

Question on Notice

No. 905

Asked on 7 June 2007

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Education and Training and Minister for the Arts (Mr Welford) -

QUESTION:

How many state schools have potentially hazardous asbestos flooring or other asbestos material and what is the timeline for the removal of each (reported separately by individual school)?

ANSWER:

The Beattie Government is committed to safe school environments and treats matters relating to the health and well-being of students and staff in Queensland schools with utmost care and priority.

This is clearly evidenced by our Asbestos Roof Replacement Program, which – given the continued availability of skilled tradesmen and favourable weather conditions – has been accelerated so that more than 90 per cent of roofs on the replacement schedule have been replaced in just over two years.

Materials containing asbestos were commonly used in buildings, including most domestic houses, built prior to 1990. These materials do not present a health risk if they are undisturbed.

Similarly, there is no risk with asbestos building products in our state schools unless there is a disturbance. Any product which deteriorates or is damaged is replaced, including floor coverings that contain asbestos.

Where school principals report damage to asbestos floor coverings or suspected asbestos floor coverings, arrangements have been made with the Department of Public Works to immediately carry out repairs and replace these where necessary.

Floor covering replacement work is also ongoing in schools as part of various programs including capital works programs, annual and special maintenance programs, as well as works directly managed by schools.