Today marks the final day of Asbestos Awareness Month, which aims to educate and create awareness about the dangers of asbestos in Australia.

Minister for Community Services and Parks and Wildlife Bess Price said an Asbestos Removal Program had been developed which will continue in the Northern Territory next year.

“The Department of Community Services is rolling out a $19 million community Asbestos Removal Program over three years,” Mrs Price said.

“This will remove over 9200 square metres of asbestos material from public buildings across remote communities.

“Throughout the three year program, asbestos will be removed from community buildings.

“Tenders have been assessed and the successful tenderer will be announced early December.

“This engagement includes training and employment of local Aboriginal people and 20 per cent local development and engagement of local employment and contracts within the communities.”

The Parks and Wildlife Commission also has an asbestos removal program to deal with asbestos in our parks and reserves.

“This program is a rolling program, with almost half a million to be spent this year in removing asbestos related materials from parks and reserves,” Mrs Price said.

“The main priority of both programs is to minimise the long term health impacts that result from asbestos fibres in the environment.

“A major part of both programs is the consultations with stakeholders and local employment and training.

“The NT Government has also formed an intra-government Asbestos Management Working Group to look at a whole of government approach to asbestos management.”

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