

# WA home to new National Asbestos Diseases Research Centre

A state-of-the-art research centre into asbestos related diseases has been launched in Perth, which WA scientists say will have major benefits in the screening and treatment of people at risk of cancers such as mesothelioma.

**t**he new National Research Centre for Asbestos Related Diseases will be formally hosted by the University of Western Australia and based at the leading Western Australian Institute for Medical Research. WAIMR works in partnership with the WA Department of Health and the state's public hospitals.

UWA Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Robson, said the centre will have an extremely positive impact into the research of asbestos related diseases.

"The devastation caused by asbestos-related diseases is already significant, and is on the rise, due to the long delay between asbestos exposure and diagnosis of conditions such as malignant mesothelioma, so the formation of this centre is critical in helping to fast-track research that could lead to breakthroughs to treat these disorders," said Professor Robson.

The centre will consist of a strong group of researchers from across the nation who will follow up on important aspects recently discovered such as blood tests and treatments for mesothelioma.

The researchers will use the latest technologies in their quest to better understand how to combat these diseases which will result in new hope for sufferers.

It is also hoped that the new research facility will help determine why some mesothelioma patients respond well to therapy while others don't.

WAIMR Director, Professor Peter Klinken, said the centre would provide exciting opportunities.

"This research initiative will no doubt help us to further uncover the environmental and genetic causes of mesothelioma and other asbestos-related disorders," Professor Klinken said.

UWA will contribute \$900,000 into the centre over the next three years in recognition of the importance that developing medical research has for all Australians.

The launch of the new centre coincided with National Asbestos Week.



 Professor Bruce Robson with Ellen Barns, a mesothelioma patient

## Premiers Circulars UPDATE

Premier's Circular 2006/10 'Reduction in interstate and overseas travel by Government officers on official business' is now available at <http://www.dpc.wa.gov.au/psmd/pubs/legis/premcirculars/premierscirc.cfm>