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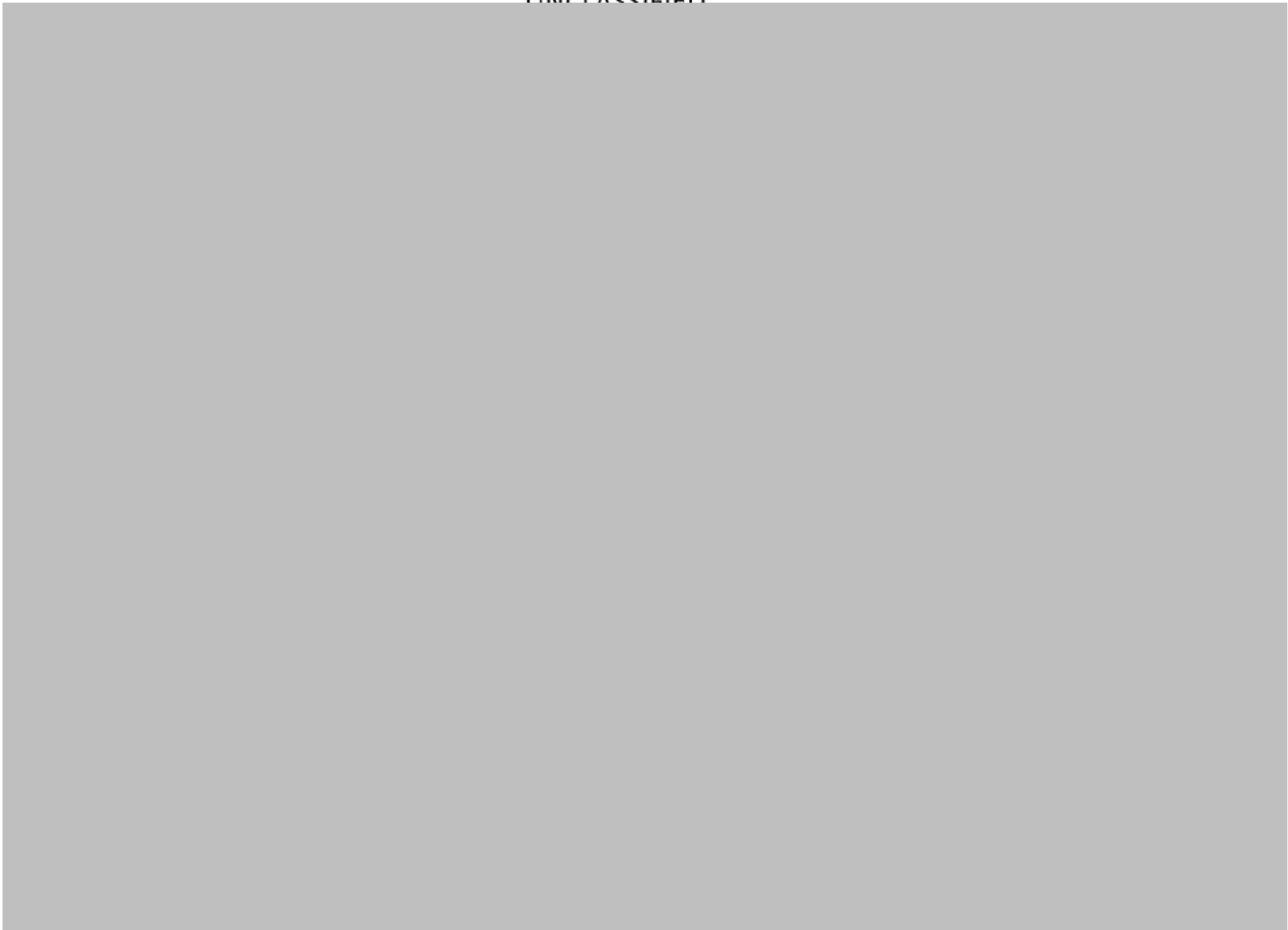
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Signatory Name:	Katy Haire	Phone:	x59158
Action Officer:	Waris Mughal	Phone:	x54674



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MINISTERIAL BRIEF

Education Directorate

Tracking No.: MWB20/1-29

To: Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development

From: Director-General

Date: Thursday, 13 August 2020

Subject: Minister's Weekly Brief

Critical Date: Thursday, 13 August 2020

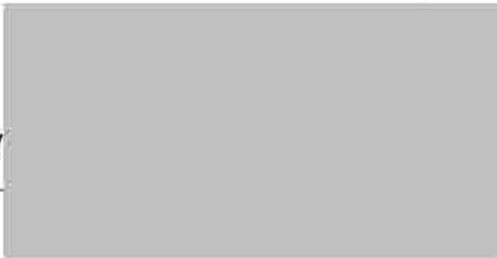
Critical Reason: To ensure you are briefed on current issues and events.

Recommendations



Noted / Please Discuss

Yvette Berry



21/08/20

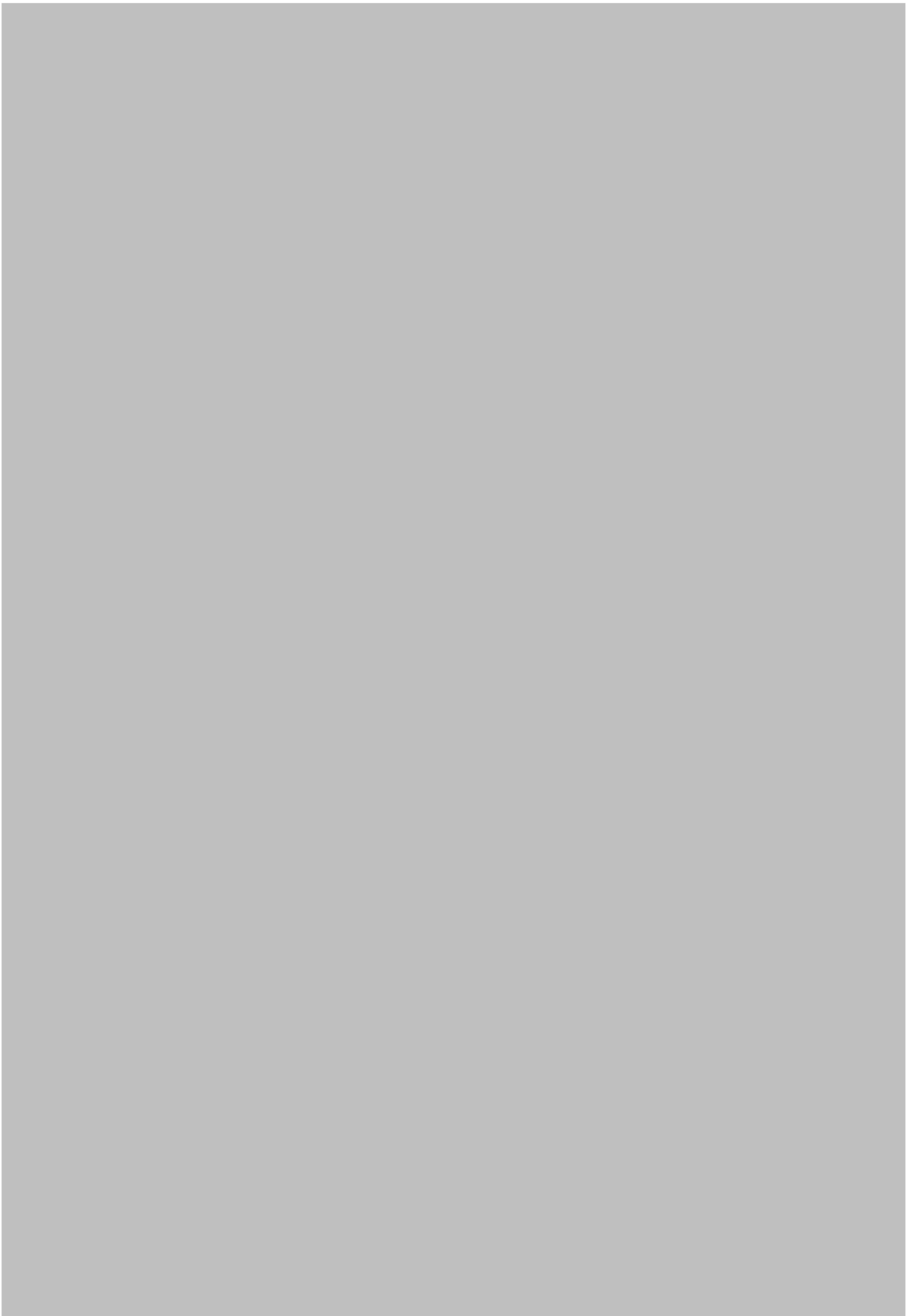
Minister's Office Feedback

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KEY TOPICS/EMERGING ISSUES



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**INFASTRUCTURE AND CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS****3. Repairs and Maintenance****Hazardous materials – Yarralumla Primary School**

