

Question on Notice

No. 291

Asked on 28 February 2019

MR N DAMETTO ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (HON G GRACE)

QUESTION:

Will the Minister commit to review workplace health and safety audit requirements on asbestos removal businesses to ensure local businesses can continue to operate in regional centres?

ANSWER:

The *Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011* (the WHS Regulation) requires strict controls to be implemented during removal of asbestos, including the person conducting the removal holding the correct asbestos removal licence issued by Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ).

Given the dangers of airborne asbestos, it is vital that appropriate safety standards are set, maintained and observed, to ensure that removalists, home and business owners, tenants and the community are provided with the highest standards of safety.

While changing standards could mean lower operating costs for some removalists, health and safety must not be overlooked. The consequences could be disastrous.

WHSQ will remain vigilant in assessing how to strike the best balance between ensuring the highest safety standards and efficient business practices, based on up-to-date research now and into the future.