

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000501

**OUTCOME:** 5 - Regulation, Safety and Protection

**Topic:** Asbestos Safety

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Roberts, Malcolm

**Question:**

In many buildings that are around 20 years old or older, tradesmen and home renovators find wall and ceiling panels that they cannot be sure are asbestos or hardiflex because the panels are painted and they appear similar. Is there any plan to assist home renovators and tradesmen with a quick and easy way to identify which is which, so renovation work has minimal delay and minimal costs in the identification, planning and quote stage of jobs?

**Answer:**

The Environmental Health Standing Committee (of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee under the COAG Health Council framework) has developed a publication called *Asbestos – A guide for householders and the general public*. It can be found at the following link:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-enhealth-asbestos-may2012.htm>