Currently, nine classrooms remain offline after test results indicated elevated lead levels, while two received clearance on 7 August 2020. An alternative cleaning process has been adopted and initial test results indicate this has been effective. The school will continue to teach in alternative spaces until all areas are cleared. Clearance was received for two of these rooms on 7 August 2020. The issue has received significant media attention.



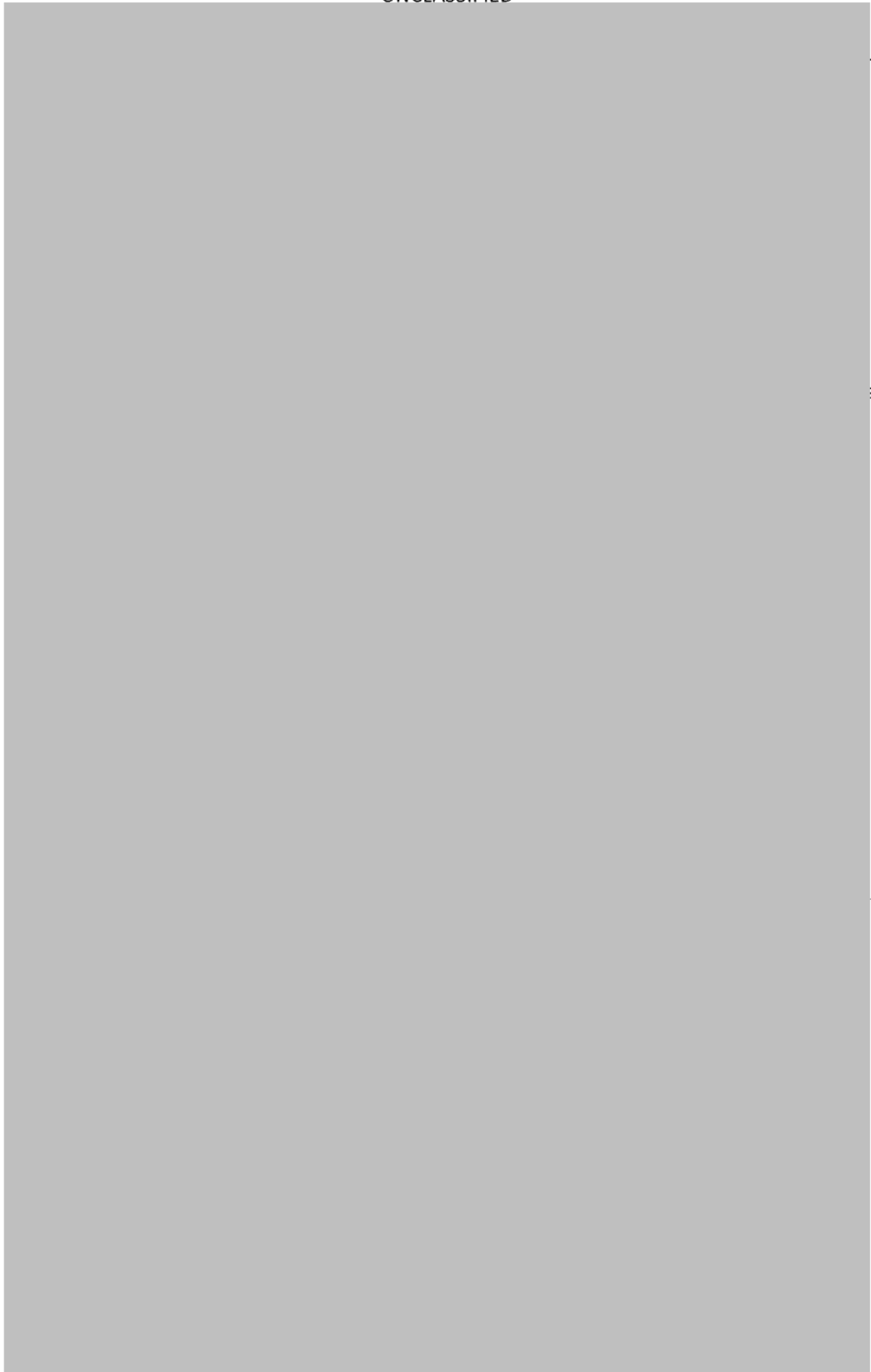
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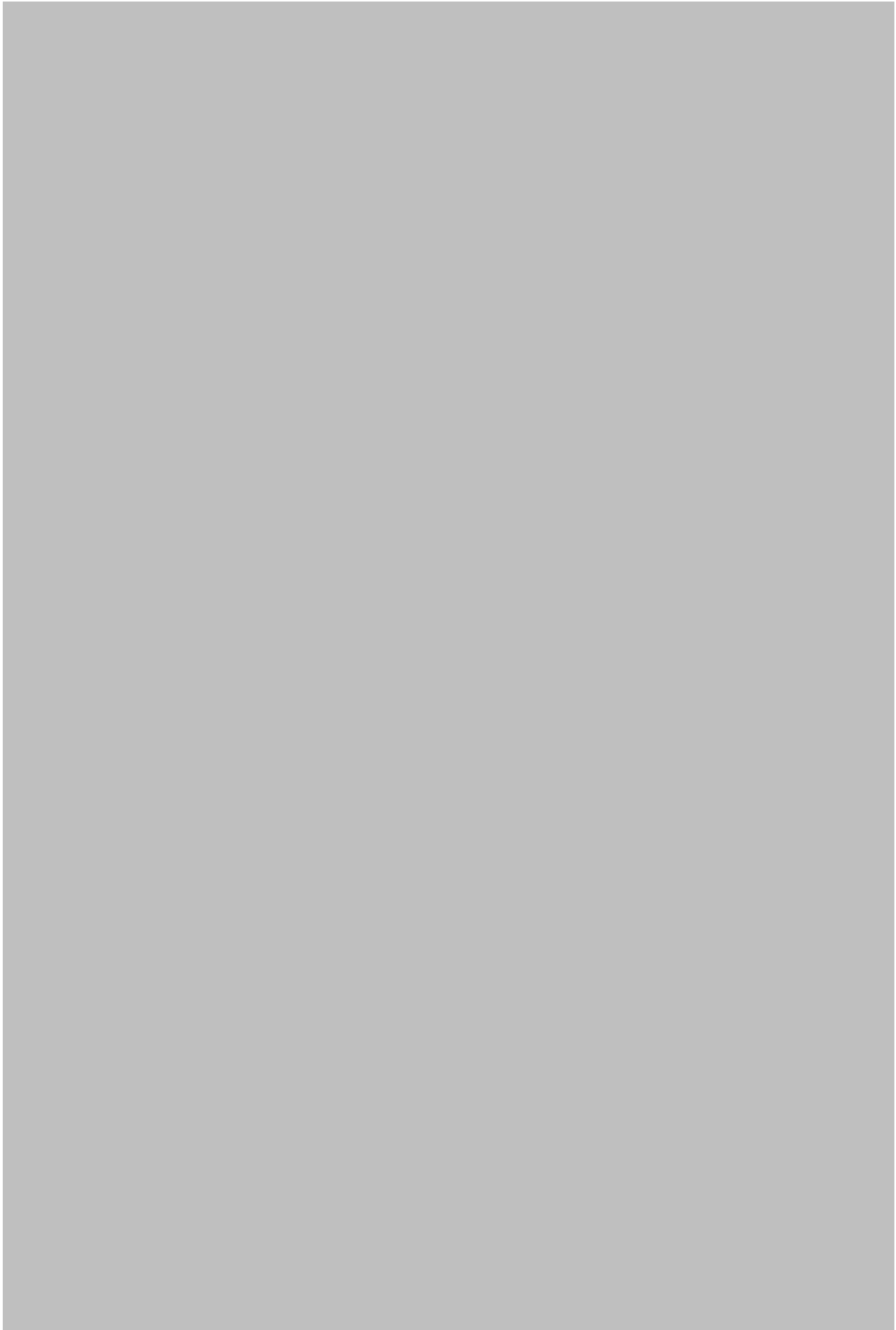
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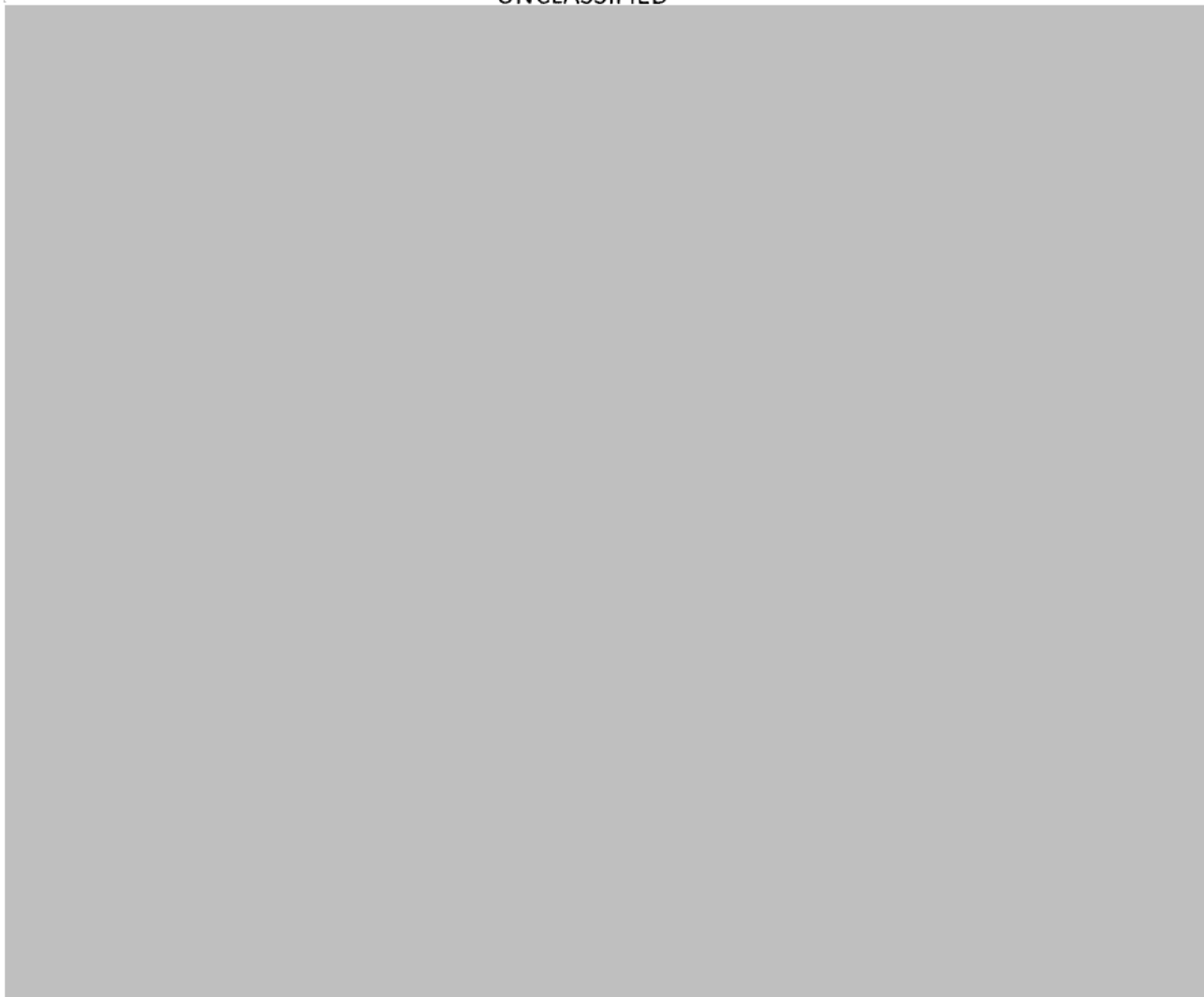
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Signatory Name: Katy Haire
Action Officer: Kirsten Hurford-Clark

