

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, call on the House of Representatives to urgently draft and pass legislation enabling the provision of special funding to subsidise the cost of standard-of-care chemotherapy treatment for the lung disease called mesothelioma.

We believe that the best treatment available should be made accessible to all victims, where medically appropriate, at a price everyone can afford under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listing, regardless of where victims live or how they contracted the disease.

Furthermore, we respectfully request that the House take note that:

- An independent report has found up to half of all Australians with mesothelioma aren't gaining access to this standard-of-care treatment for the disease, while others receive fully subsidised access to the same therapy.
- That the report found extreme access inequities exist between mesothelioma patients in different States, among those attending different hospitals, and between those exposed to asbestos via occupational hazard and those who cannot establish how they were exposed.

We respectfully request urgent attention and action to address the inequity of access to treatment that currently faces victims of mesothelioma in Australia: