

# Action Mesothelioma Day 2018

## The past, present & future of mesothelioma

Date: Friday 6 July 2018

### Event summary

A day to raise awareness of mesothelioma and other asbestos related diseases and to seek justice for victims.

Brachers is the leading law firm in Kent and Medway specialising in asbestos claims. We work on a no win, no fee basis and are dedicated to getting prompt, full and fair compensation for our clients.

We are the only solicitors in Kent and Medway with an asbestos disease specialist accredited by the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers.

We offer a full mesothelioma compensation claim service. Please contact Jeremy Horton on 01622 680415 or [JeremyHorton@brachers.co.uk](mailto:JeremyHorton@brachers.co.uk) if you would like to discuss how we can help.

### The law of compensation

Jeremy Horton, Partner at Brachers

- Jeremy is a Partner and Head of Brachers' Personal Injury and Industrial Disease teams. Jeremy gave an overview of the law of compensation for mesothelioma victims, past, present and future.
- Jeremy highlighted the current issues with low exposure asbestos claims. Here the challenge is in proving the exposure in the absence of routine air monitoring. The positive news is that in February this year, the Court of Appeal in Veronica Bussey v Anglia Heating, accepted there could be liability for lower level asbestos exposure after 1965.
- An increasing number of claims are still expected to result from more recent exposures from our public buildings, especially schools.
- Diagnoses of Mesothelioma are not expected to peak until 2020 to 2025 when "the same old suspects" will be expected to be the main source of claims including the three big "b"s - boats, boiler houses and building sites.

### National Mesothelioma Audit Report

Dr Loke, Respiratory Physician

- Dr Loke is a Respiratory Physician. He discussed the National Mesothelioma Audit Report. It is the third report from the national lung cancer audit office and was published in June 2018.
- It is encouraging to note that there have been more patients with a good performance status receiving systemic anti-cancer treatment.
- It is not all good news as the report highlights wide variations in core outcomes across the country.
- Sadly most patients do not survive beyond a year and survival rates for over three years are very low. There are still improvements required on outcomes across the country.

### A campaigner's story

Ray and Mavis Nye

- Ray Nye is a Mesothelioma campaigner. Ray worked at Chatham Dockyard in the 1950s.
- Ray's wife, Mavis, was diagnosed with Mesothelioma in 2008 and given a prognosis of 3 months. It is thought that Mavis was exposed to asbestos from the dust on Ray's overalls.
- Mavis defied the odds though and after completing a drug trial at the Royal Marsden Hospital she was given the all clear in 2016.
- Unfortunately Ray and Mavis recently received the devastating news that the disease has returned. However, Mavis is returning to treatment this week and remains hopeful of a recovery.
- Mavis campaigns tirelessly to raise awareness of mesothelioma and to educate others about the dangers of asbestos exposure.

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Event summary continued...

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### The work of the National Mesothelioma Centre

Professor Bill Cookson, Head of the National Mesothelioma Centre

- Professor Cookson is a Professor of Human Genetics and Head of National Mesothelioma Centre.
- The National Mesothelioma Centre's mission is for national and international excellence in research into malignant mesothelioma and lung cancers.
- The Centre hopes its research will lead to more effective screening for earlier diagnosis and prevention of the disease.
- It's focus is on ways to predict the clinical course of patients from the time they present together with effective treatments to eliminate or control the growth of tumours.

### The risk of asbestos in schools

John Reeves, NUT representative and former science teacher

- John is a science teacher and NUT representative. He taught in a modular made school. Such types of schools were first built in the late 1950s into the 60s and 70s and are known to contain large amounts of asbestos from floor tiles to roof sheets, toilet seats to wall panels.
- There is a growing need for schools to take the danger of asbestos seriously by informing staff and parents where the asbestos is and educating staff on how to prevent exposure.
- John cited that approximately 90% of schools contain asbestos and 19 to 20 teachers die from mesothelioma each year. For every teacher that dies it is expected that 10 – 20 children will also die.

### The work of Mesothelioma UK

Louise Gilham, Clinical Nurse Specialist

- Louise is a Meso UK Clinical Nurse Specialist. She is also the Chair of the Kent and Medway lung cancer nurse forum.
- Louise started work as a nurse in 1989 in Portsmouth. At the time there was little public awareness or interest in Mesothelioma.
- Today there are 60 specialist Meso UK nurses and several support groups and charities. A much wider range of treatment also exists from surgery, chemotherapy and immunotherapy.
- Meso UK's 5 year strategy is dedicated to 'making Mesothelioma matter' through further campaigns, research and more specialist nurses.