Phone: x59158
Phone: x73230



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Freedom of Information Act 2016 as it is publicly available
on the Education Directorate's disclosure log -
EDU_2020_012 - Stage 1, Part B, Doc 38

Caveat Brief

To: Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development
From: A/g Executive Group Manager, Business Services
Subject: Yarralumla Primary School – Elevated Lead Results
Date: 26 August 2020



That you note the below updated details around the discovery of elevated lead levels at Yarralumla Primary School.



Noted / Please discuss

Yvette Berry MLA 27/08/20

- Refer to MIN20/1149 for initial advice and history.
- All classrooms within the Gambarri Centre have now been cleaned and returned to normal use. The three remaining playrooms within the Montessori and preschool areas have been cleaned with one room cleared and the remaining two awaiting test results. It is anticipated the rooms will be handed back for use on 31 August.
- Once the teaching spaces are returned to use the cleaning of support spaces and storerooms will continue together with offsite cleaning of resources.
- As classrooms are being cleared for school use, spaces like the library and hall are becoming available if any further classes are disturbed.
- The school community has been kept informed of all developments.
- Two folders containing recent testing results and clearances have been made available to the community at the front counter of the school. The folder also contains a guide document that provides an explanation of the processes undertaken and the lead levels found in various classrooms.
- EDU Media are preparing letters to all families of children in the affected rooms detailing the lead levels that were identified in the space their child is in and what has been done to remediate that area.
- EDU Media are also preparing responses to all community emails that are being received at the email address provided in previous community advice.
- Planning is underway for the placement of a double classroom transportable building on site for 2021 to facilitate further lead management works within classroom areas of the school.
- The independent assessor has confirmed the likelihood of exposure remains low.
- The CHO has initiated a "health risk assessment" for lead in schools using the data from Yarralumla to inform the assessment.

- EDU are developing a further cleaning process to be incorporated at least annually by the School Cleaning Service to ensure difficult to reach areas are still effectively cleaned to prevent the build up of dust containing elevated levels of lead.
- ACT Health and WorkSafe have been consulted during the remediation process.
- The School Board and P&C Association have written to the Directorate outlining their concerns and requirements for information (Attachment A – Yarralumla School board letter to EDU). The Directorate is progressing a response to this letter.

Signatory Name: Andrew Parkinson
Title A/g Executive Group Manager, Business Services Division
Date 26 August 2020

Caveat Brief

To: Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development
From: Executive Branch Manager, Infrastructure & Capital Works
Subject: Curtin Primary School
Date: 4 September 2020

That you note the below details about lead paint levels at Curtin Primary School.

Noted / Please discuss

Yvette Berry MLA..../..../....

