

Question on Notice
No. 1770
Asked on Wednesday, 11 November 2009

MRS STUCKEY asked the Minister for Public Works and Information and Communication Technology (MR SCHWARTEN) -

QUESTION:

With reference to the asbestos-testing of samples taken from school sites 2007–08 and 2008–09:-

1. What firms were engaged by the department to undertake this testing (listed separately)?
2. What percentage of testing is allocated to each company?
3. How is this distribution determined and what auditing procedures are in place to monitor testing procedures and quality?

ANSWER:

1. On 4 March 2007, the Department of Public Works through QBuild awarded a Standing Offer Arrangement for asbestos air monitoring and testing to Parsons Brinckerhoff Australia Pty Ltd (Parsons Brinckerhoff) on the basis of price and organisational capability to deliver the services.

Parsons Brinckerhoff was one of five companies that responded to the Standing Offer Arrangement. At the time QBuild deemed only one supplier necessary for the amount of asbestos removal work identified.

The arrangement is a three year contract with a further three year option. Parsons Brinckerhoff's performance and the potential to extend the arrangement will be reviewed in March 2010.

2. Parsons Brinckerhoff is the only company engaged under this arrangement and therefore, has undertaken 100% of the air monitoring and testing.
3. Parsons Brinckerhoff's performance under the terms and conditions of the agreement has been monitored by QBuild site supervisors. The performance has been highly satisfactory and there have been no adverse performance reports.

The conditions of the contract require Parsons Brinckerhoff to maintain a Quality Assurance system including reports and certifications.