

Question on Notice

No. 217

Asked on 16 March 2023

MS A LEAHY ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

QUESTION

With reference to the asbestos demolition material from the old Roma Hospital which has for 18 months been unsecured next to residences and a childcare centre—
Will the Minister advise when the Government will remove the asbestos from site?

ANSWER

Queensland Health is committed to protecting the health and wellbeing of its employees, contractors and the community by ensuring that asbestos containing materials (ACM) in its assets are safely and appropriately managed.

ACM removal is conducted in accordance with an Asbestos Management Plan as required under legislative obligations in the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011. ACM is also managed in accordance with the whole-of-government asbestos management policy, and Queensland Health is committed to the long-term objective to have all assets free of ACM.

I am advised that the contractor engaged to demolish the old Roma Hospital and remove ACM from the site identified large amounts of ACM in the old hospital and removed a majority of the ACM from site upon completion of the demolition works. However further ACM was identified, which resulted in the requirement for additional testing activities to be undertaken to confirm the volume of remaining ACM.

I am advised that the removal of the ACM is expected to be complete by December 2023. As removal progresses, investigations and testing continue to ensure all asbestos is identified and removed from the site.

The site has been secured throughout the entire period, with a secure fence installed, to prevent unauthorised access to the site.