- Following media coverage of lead issues at Yarralumla PS, a constituent wrote to you on 6 August requesting information on lead levels at Curtin Primary School.
- An officer from Infrastructure and Capital Works attended the site to review the condition of the existing paint system so that a response could be prepared on your behalf.
- During the initial site visit, the officer observed the existing paint system was in good condition. The officer predominantly focussed on the internal paint quality to classrooms and other areas frequented by students.
- Subsequently, the officer arranged for a licensed assessor to attend the site to undertake additional inspections during which 6 areas were identified that require some remediation. The report detailing this find was received 3 September and included 5 external areas and 1 internal area.
- Correspondence to the constituent addressing their question was sent on the morning of 3 September detailing the initial find. This was followed by an additional email to outline the secondary findings.
- ICW are currently developing a lead paint management plan in consultation with the licensed assessor and this plan will be communicated to the community through the existing hazardous materials communications protocol.
- Additional testing has also been arranged to determine the existing background lead levels, particularly in areas adjacent to the identified lead paint.

Signatory Name: Andrew Parkinson
Title: Executive Branch Manager, Infrastructure & Capital Works
Date: 4 September 2020

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MINISTERIAL BRIEF

Education Directorate

Tracking No.: MWB20/1-31

To: Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development

From: Director-General

Date: Thursday, 27 August 2020

Subject: Minister's Weekly Brief

Critical Date: Thursday, 27 August 2020

Critical Reason: To ensure you are briefed on current issues and events.

Recommendations



Noted / Please Discuss

Yvette Berry ML

Minister's Office Feedback

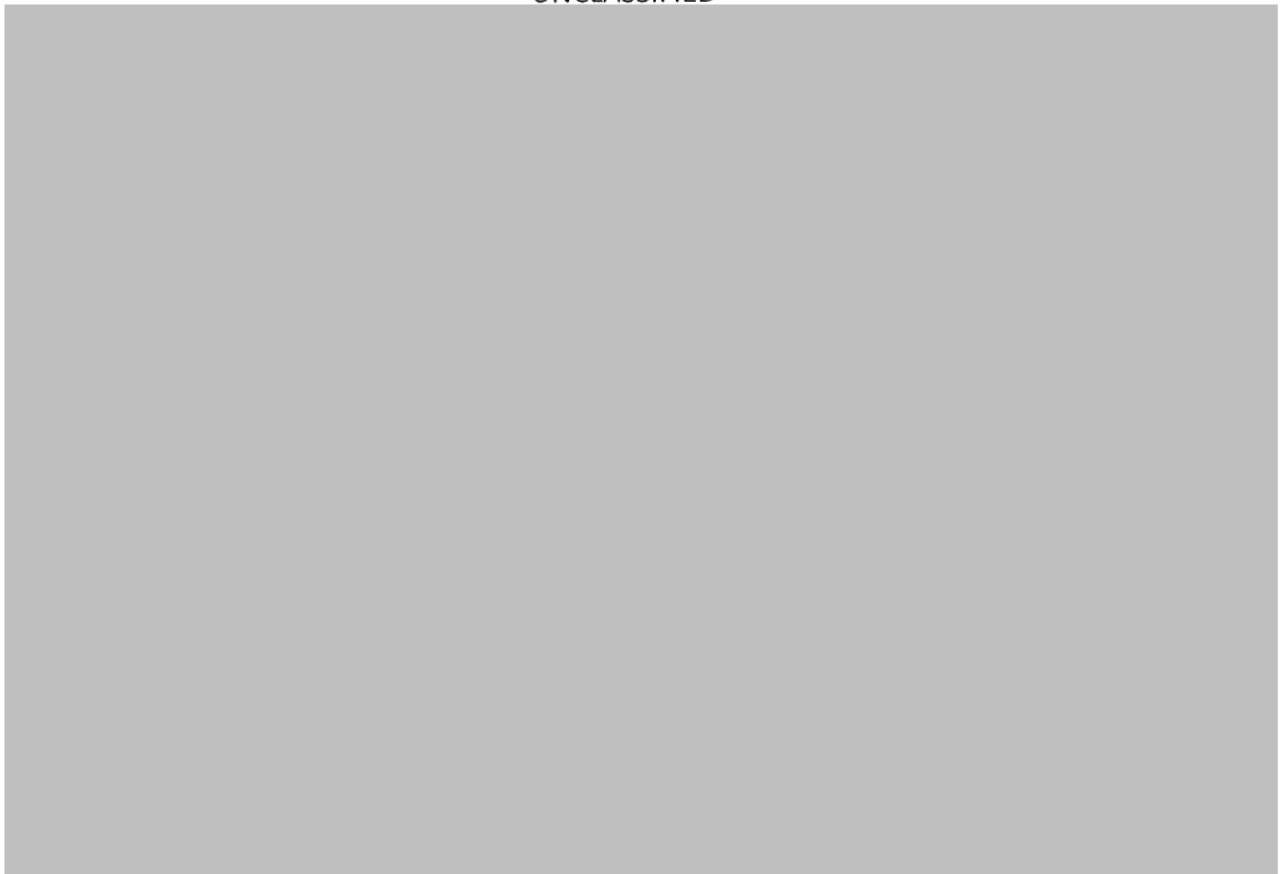
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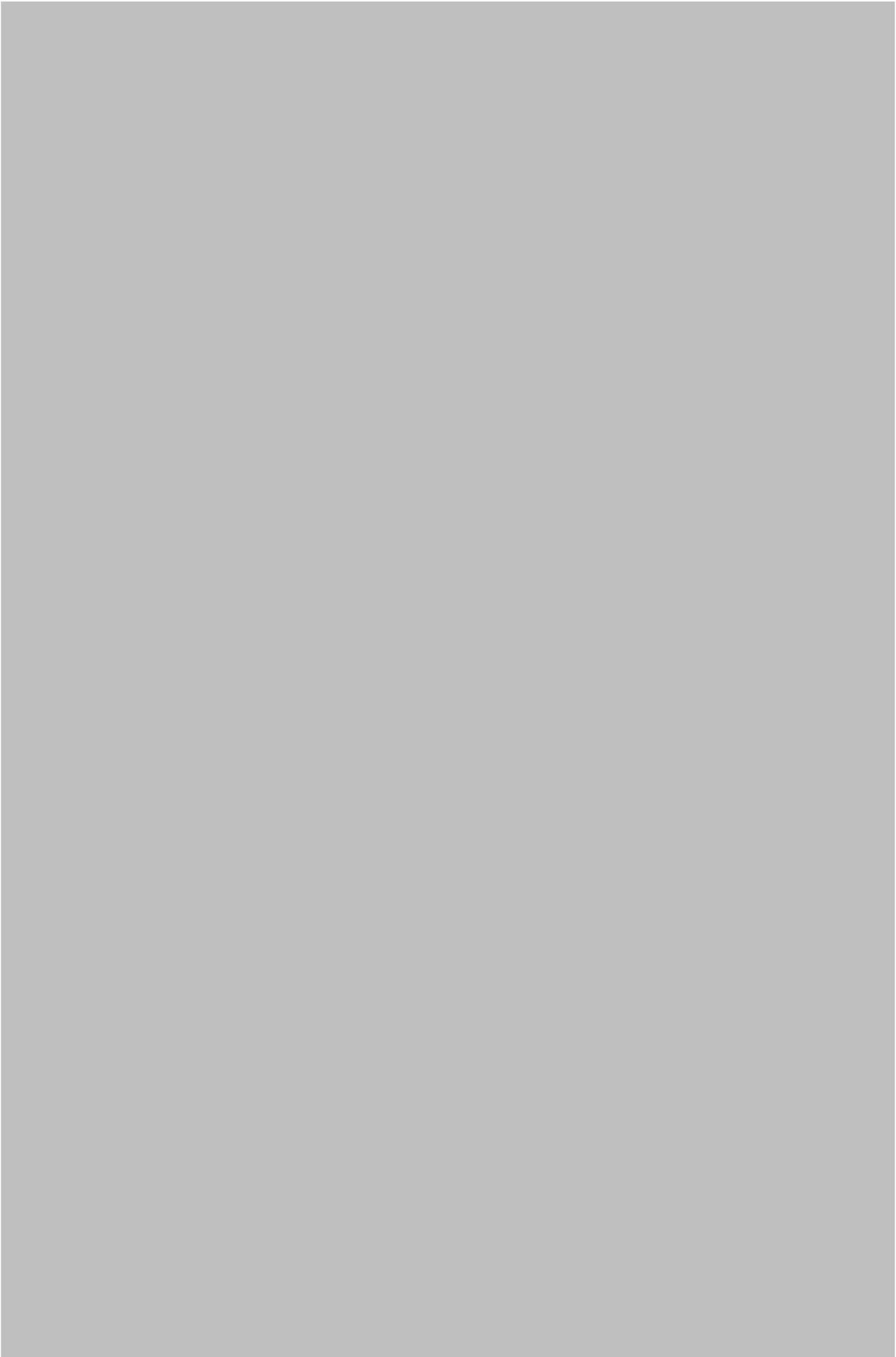
**INFASTRUCTURE AND CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS****Repairs and Maintenance****4. Hazardous Materials**

Yarralumla Primary School: Cleaning of classrooms is continuing with all students expected to return to their normal classrooms by the end of August 2020.



