

Petition

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives assembly
Date Secretary parliament.

The petition of certain residents of the State of New South Wales draws to the attention of the House a treatment available for certain types of asbestos related cancers.

- Asbestos has been used in more than 3000 commercial products. Many people in the community could have unknowingly been exposed to asbestos in the past and could develop an asbestos-related disease.
- Mesothelioma is an aggressive cancer that forms in the lining of the lungs at any time from 10 years to 60 years after first exposure to asbestos. The average life expectancy following diagnosis with mesothelioma is about one year.
- The cancer treatment, Alimta, has been found to prolong life and relieve the pain of those suffering from mesothelioma.
- An independent report has found up to half of all Australians with mesothelioma are not receiving this standard-of-care treatment.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray the House to ensure the drug **ALIMTA** is immediately placed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme or subsidised for those suffering from mesothelioma as soon as possible.