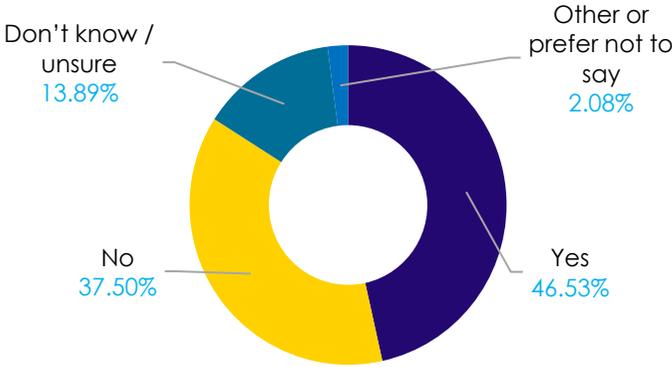
It killed my father way before his time and deprived him of many good retirement years. Never got any compensation. My late mother nursed him, and he died at home with the care and support of palliative care staff.

Not good has affected my health greatly and will probably be the death of me.

Many workers from the power station have died from this and many more are still suffering from this.

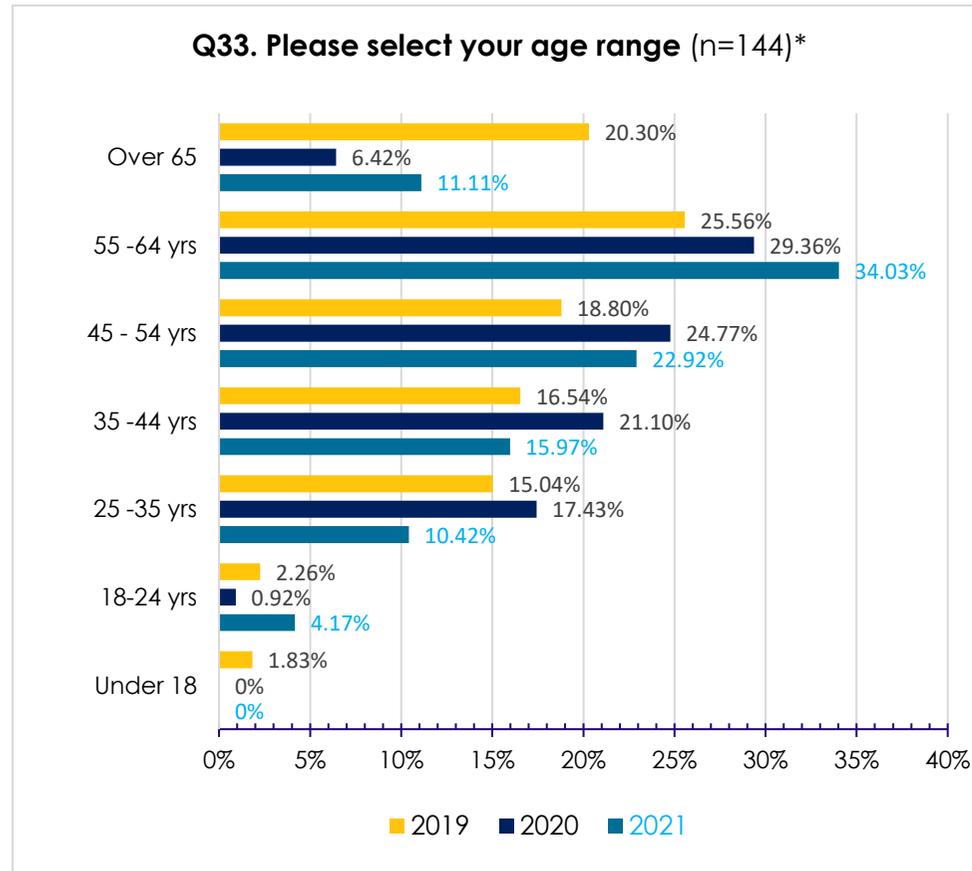
Q32. Have you known someone from the Latrobe Valley who has died or health has been affected as a result of asbestos exposure?