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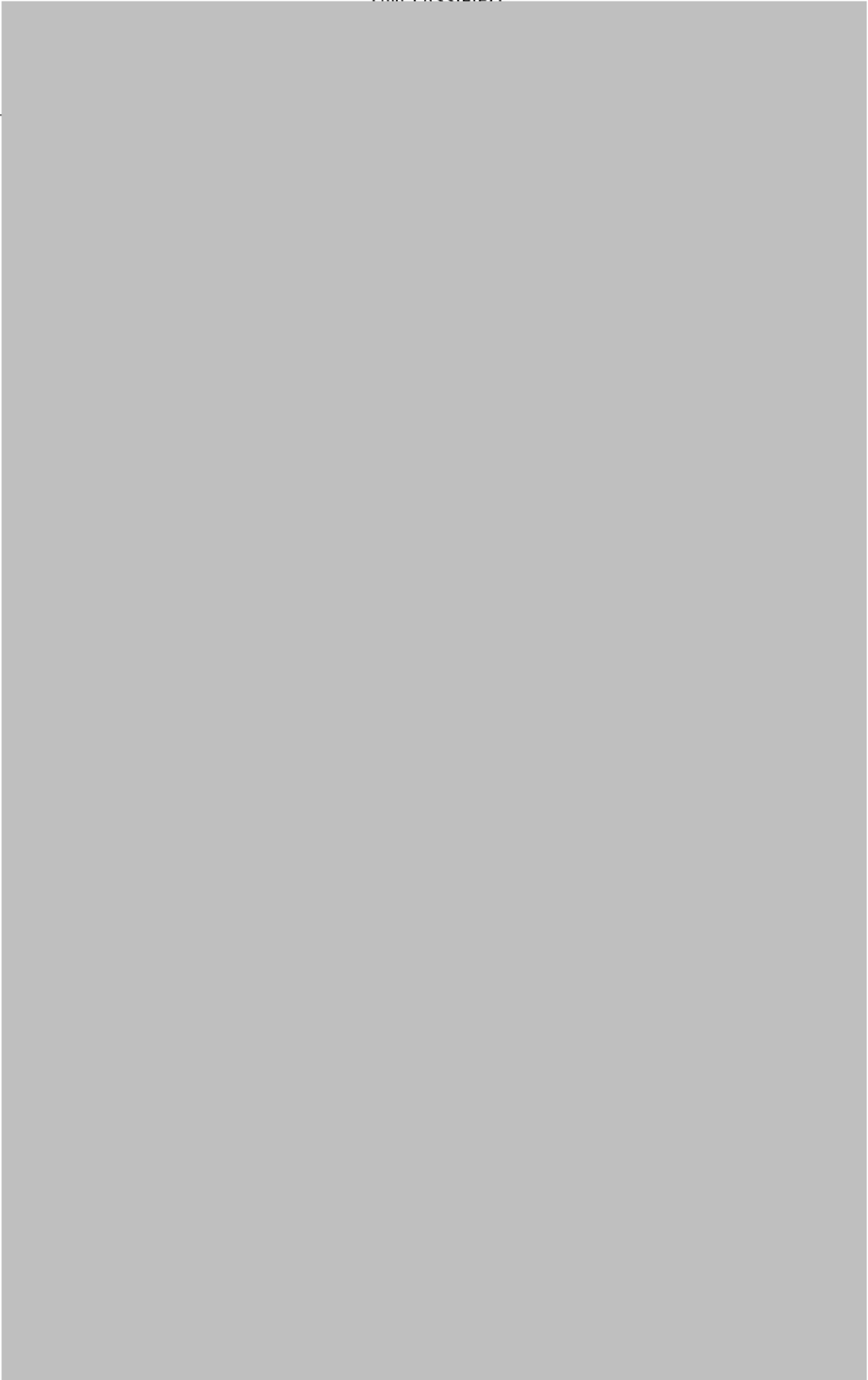
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Signatory Name: Katy Haire

Phone: x59158

Action Officer: Cristina de Jongh

Phone: x71317

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Caveat Brief

To: Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development
From: Executive Branch Manager, Infrastructure & Capital Works
Subject: Yarralumla Primary School – Elevated Lead Results
Date: 7 September 2020

That you note the below updated details around the discovery of elevated lead levels at Yarralumla Primary School.

Noted / Please discuss



Yvette Berry MLA *YB/PS/20*

- All classrooms within the Gambarri Centre, Montessori Pre-school and Yarralumla pre-school have now been cleaned and returned to normal use.
- Further cleaning of support spaces and storerooms continued over the weekend together with offsite cleaning of resources.
- Two folders containing recent testing results and clearances have been made available to the community at the front counter of the school. The folder also contains a guide document that provides an explanation of the processes undertaken and the lead levels found in various classrooms.
- EDU Media have prepared letters to all families of children in the affected rooms detailing the lead levels that were identified in the space their child is in and what has been done to remediate that area.
- EDU Media are also continuing to prepare responses to all community emails that are being received at the email address provided in previous community advice.
- Planning is underway for the placement of a double classroom transportable building on site for 2021 to facilitate further lead management works within classroom areas of the school.
- The independent assessor has confirmed the likelihood of exposure remains low.
- EDU are developing a further cleaning process to be incorporated at least annually by the School Cleaning Service to ensure difficult to reach areas are still effectively cleaned to prevent the build-up of dust containing elevated levels of lead.
- Robson Environmental have been engaged to update the Lead Paint Management Plan over the next month. As this plan will include further testing and sampling of painted surfaces in the school, the field work component will occur over the next school holidays and the updated plan presented to the school community in Term 4.
- ACT Health and WorkSafe have been consulted during the remediation process.

- The School Board and P&C Association have written to the Directorate outlining their concerns and requirements for information. The Directorate has prepared a response to this letter.

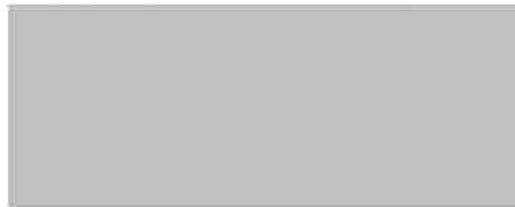
Signatory Name: Andrew Parkinson
Title Executive Branch Manager, Infrastructure & Capital Works
Date 7 September 2020

Caveat Brief

To: Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development
From: Executive Branch Manager, ICW
Subject: Lead paint disturbance at North Ainslie Primary School
Date: 1 September 2020



That you note the below details around the potential disturbance of lead paint at North Ainslie Primary School.



Noted / Please discuss

Yvette Berry MLA 09/09/20

- On 6 August 2020 schools with known lead paint were advised to refrain from completing planned painting projects until further investigations were made into their lead paint status. All such schools have lead paint reports, however the Directorate initiated an additional level of due diligence due to recent accidental lead disturbance.
- ICW Network Officers have been making contact with these schools to confirm and discuss the advice.
- Following this advice, North Ainslie Primary School contacted ICW to advise of a painting project recently commenced by their BSO, which was to encompass the BSO room and an art supplies room. The Business Manager was advised to halt the project and isolate the area as a precaution.
- An ICW Network Officer visited the site to confirm the isolation of the spaces and check the schools hazardous materials report. The Network Officer observed sanding of the spaces had taken place in areas presumed to contain lead-based paint.
- ACT Property Group were requested to arrange testing of the paint in these areas, and a further seven areas around the school where the BSO has reportedly completed painting projects in the past three years.
- Testing results were received on 28 August 2020 which confirmed above threshold levels in the Art Store and BSO facilities.
- The areas remain isolated and an environmental clean is being arranged outside of school hours.

