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New asbestos research centre appropriate tribute to Bernie Banton

Mr Ken Fowle, Executive Director, Slater & Gordon, said today's opening of the new Bernie Banton Centre at Concord Hospital in western Sydney is an important step forward in finding a cure for the thousands of victims suffering from asbestos related diseases across Australia.

"This new research centre will play an important leadership role in finding a cure to asbestos related diseases that strike down hundreds of Australians each year," Mr Fowle said.

"It will also promote the need for more research into prevention, early diagnosis and better treatment."

Mr Fowle said naming the world's first dedicated asbestos research centre after Bernie Banton was an appropriate honour to the late asbestos campaigner.

"Bernie Banton, more than anyone else, became the public face of asbestos sufferers," Mr Fowle said.

"He was a brave fighter who, until his death in 2007, led a major campaign that ultimately brought James Hardie and its executives to justice."

In 2004, Slater & Gordon established the Slater & Gordon Asbestos Research Fund which has now grown to \$1 million.

Since 2004 more than \$500,000 has been donated to various health professionals and hospitals to advance the study of asbestos-related disease, including lung cancer.

For more information

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