(n=144)

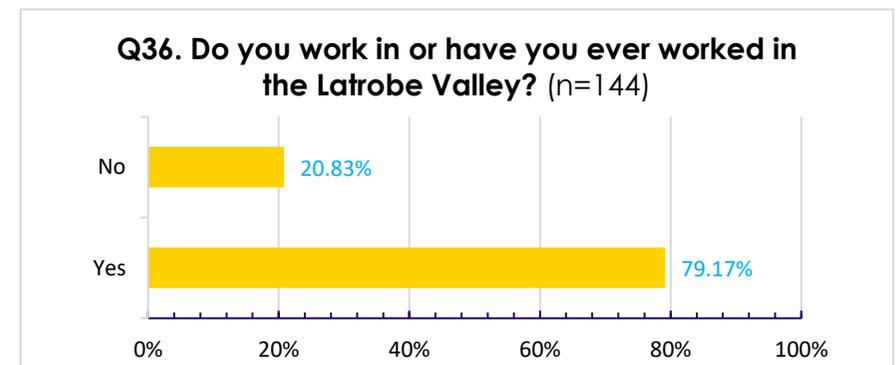
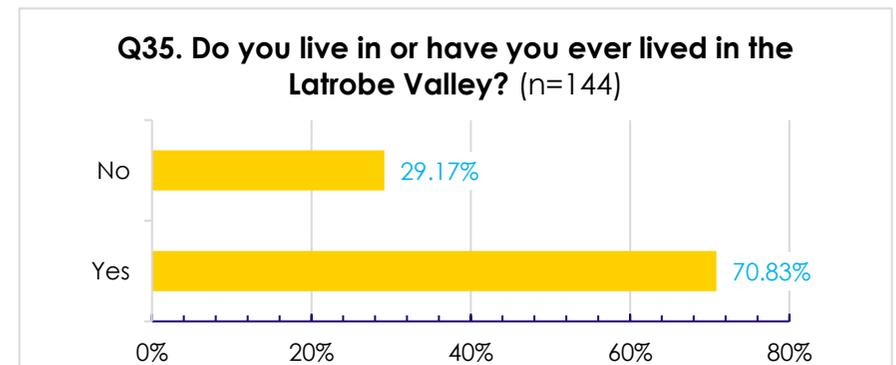
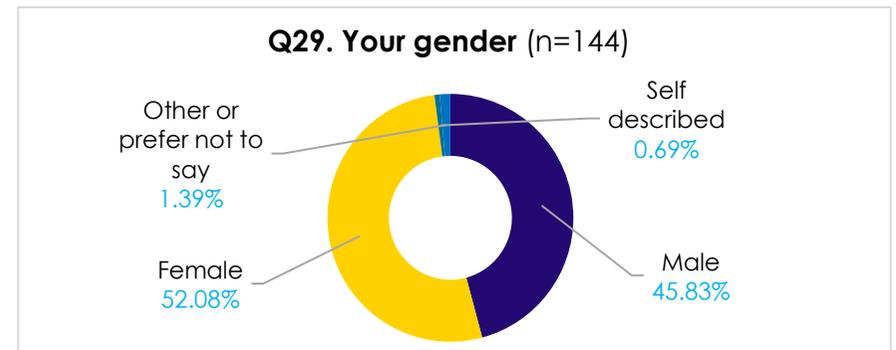


Demographics

Of the 144 respondents, 24 (17%) said they had never either lived or worked in the Latrobe Valley. Female respondents outnumbered male respondents 52% to 46%. Nearly three quarters of respondents (23%) were aged between 45 to 54 years, however the largest group of respondents were aged between 55 to 64 (34%).