- Further test results were received on 31 August 2020 which show an above threshold level in an office (on top of cupboard) and some areas with detectable but below threshold levels.
- While one of these reading was taken on a window sill in the sensory room and was initially considered against higher window sill threshold (1.08mg/m²) rather than the indoor surfaces threshold (0.11mg/m²), a site inspection revealed that the sill is reachable by students and Robson's have been asked to use the lower threshold in this case.
- The Sensory Room has now been isolated.
- The areas where lead has been detected will be cleaned in conjunction with the isolated areas.
- The closures do not impact on the delivery of teaching and learning.
- Further testing will be undertaken in the school to determine background lead levels within the buildings.
- Worksafe ACT visited the school on 31 August 2020 and supported the decision to close the rooms until cleaning is undertaken and clearance is received.
- Communications to the school community are being prepared.

Signatory Name: Andrew Parkinson
Title EBM ICW
Date 1 September 2020

Caveat Brief

To: Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development
From: Executive Branch Manager, ICW
Subject: Lead paint disturbance at North Ainslie Primary School
Date: 7 September 2020

That you note the updated details below around the lead dust levels at North Ainslie Primary School.



Noted / Please discuss

Yvette Berry MLA ^{09/09/20}...../...../.....

- Refer to MIN20/1352 for initial advice and history.
- Five locations at the school have been identified as being impacted by lead paint dust – these are a storeroom, toilet, art storeroom, a breakout room (the 'sensory room') and staff office.
- No classroom spaces have been impacted and students will not need to be relocated while cleaning occurs.
- Cleaning was completed over the weekend in the impacted areas other than the art storeroom.
- Samples have been sent for testing and results are expected on Tuesday evening. The rooms remain closed until below threshold results are received.
- Although below threshold results were recorded in the art room, the room was initially closed to students to minimise risk. While the cleaning of the art storeroom has not yet been completed, the assessor has advised that it is safe to use the art room as the risk of dust movement from the storage room has been reduced by the cleaning undertaken to date.

Signatory Name: Andrew Parkinson
 Title: EBM ICW
 Date: 7 September 2020



Trim No. MIN20/1382

Caveat Brief

To: Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development
From: Executive Branch Manager, ICW
Subject: Lead paint disturbance at North Ainslie Primary School
Date: 9 September 2020

That you note the updated details below around the lead dust levels at North Ainslie Primary School.



Noted / Please discuss

Yvette Berry MLA 10/09/20

- Refer to MIN20/1352 for initial advice and MIN20/1375 for 7 September 2020 update.
- Five locations at the school have been identified as being impacted by lead paint dust – these are a storeroom, toilet, art storeroom, a breakout room (the 'sensory room') and staff office.
- Although below threshold results were recorded in the art room, the room was initially closed to students to minimise risk. While the cleaning of the art storeroom has not yet been completed, the assessor has advised that it is safe to use the art room as the risk of dust movement from the storage room has been reduced by the cleaning undertaken to date.
- Cleaning was completed over the weekend in the impacted areas other than the art storeroom.
- Test results were received on Tuesday and clearances received for the sensory room and the staff office to reopen. Another staff meeting room (the Gang-Gang room), which was previously considered possibly contained by flaking paint, was also given a clearance.
- The BSO's suite of rooms (which include the storeroom and toilet) recorded some results above the indoor floor threshold of 0.11mg/m² but below the 1.08mg/m² indoor surface criteria and remains closed while further assessment occurs.

Signatory Name: Andrew Parkinson
 Title: EBM ICW
 Date: 9 September 2020

Caveat Brief

To: Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development
From: Infrastructure and Capital Works, Repairs and Maintenance
Subject: Asbestos fragment discovery at Dickson College
Date: 15 September 2020

That you note the below details about the discovery of a fragment of asbestos sheet in the grounds of Dickson College.

Noted / Please discuss

Yvette Berry MLA..../..../....

- On 11 September 2020, whilst on site performing a current ACM clearance, an employee from Robson Environmental discovered a fragment of fibrous cement sheeting on the ground very close to a wall in a non-thoroughfare area of the College.
- Due to its location, the licensed assessor confirmed that the risk was low.
- The fragments were removed by the licensed asbestos assessor and taken for testing, where they tested positive for bonded (non-friable) asbestos.
- ACT Property Group have confirmed that they will return to the school to conduct a visual inspection in an attempt to determine where the pieces originated.
- As the pieces were located out of doors in a relatively uninhabited location, with the origin not immediately obvious, air monitoring was not conducted.
- A notice to the school community is being prepared.

Signatory Name: Andrew Parkinson
Title: A/g Executive Group Manager,
Business Services Division
Date: 15 September 2020

Caveat Brief

To: Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development
From: Executive Group Manager, Business Services
Subject: Lead paint in ACT public schools – identifying schools that have had work done
Date: 16 September 2020

That you note the information contained in this caveat brief.

Noted / Please discuss

Yvette Berry MLA..../..../....

Background

- Lead paint was common in Australian buildings constructed before 1970.
- The Education Directorate (EDU) has processes for the management of hazardous materials in ACT public schools.
- There are 69 public schools with confirmed presence of lead paint. Each of these schools has a Hazardous Materials Survey and Management Plan.
- Lead paint at ACT schools is managed in several ways, primarily by ensuring the lead system is stabilised by non-lead containing paint.
- Investigations of elevated lead levels at Yarralumla Primary School indicate the primary cause has been either the deterioration of lead containing paint systems or disturbance of the paint system while preparing for routine maintenance.
- If disturbance of lead-based paint is required, the work should be completed outside of school hours and supervised by a qualified assessor.
- The threshold level for categorising lead paint was substantially reduced in 2017.
- EDU advises anyone who is concerned about their exposure to elevated lead levels to seek medical advice.

Issues

- Every school with lead paint will have undertaken painting maintenance over time. Work completed prior to 2017 may have been compliant at the time but left dust residue above current threshold levels.
- The Repairs and Maintenance team began enquiring with all schools in early August to determine any current or planned painting projects. Network Officers have arranged for testing in areas where disturbance was likely and remediation plans will be developed if necessary.
- Lead build up is unlikely to occur in frequently cleaned areas i.e. desks, benches and carpets (to some degree). Elevated and other difficult to access areas are rarely cleaned and present a higher likelihood of dust that contains lead.
- In response, EDU are developing a further cleaning process to be incorporated at least annually to ensure difficult to reach areas are still effectively cleaned. Additional equipment will need to be purchased to allow access to high areas.

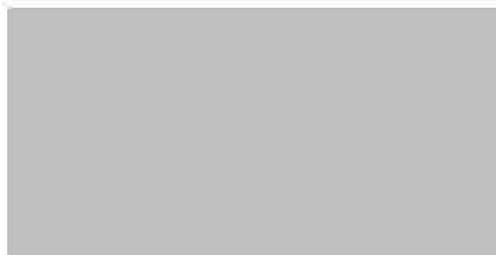
- In the medium term, the Infrastructure and Capital Works branch (ICW) will coordinate the program of updating the hazardous materials management plan, including testing for lead dust, following completion of the intensive cleaning at each school.
- The financial impact of the additional cleaning process is yet to be determined.
- The cost of updating the hazardous materials management plans will be managed within the ICW hazardous materials maintenance budget.
- The resourcing impact on the ICW Repairs and Maintenance team is being considered.
- EDU Media, Risk, Security and Emergency Management and School Improvement have been briefed on Yarralumla Primary School specifically and more broadly on whole of Directorate issues.
- Health and WorkSafe has been consulted during the remediation process at Yarralumla Primary School.
- The Chief Health Officer has been consulted on lead issues in schools.
- Assessment of the Work Health and Safety risk forms part of the lead management framework.
- Lead levels in schools is a topic of sensitivity within the community.
- A communications plan is being developed for managing hazardous material related matters. This plan and content are being shared with the CHO.

