

Petition

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives:

This petition of certain citizens of Australia draws to the attention of the House:

- The poisoning of Australians by asbestos is a modern day industrial catastrophe which Karen Banton, the wife of the late anti-asbestos campaigner, Bernie Banton, has warned could happen again.
- The Bernie Banton Foundation estimates that in 10 years time some 40,000 Australians will have contracted asbestos-related cancer.
- There was a great violation of trust of Australians by executives of James Hardie who lied to workers about the dangers of asbestos.
- Whilst asbestos has been banned from use in Australia, many countries, such as Canada, continue to mine and export asbestos and export asbestos products.

We therefore ask the House to ensure that Australia takes a leading role in establishing a treaty to prevent the mining and export of asbestos worldwide and to promote the teaching of business ethics in our schools and universities.