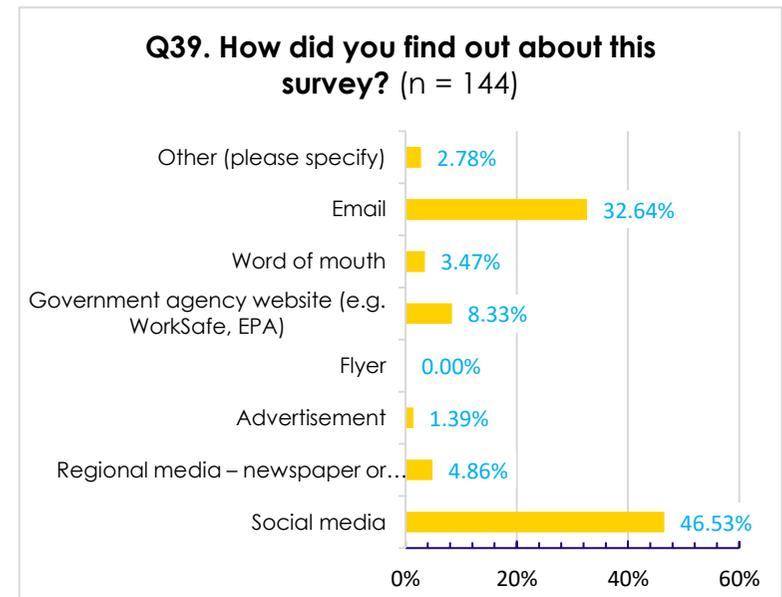
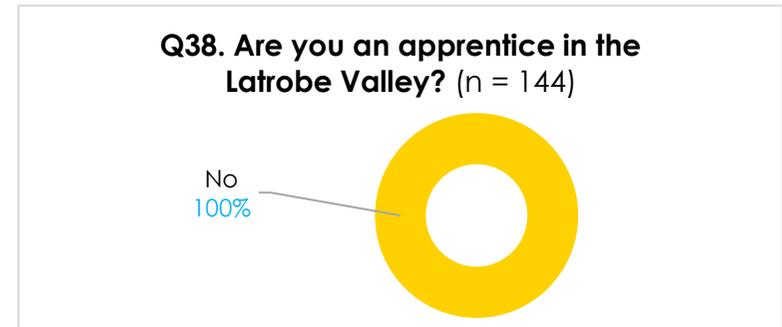
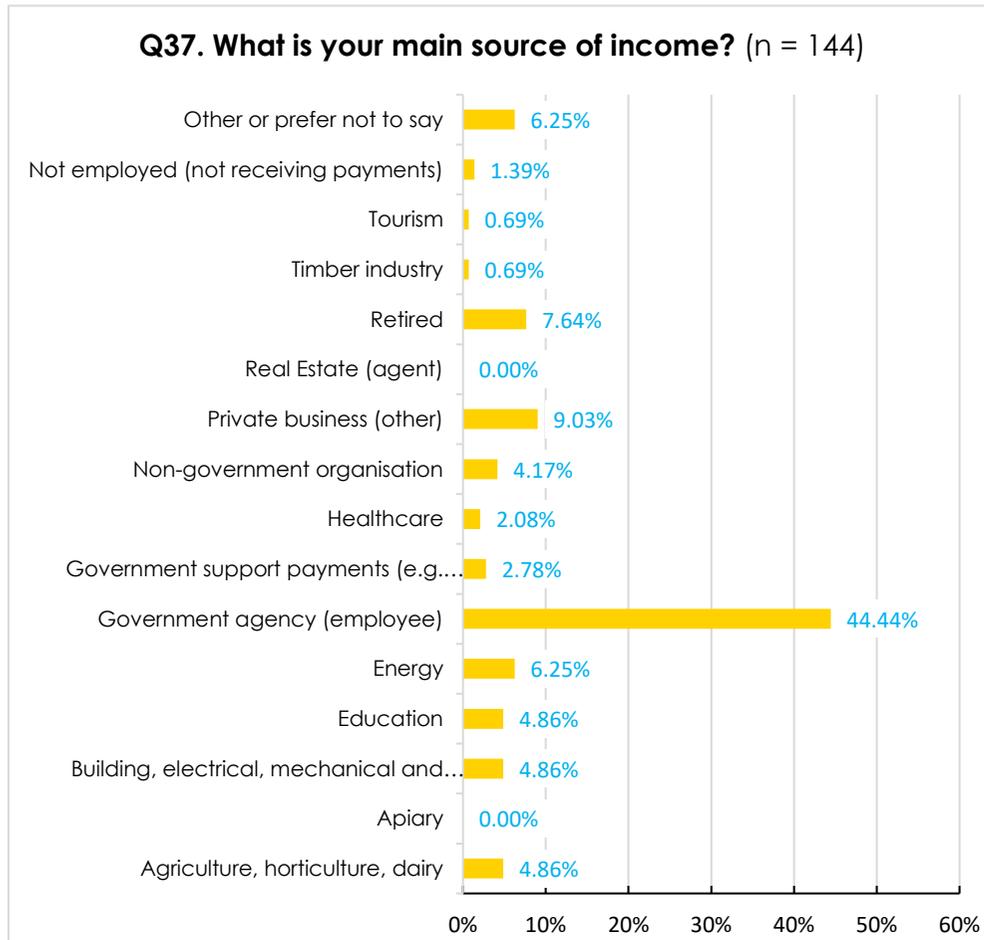


