



To Whom It May Concern,

As the Executive Officer of Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA I am writing in support of all 34 recommendations of the review into Model WHS laws. In particular our organisation supports recommendations 33 and 34 which refer to asbestos. Transparency and clear processes regarding asbestos identification and removal in Australia will support the efforts to stop illegal imports as the border when information about the imported products is shared in a timely manner with the appropriate bodies. Safer workplaces benefit all Australian workers and community members.

Whilst we support the recommendations presented in the review, it is also clear that while countries around the world and in our region continue to import, manufacture and trade asbestos and asbestos containing products, this hazardous substance will continue to be illegally imported into Australia, as is described in page 157 of the review document.

Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA works with partner organisations overseas and in Australia to promote international bans of asbestos. Our organisation is funded through the Australian Government's aid and development program (specifically the Australian NGO Cooperation Program), the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency and donors. Australia is uniquely placed in our region to provide a leading role in supporting other states in their progress towards banning asbestos, following Australia's ban in 2003.

Regards,

Kate Lee

Executive Officer