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Press Release

Staff at Abacus ALS breath easy while at work.

Abacus ALS in East Brisbane recently provided their staff with training in asthma management and first aid as part of Asthma Foundation Queensland's Live Well with Asthma workplace training program.

The new 'asthma friendly' workplace, which is dedicated providing quality in vitro diagnostic and research products to laboratories across Australia and New Zealand, took part in the one hour workshop in order to be able to help colleagues, customers and volunteers manage an asthma emergency if required.

The 11 Abacus ALS staff voluntarily attending the workshop in their lunch break learned about asthma symptoms, triggers and medications; the importance of an asthma action plan; and what to do in an emergency (when someone has an asthma attack).

With one in ten Queenslanders living with asthma, it is possible that a majority of medium to large sized workplaces have an increasing number of staff members with asthma and it is important that everyone in the workplace feels confident in providing asthma first aid in an emergency.

'An asthma attack can become fatal in the space of three minutes,' said Asthma Educator, Tanya Raineri. 'By training employees in asthma first aid and asthma management, we are giving staff with asthma the best possible care and we enable them to breathe easy while at work.'

A recent survey of people with asthma, which was conducted by Asthma Foundation Queensland in conjunction with independent research company TNS, found that less than 43% of people knew what to do if someone close to them was having an asthma attack.

Asthma Foundation CEO Mark Brooke has complimented Abacus ALS on providing a duty of care to their workforce in providing the training. 'Many people say 'it's just asthma' and play down the seriousness of the condition,' said Mark Brooke, CEO Asthma Foundation Queensland.

'However, it is important for workplaces to be informed and skilled on what to do in an emergency.'

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Asthma Foundation Queensland holds asthma workshops for schools, preschools, workplaces, and people with asthma in the community.

For more information Asthma Foundation workplace training program or community workshops, or to gain further information about asthma, register with the Foundation by calling Asthma Assist on 1800 645 130 or visit www.asthmafoundation.org.au

Further inquiries should be directed to Christine Johnson, Business Development Manager, Abacus ALS c.johnson@abacus-als.com, +61 (0)7 3391 9756.