Signatory Name: Margaret McKinnon
Title Executive Group Manager
Date 16 September 2020

Caveat Brief

To: Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development
From: Executive Branch Manager, Infrastructure & Capital Works
Subject: Curtin Primary School
Date: 14 September 2020

That you note the information about lead dust levels at Curtin Primary School.



Noted / Please discuss

Yvette Berry MLA 28/09/20

- Refer to MIN20/1371 for initial advice.
- Following media coverage of lead issues at Yarralumla Primary School, a constituent wrote to you on 6 August requesting information on lead levels at Curtin Primary School.
- A licensed assessor attended the site and identified 6 areas that require some remediation. The report was received 3 September and included 5 external areas and 1 internal area.
- ICW is currently developing a lead paint management plan in consultation with the licensed assessor.
- Additional testing has also been arranged to determine the existing background lead levels, particularly in areas adjacent to the identified lead paint.
- One sample has returned an above threshold level. The sample was on the tread of an external door sill in the Junior courtyard. The reading of 0.93mg/m² exceeded the relevant acceptance threshold of 0.43mg/m². This sliding door is not an egress point and is normally kept closed. On the advice of the assessor, the area within 1m of the door has been barricaded. As this space is behind raised planter beds this will not impact on the use of the courtyard.
- The area will be cleaned using the same environmental cleaning method as at Yarralumla and North Ainslie.
- Communications for the school to send to the community are being prepared for distribution as soon as possible.

Signatory Name: Andrew Parkinson
 Title: Executive Branch Manager, Infrastructure & Capital Works
 Date: 14 September 2020

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MINISTERIAL BRIEF

Education Directorate

Tracking No.: MWB20/1-33

To: Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development

From: Director-General

Date: Thursday, 10 September 2020

Subject: Minister's Weekly Brief

Critical Date: Thursday, 10 September 2020

Critical Reason: To ensure you are briefed on current issues and events.

Recommendations



Noted / Please Discuss

Yvette Berr



28/09/20

Minister's Office Feedback

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INFASTRUCTURE AND CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS
**3. Repairs and Maintenance**
**Lead Paint Projects**

Yarralumla Primary School – all classrooms have now been environmentally cleaned and have returned to normal school use. Cleaning continues in some support spaces and off-site resources.

Curtin Primary School – external testing is complete with above threshold results detected in limited locations. This is a result of wear and tear and is not related to any 'event'. Remediation plans are currently under development.

North Ainslie Primary School – following further testing for lead, areas of the school with results above the threshold remain isolated from students and staff. Environmental cleaning was carried out over the weekend of 5-6 September 2020, however all identified areas need to remain isolated until final test results are received.

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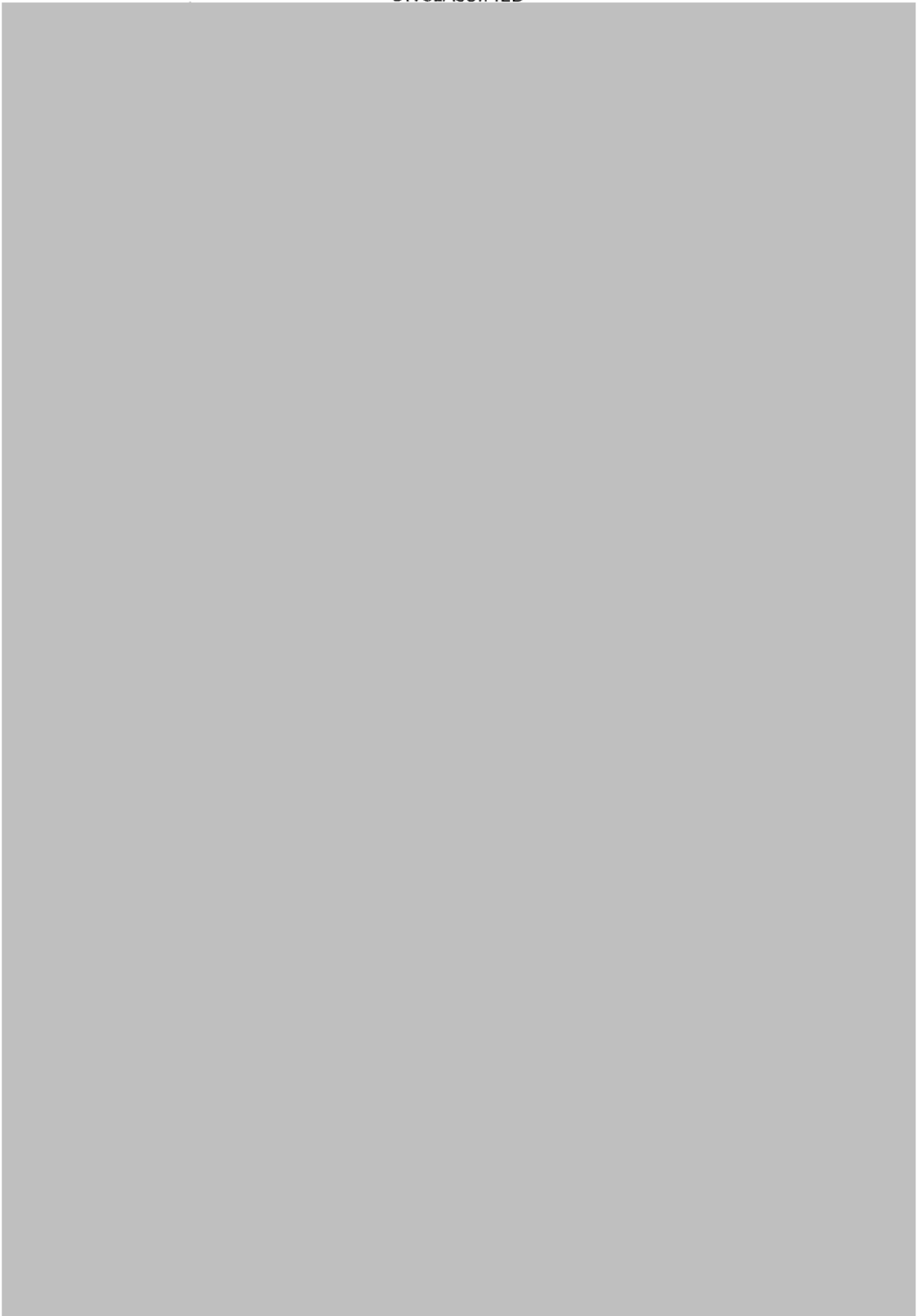
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Mount Rogers Primary School – some deteriorating lead containing paint has been identified in a courtyard. The area is not accessible to children and a remediation plan is being developed.



