Media Statement 

**TO:** Anna Whitfield – Radio National ABC Radio

**DATE:** Friday 25 July, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Mr Fluffy

***Please attribute to a spokesperson for the NSW Ministry of Health***

NSW Health does not have evidence to confirm any details (trading name or contact details) about historic suppliers of loose-fill asbestos insulation in the State.

The only record NSW Health has on the issue suggests there was another contractor (besides Mr Fluffy) using this material in the State’s South West in the late 1960s.

As a result, in 1991 the then South West Region public health unit notified all councils in the southwest region asking them to notify ratepayers of the possibility of loose fibre asbestos having been used in their homes.

Councils were advised that the asbestos does not constitute a risk if the structural integrity of the roof space is not breached and that the residents should not enter their roof space should they suspect that it may contain asbestos.

NSW Health takes the risks of asbestos seriously and works closely with key government agencies to manage the risks through the Heads of Asbestos Coordination Authorities (HACA). This ensures there is a coordinated and appropriate response to all asbestos related issues in NSW.

Both ACT and NSW agrees on the health hazard posed by the loose fill asbestos insulation, which only becomes a risk to health if an exposure pathway exists that allows the inhalation of airborne asbestos fibres.

In 1993, the NSW Government evaluated the level of risk posed by the loose fill asbestos in the seven homes identified at the time in Queanbeyan, NSW. The assessment concluded that exposure to asbestos is likely to be very low provided the asbestos is undisturbed and sealed off from the living areas.

Risk control advice on loose fill asbestos insulation has been developed by HACA and is provided at:

<http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/formspublications/publications/Pages/loose-fill-asbestos-insulation.aspx>