*in the 2019 survey, there were 133 responses to this question, in 2020 there were 109.



The highest number of respondents work in a government agency; this was 44% down from 56% in the 2020 survey. Next are private business at 9% then retirees at 8%. and energy following at 6%.

Again, this year, no respondents identified as an apprentice. Half (46%) of the respondents found out about the survey via social media – predominantly Facebook, which is higher than the 2020 survey results of 39%. Followed by one third of respondents via direct email.



Conclusion

In 2019 asbestos in power stations was a significant concern in the Latrobe Valley community, but this has dropped from 37% to 12%, signalling confidence in the way asbestos disposal is being managed at the former Hazelwood power station site. The two most highly rated concerns in 2021 are the illegal dumping of asbestos and the health impacts of asbestos exposure.

Awareness of the general dangers of asbestos continues to be reported at a very high level, however the real risks of asbestos exposure for those doing home renovations are not broadly understood.

As was found in both of the previous surveys, home renovation and improvement activities continue to be extremely popular, among both women and men. What continues to be a concern is the fact that not all homes built before 1990 are being checked by an asbestos professional prior to works being undertaken. There is also an alarmingly high level of confidence (37%) among home renovators that believe they can do their own asbestos assessments, when only 1 in 10 (12%) have received any formal training.

Asbestos was used in over 3,000 building products and those who have undertaken training come to understand just how common it is and as a result are less confident in their own ability to identify products that may contain asbestos.

The trends that were originally identified in the 2019 benchmark study still apply: the need for increased education and awareness, more accessible and low-cost disposal options, and greater levels of regulation and compliance.

Further comments from respondents

Managing asbestos:

- “ It needs to be removed if practicable if not clearly labelled as for people renovating leave it the experts as for illegal dumping huge fines
- “ Government should be responsible for removing asbestos from all buildings and structures.
- “ Workplaces need training on identification and safe disposal for their ground staff

Housing in the Latrobe Valley:

- “ A lot of the homes in the Latrobe have asbestos in and on the outside of them including Roofs, and outbuildings. Why aren't homeowners forced to replace the asbestos to make the buildings safer to the community. Also, Town water is also piped through asbestos pipes which leech asbestos into drinking water when they break.
- “ My whole house is made from asbestos, 1950's Morwell house, I can't afford to remove it and I worry what it's doing to us. But what can I do?

Asbestos removal:

- “ Illegal dumping on crown land is a big headache and cost for agencies
- “ I'm unsure which asbestos services are actually useful and which are just trying to vacuum up money

Asbestos Exposure:

- “ People I know, know that asbestos is dangerous, but aren't aware of the specific details. There have been good advertising campaigns to teach people to fear asbestos, but some people are now irrationally scared, and need to understand that when undisturbed it is not that bad.
- “ As a kid my father disposed of asbestos for local builders and home renovators for cash. I was tasked to smash it up and put it into feed bags and we buried it in postholes on our farm. Today still , people are negligent

Awareness/education:

- “ Not enough training for the younger trades in the recognition of asbestos
- “ The dangers of asbestos need to be covered in the construction induction if it is not included already, it should be part of all trades training at TAFE in the first year.
- “ Whilst medium to large business in the Gippsland has policy and procedures regarding the identification and disposal of asbestos, small business, from our observation, whilst they are aware of the dangers put their workers at risk.
- “ Education, education, and inform people that it doesn't stop you doing works or cost excessive \$ to have it professionally removed
- “ Love the recent commercials on TV.

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