

Question on Notice
No. 1084
Asked on 9 August 2005

MR MESSENGER asked the Minister for Education and Minister for the Arts (Mr Welford) -

QUESTION:

- (1) For each of the last two financial years and for the year to date, will he provide details of all State schools that have had (a) air monitoring and/or (b) dust monitoring undertaken for the presence of asbestos and for each of these schools will he provide a complete summary of all testing results?
- (2) For each school listed in (1), will he provide details of the contractor engaged to conduct the testing in each instance and the date that testing was conducted?
- (3) For each school listed in (1), will he provide details of all communications made to staff, parents or students to inform that testing was being carried out and the subsequent results of the testing?

ANSWER:

In answering this question for the member, I would like to reiterate that whilst air monitoring and dust testing continues to be conducted where necessary in schools, there are strict procedures in place for both the management of asbestos building products and the safety of students. Where there is a disturbance of an asbestos product, students are moved to other areas of the school and cannot occupy that area again until there is a clearance. To that end, the 'list' of schools (below) where a test has occurred serves only to highlight those schools which have been through this process.

- (1) As the member is aware, the data sought in regard to the past two financial years was not collected centrally by Education Queensland. However, I have asked my Department to collate this data from 1 July and it is my intention to make it available on the Education Queensland website in the near future.

I can advise that for the period 1 July to 9 August 2005, data obtained from the Department of Public Works indicates that the following schools have had air monitoring for asbestos conducted:-

Albany Creek State School (08 August 2005), Ayr State High School (21 July 2005), Bellevue Park State School (30 July 2005, 31 July 2005, 03 August 2005), Biggenden State School (30 July 2005, 31 July 2005), Birkdale State School (29 July 2005, 31 July 2005, 03 August 2005, 04 August 2005, 06 August 2005), Bundamba State School (30 July 2005, 31 July 2005), Burleigh Heads State School (23 July 2005), Cleveland State School (05 July 2005, 07 July 2005, 08 July 2005, 09 July 2005, 18 July 2005), Clontarf Beach State High School (31 July 2005), Dirranbandi State School (20 July 2005), Everton Park State High School (08 August 2005), Geebung State School (23 July 2005, 24 July 2005, 30 July 2005, 31 July 2005, 01 August 2005), Gympie State High School (01 July 2005, 02 July 2005, 03 July 2005), Heatley State School (22 July 2005, 23 July 2005), Hendra Secondary College (11 July 2005), Ipswich East State School (19 July 2005, 06 August 2005), Ipswich State High School (09 August 2005), Kelvin Grove State

College (09 July 2005, 16 July 2005, 17 July 2005), Lockyer District State High School (31 July 2005), Macgregor State High School (04 August 2005), Merrimac State High School (30 July 2005), Milchester State School (08 July 2005), Mitchelton State High School (01 August 2005, 02 August 2005, 03 August 2005), Moura State High School (05 August 2005), Newmarket State School (01 July 2005, 02 July 2005, 03 July 2005, 09 July 2005), Pimlico State High School (28 July 2005), Runcorn Heights Pre-School (02 August 2005), Runcorn Heights State School (09 July 2005), Silkstone State School (16 July 2005), Southport State High School (23 July 2005), Sunnybank Hills State School (08 August 2005), Tannum Sands State School (27 July 2005), Townsville State High School (01 July 2005, 09 July 2005), Wavell Heights State School (23 July 2005, 24 July 2005, 30 July 2005, 31 July 2005, 06 August 2005, 07 August 2005), Wavell State High School (30 July 2005, 31 July 2005, 06 August 2005, 07 August 2005), Woodridge State School (04 August 2005).

Department of Public Works data also indicates that the following schools have had dust testing for asbestos during this period: -

Albany Creek State School (08 August 2005), Bellevue Park State School (30 July 2005), Birkdale State School (25 July 2005, 29 July 2005), Blenheim State School (18 July 2005), Brisbane State High School (08 August 2005), Churchill State School (03 August 2005), Corinda State High School (05 August 2005), Everton Park State High School (08 August 2005), Ferny Grove State High School (01 August 2005), Hendra Secondary College (08 July 2005, 11 July 2005), Kelvin Grove State College (05 July 2005, 07 July 2005), Kilcoy State High School (03 August 2005), Lockyer District State High School (31 July 2005), Mackay North State School (15 July 2005), McDowall State School (18 July 2005), Milchester State School (08 July 2005), Mitchelton State High School (07 July 2005, 01 August 2005, 02 August 2005, 09 August 2005), Mount Morgan State High School (22 July 2005), Moura State High School (05 August 2005), Pimlico State High School (23 July 2005), Proserpine State High School (29 July 2005), Runcorn Heights Pre-School (02 August 2005), Stafford Heights Pre-School (04 July 2005), Vienna Woods State School (09 August 2005), Wavell State High School, (11 July 2005), Wilston State School (08 July 2005).

In summary, the air monitoring results confirmed in each instance that air quality was consistent with normal background levels. With respect to dust testing in those schools, where asbestos was detected the areas were professionally cleaned and a clearance issued for reoccupation.

- (2) The Department of Public Works is responsible for engaging contractors and you should refer your question to them. The dates for testing are as shown in 1 above.
- (3) Communication with staff, parents and students regarding asbestos testing is carried out at school level.