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ASBESTOS VICTIM DONATES HARDIE MONEY – LAW FIRM RAISES FUND TO \$1 MILLION

On February 5 2007, 12 months ago, Melbourne inventor Tim Lacone won a record \$2.75 million settlement from asbestos manufacturer James Hardie and pledged to donate a substantial portion to medical research for a cure for the killer asbestos-cancer mesothelioma.

Mr Lacone died on June 24. Today in Melbourne his family honoured his wishes with a \$200,000 donation to the Slater & Gordon Asbestos Research Fund.

With the Slater & Gordon Asbestos Research Fund's initial \$500,000 exhausted in less than four years, Tim Lacone's bequest is especially timely.

The Slater & Gordon Foundation has decided to follow Tim Lacone's lead with a donation of a further \$300,000, bringing the Fund's total to \$1 million.

Slater & Gordon senior partner and deputy chair Peter Gordon says it's time for others to stand up, like Tim Lacone, with funding to support scientists and health professionals in the fight against asbestos disease.

"The corporate world associated with asbestos is well-resourced," Mr Gordon said. "The medical and scientific community is less endowed.

"We'd like to see those who have profited from asbestos now return some of that money to the health crisis that is asbestos' legacy.

"Companies like CSR, managers of the Wittenoom mine, or the insurer Allianz that provided workers compensation cover to the Hardie workforce, or BHP and its shipbuilding operation, or even the lawyers who defend legal claims by dying Australians like Tim Lacone."

Meg Bentley, Tim's sister-in-law, friend and, finally, his carer, says Tim has left a legacy of standing up for things he believed in – in life he faced up to problems like swiftly accepting the diagnosis of terminal cancer, and in death he has delivered on his promise to help others who may face his fate.

Tim Lacone's family is also following through on the development of his revolutionary water-saving invention.

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