

Question on Notice
No. 441
Asked on 24 March 2005

MR SULLIVAN ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND THE ARTS (MS BLIGH) -

QUESTION:

With reference to significant negative publicity generated from one State school regarding the potential health risks of asbestos in school buildings –

Will she advise the true situation regarding health warnings for asbestos related materials in State schools?

ANSWER:

Asbestos products such as roofing, wall sheeting and tiles still in schools do not pose a health risk if left undisturbed and therefore do not require health warnings.

It is Education Queensland policy to remove asbestos immediately from schools should it deteriorate and represent a potential health risk.

Where work is required and asbestos containing product is to be removed, appropriate safety procedures are undertaken and warnings are displayed.

Schools are required to check the asbestos register maintained on each site to ensure that any work scheduled to take place is completed without risk to staff or students.

The asbestos register of each school is available for parents who wish to view it.