



**Respondent No:** 12

**Login:** [REDACTED]

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**Responded At:** Aug 28, 2023 10:09:34 am

**Last Seen:**

Aug 27, 2023 22:51:11 pm

**IP Address:**

[REDACTED]

Q4. This submission is written on behalf of an:

Individual

Q8. Publication of submission (select one)

Publish my submission online anonymously

Q9. Would you like to complete the submission  
online or upload a document?

I would like to complete an online submission

Q10. Do you have a clear understanding of the definitions of a competent person for asbestos-related tasks? How could any misunderstandings be addressed or clarified?

How do you prove the individual has the experience? Who checks to see if the individual can do what they say they can, not once has an [REDACTED] employee, checked on the hygienist on any site I have been on they only want to look at the insurance for the removalist. complete a check of the competence of the hygienist or worker prior to giving them a license or at least have someone see a job being carried out by the worker. Pass or fail have the authority make comment on the competence of the worker and potentially request further training. Have them sit a question and answer session while being assessed.

**Q11. Do you see a benefit in aligning the training, qualification and experience requirements of competent persons, licensed asbestos assessors and asbestos removal supervisors for asbestos-related tasks? If so, what do you think the training, qualification and experience requirements should be? Please provide information and reasons to support your response.**

When gaining my Assessor licence, not a single person actually checked to see if I could do what I said I could. Paper based evidence is not the same as actually seeing the person do the job. When I train hygienists or go to site to work with removalist I ask left field questions to see if they have a understanding of the works. Basic questions can gauge easily the level of knowledge in the individual, Even just watching a worker placing pumps out in the field can gauge the bad habits they have or the procedures they follow. Speaking with colleagues some talk a great game but when on site it is mind blowing to see what and how they do the job, As this job is mainly on your own at site, checks of the worker don't happen enough and or are very infrequent. More time should be dedicated by companies to assess their own staff out in the field not in a classroom open book environment like most do. Just because a person has been in the industry for years doesn't mean they are experienced if they have only been on the same type of site. I know of staff sitting on a site for years doing the same thing each day putting out pumps and picking them up, never doing a clearance or other types of work like audits just pumps on and off, this does not count for competent. After working in the industry (6 months) get the worker to do a training course like you would for a B class where you go and get taught then answer questions on being a hygienist/ WHS consultant. Then after another amount of time get them to do a friable course with an enclosure set up with issues and get them to find and highlight the issues. This would represent each time a consultant has a friable enclosure to assess, containment checks and understanding air changes and dead areas within a containment is lacking across the board. Within WorkSafe Vic there is a Asbestos Inspector their role is to a quantify the new applications for A and B class licenses. But nothing for Hygienists of any sort that i know of in any state in Australia. I turn up to buildings and get told they got rid of all the asbestos years ago! then I find poor removals or missed items. Especially if the company is doing a tick and flick or an old report as part of a Div 5 audit update. I understand cost is an issue but training should be better or more thorough with mentoring and time spent with an experienced person on site and not just in a classroom.

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**Q12. Are there any other issues regarding the definition and requirements of competent persons for asbestos-related tasks that should be considered? Please provide information and reasons to support your response.**

Within companies there is an argument that staff are competent before they are so they can send them out to sites to do jobs. This suits the company, but does not qualify them as competent. A nationwide company in Australia use graduates and send them out for a short while with a competent person then leave them to it, when a problem arises some do not make a call for assistance as they do not want to look incompetent or stupid. I have given advice to this companies staff while on site to help them, as I believe some of these younger consultants are making the industry look bad. I also gave feedback to the owner of the company as we used to work together for [REDACTED]. If no checks are done of consultants and or hygienists, the standard will never get any better and the \$400 a day air mon and clearance companies will continue to make a mockery of the industry and its standards. What standards do small companies abide by if they do not have NATA approved paperwork and hand over all cowl and samples to other companies so they can keep costs down to provide cheap clearances, but also companies do not spend the time to conduct the work to a level that meets standards and hand over a clearance letter without carrying out a visual inspection or adequate timed air monitoring. Standardised training will cut out the cowboy operators and make companies get to a level where they meet current standards.

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**Q13. Is there any other additional feedback you would like to provide?**

I worked on a site with [REDACTED] as the client. This site should have been the poster boy of all sites in the state. [REDACTED] used advice from a consultancy to lower the standard of the management and monitoring on the site without getting advice from [REDACTED] owns hygienists, this was very disappointing as a consultant that wants to do the right thing be told it comes down to cost when [REDACTED] is the client! [REDACTED] should have specific trained inspectors that look at asbestos works from Audits to notified abatement as they do with the HSE in the UK. If the job was to be created I would put my hand up and apply immediately as I see so many things being done badly or wrong on so many sites. This could be poor removal or lazy auditing on buildings, or clearance inspections that do not pick up all asbestos debris. I have been to a number of school where a clearance has been provided then I have found debris on the site after the clearance that took two days to remove the missed items. This was a school and so infuriating that my manager wanted me to highlight it [REDACTED] but that would have blacklisted me in the state and in the industry. [REDACTED] for me is not being proactive enough on any asbestos removal job at present, to highlight poor work from Asbestos Hygienists or surveyors. With the standards as they are at present it does not bode well for future sites and jobs.

**Q14. Please upload your submission document or any supporting information to your submission here (optional)**

not answered

**Q15. Terms and conditions**

I have read and understand the Engage terms and conditions (<https://engage.swa.gov.au/terms>) for making this submission.