

Information sheet: Asbestos registers and management plans

August 2013

**The Uniting Church in Australia
is committed to providing safe places
where people are cared for, nurtured
and sustained.**

The hazards and exposures associated with asbestos containing materials can be significant. Following changes to legislation effective from 1 January 2012, the Church is considered as a 'Person conducting a business or undertaking' (PCBU) and has a primary duty of care to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety of workers or any other persons at the workplace. Officers of the PCBU also have statutory duties along those same lines; refer to the [Queensland Synod's Workplace Health and Safety Policy](#) for further information. All Church workplaces (including places of worship) are required to comply with new and previously existing duties relating to asbestos.

Codes of Practice detailing information in respect of managing and removing asbestos are available for download from the [Work Health and Safety Queensland](#) internet site:

- [How to Manage and Control Asbestos in the Workplace Code of Practice 2011](#); and
- [How to Safely Remove Asbestos Code of Practice 2011](#).

Obligations and responsibilities

As addressed in [The Uniting Church in Australia Regulation 4.4.1. \(g\)](#), the Church Council is responsible for the use and management of all property acquired or held for the Congregation. This would include ensuring that the Church is not exposed to potential risks, claims, fines or penalties associated with failing to comply with the legislative requirements relating to asbestos registers and management plans.

The asbestos reporting that was undertaken in 2002 and 2003 for Church workplaces (including places of worship) would not comply with the requirements under current legislation and will need to be undertaken in a manner compliant with current legislative requirements.

It has recently been identified that only some Congregations have reviewed previously completed asbestos reports and registers in order to ensure they comply with current legislation. Given that the deadline for compliance with current legislation is 1 January 2014, each Congregation is required to review any previously completed asbestos reports/ registers and ensure that they have up to date asbestos registers and management plans.

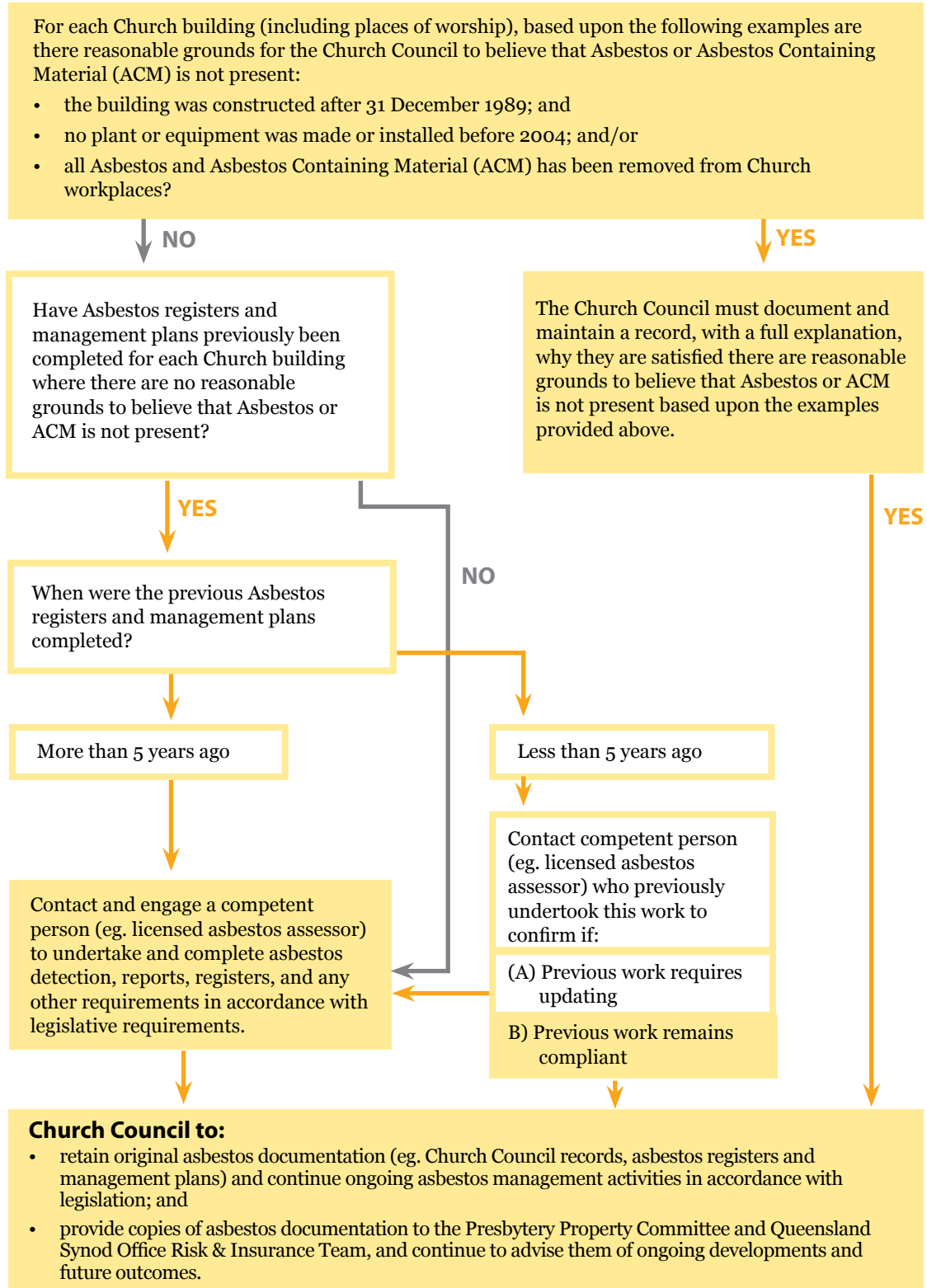
To assist Congregations with this process, Flowchart 1 on page 2 of this information sheet outlines a basic process that can be followed in helping decide what further action (if any) may be required. It should be noted that the process outlined in Flowchart 1 is only provided as a guide, and if a Congregation is uncertain or unsure about whether or not they need to take further action they should contact a qualified asbestos management consultant.



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Flowchart 1 – asbestos action decision process



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Asbestos management consultants

The Queensland Synod Office has not currently engaged nor have we endorsed any one particular company specialising in this area. Please find following a list of a number of specialist firms in the Asbestos field that may be able to assist with providing your Congregation a quotation to undertake these services.

Asbestos Audits Queensland
PO Box 3657
Loganholme QLD 4129
Phone: 07 5549 2250
Internet: www.asbestos-audits.com.au

Field Enviro
PO Box 5788
Mackay MC QLD 4741
Phone: 07 4952 1303
Internet: www.fieldenviro.com.au

GCG Health Safety & Hygiene
PO Box 698
Townsville QLD 4810
Phone: 07 4725 0659
Internet: www.gcg.net.au

Queensland Asbestos Management Services
PO Box 572
Buderim QLD 4556
Phone: 1300 364 152
Internet: www.qams.com.au

Quality Building Management (QBM)
PO Box 1474
Capalaba QLD 4157
Phone: 1300 880 466
Internet: www.qbm.com.au

Other firms may also be available by checking the [Asbestos Industry Association Members](#) internet page; or in the [Yellow Pages](#); or your local telephone directory.

Additional work health and safety resources

Further information in respect of Asbestos, Risk Management, and other Workplace Health and Safety topics can also be found on the [Queensland Synod Work Health and Safety](#) internet site.

Contact information

Should you have any additional queries in respect of asbestos registers and management plans, please contact the Queensland Synod Office:

Workplace Health and Safety

Email: health.safety@ucaqld.com.au
Phone (07) 3377 9729 Fax (07) 3377 9716



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