

Groups unite to push for asbestos health facilities

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Power industry unions have joined forces with community support groups to demand better health facilities and support for people suffering from asbestos-related diseases.

The Gippsland Trades and Labor Council has written to the Victorian Government saying there are insufficient medical and associated facilities, despite the high prevalence of the diseases among power industry workers.

Luke Vandermeulen from the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union says the unions and the support groups have come together in the hope of forcing some action from the Government.

"The GARDS [Gippsland Asbestos and Related Diseases Support] group is going to be involved, the LADS [Latrobe Asbestos Disease Support] group is going to be involved, the medical profession will be involved and I think also the legal profession will be involved in pushing the Government towards a decent response to a major issue in the Latrobe Valley, which is asbestos," he said.

"I think that's going to be the way of the future...that all the groups get together and push as one, because it's a common issue and we need to have a common push to a solution."

Source: ABC Regional Online, Australia