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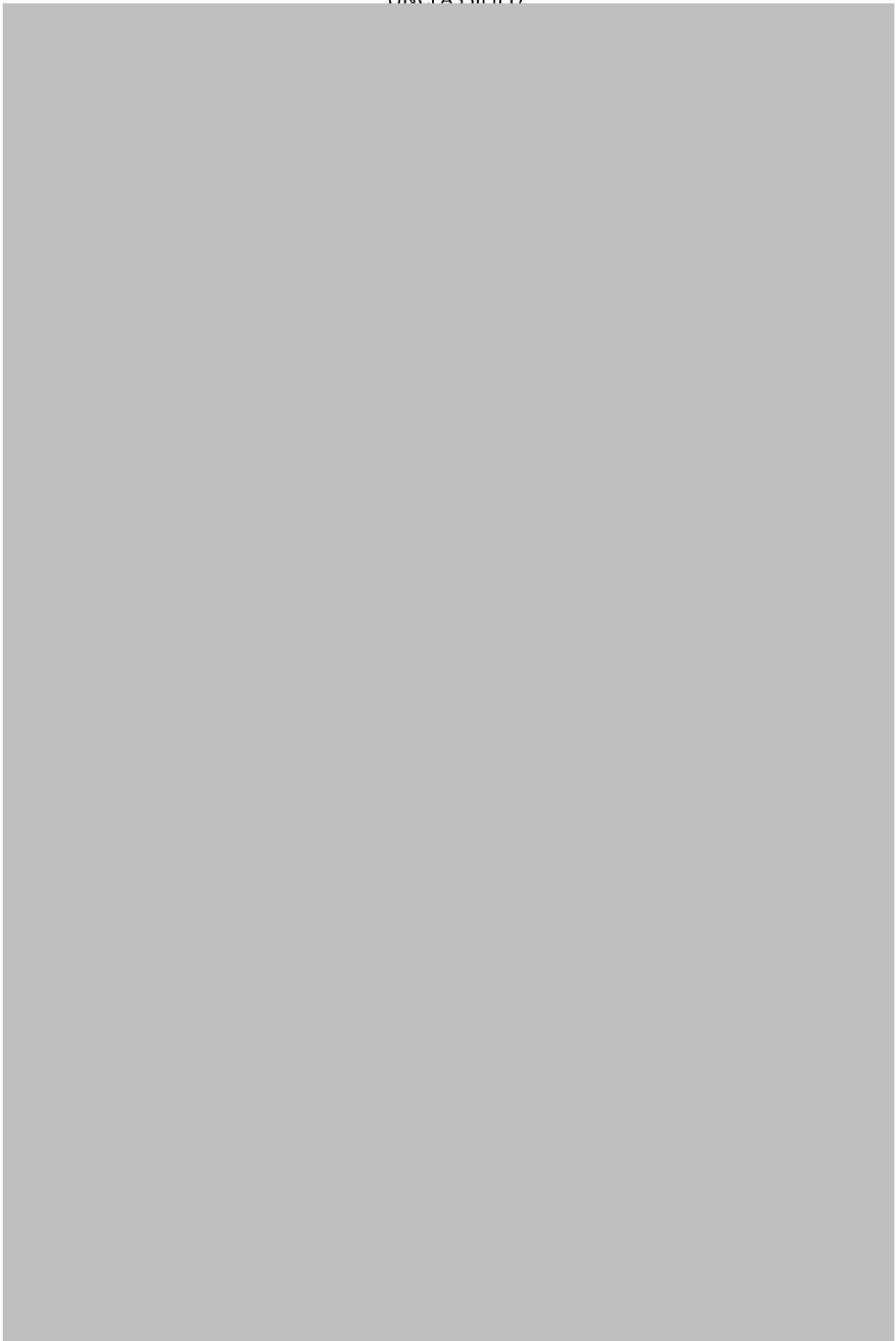
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Signatory Name: Katy Haire
Action Officer: Cristina de Jongh

Phone: x59158
Phone: x71317



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Request from Minister's Staff

Title: Request for factual information regarding hazardous materials removal

TRIM number: MIN20/1431

Request: Identify the amount spent on hazardous materials removal over the past four years

Request date: 29 September 2020

Response due to Minister's staff: 30 September 2020

Response format: Dot points/table

Cleared by: Director-General

Directorate's Response

- The table at [Attachment A](#) details the amount spent across all infrastructure programs on the removal and management of hazardous materials during the last four financial years. The figures are confirmed costs unless identified as an estimate.
- Projects and programmes specifically targeting hazardous material management have been identified and confirmed costs provided.
- Hazardous materials removal or management is not separately identified where it occurs as part of larger capital works projects, such as the annual Public Schools Infrastructure Upgrade programme. In this case estimates have been provided.

MIN20/1431

Hazardous Material Removal costs 2016 to 2020

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Total
Repairs and Maintenance Program					
R&M Hazardous Materials Program	\$ 921,271	\$ 1,097,710	\$ 1,360,290	\$ 1,470,976	\$ 4,850,247
Estimate for Removal of R22 gas in hvac program	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 1,000,000
Estimate for removals during other R&M programs	\$ 150,683	\$ 117,323	\$ 107,294	\$ 93,771	\$ 469,071
Estimate for replacement of asbestos fire doors	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 200,000
Hazardous Materials Removal Stage 3	\$ 492,609	\$ 272,017	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 764,626
Dedicated Repairs and Maintenance Resource	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 480,000
Capital Upgrades Program					
Harrison School Landscape Remediation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,366,119	\$ 2,001,793	\$ 5,367,912
Estimate for removals during PSIU works program	\$ 375,000	\$ 476,000	\$ 595,000	\$ 669,000	\$ 2,115,000
Major Projects					
Narrabundah and Campbell - Demolition of Buildings	\$ -	\$ 12,483,875	\$ 10,477,171	\$ 133,785	\$ 23,094,831
Belconnen High School Modernisation - Estimated hazardous materials	\$ -	\$ 134,031	\$ 237,950	\$ -	\$ 371,981
TOTALS	\$ 2,359,563	\$ 15,000,956	\$ 16,563,824	\$ 4,789,325	\$ 38,713,668

Portfolio/s: Education and Youth Affairs

MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS IN SCHOOLS

Talking points:

- The ACT Education Directorate manages a large asset portfolio, including 88 schools across 119 separate sites. This will increase to 89 schools in 2021 and continue to increase during this term of Government.
- The Directorate has identified that 73 of the 88 ACT Government schools have an identified presence of Asbestos Contained Material (ACM), lead paint, or both. Each of these schools has a Hazardous Materials Survey and Management Plan, including an Asbestos Register.
- Over the past 4 years, the government spent \$115 million performing upgrades to public schools, which has included the ongoing management of hazardous materials, and has committed to spend a further \$99 million to continue these upgrades over the next 4 years.
- In the last year alone, at least \$2 million was spent specifically to manage the presence of hazardous materials in public schools.
- This complements the work that is continually undertaken by the directorate to maintain and improve our schools, which includes hazardous materials management as required (e.g. replacing windows in an older school to improve energy efficiency and student comfort may also result in windows with lead paint being removed).
- The government has committed to accelerate the existing program of managing hazardous materials in public schools through the provision of a further \$15 million dollars and the establishment of a dedicated team in the Education Directorate.
- This program is under development and is scheduled to commence in 2021.

Key Information

- The Education Directorate's Infrastructure and Capital Works (ICW) branch is responsible for all hazardous materials works in schools. This ensures that the management and removal occurs efficiently, safely and consistently.
- Five year testing of all sites with known ACM is undertaken through a continuous rolling program. Whilst a small number of work orders for further testing and removal are issued as a result of these inspections, this is expected as part of the "business as usual" process.
- There are 69 public schools, including Jervis Bay School, with confirmed presence of ACM.
- There are 70 schools, including Jervis Bay School, with confirmed presence of lead paint, which is paint that has been confirmed to have a lead content of greater than 1 per cent.

- The Hazardous Materials Register informs the school community, visitors and tradespeople on the location of hazardous materials, including asbestos in the school. The register is located in the front entry/reception area of the school.
- Any hazardous materials removal works are completed in accordance with WorkSafe ACT requirements by licensed removalists who are monitored by an independent licensed assessor. Asbestos is removed after hours when there are no students in the school (i.e. at night, on weekends and during school holidays).
- An audit of asbestos management in ACT public schools was undertaken between November 2017 and March 2018. The final report was distributed on 4 September 2018.
- Although in use for some years, the current method of asbestos tracking and management is currently under examination in an effort to modernise processes and reporting. An electronic application is being investigated by the directorate and will consider school requirements and legislative obligations.
- A directive has been issued to all schools to consult with ICW before engaging in any building works to ensure proper management practices are being observed.

Education Directorate

To: Minister for Early Childhood Development
Minister for Education and Youth Affairs

Tracking No.: MWB20/1-46

Date: 9/12/2020

From: Director-General

Subject: Minister's Weekly Brief

Recommendation

That you note the information in this brief and attachments

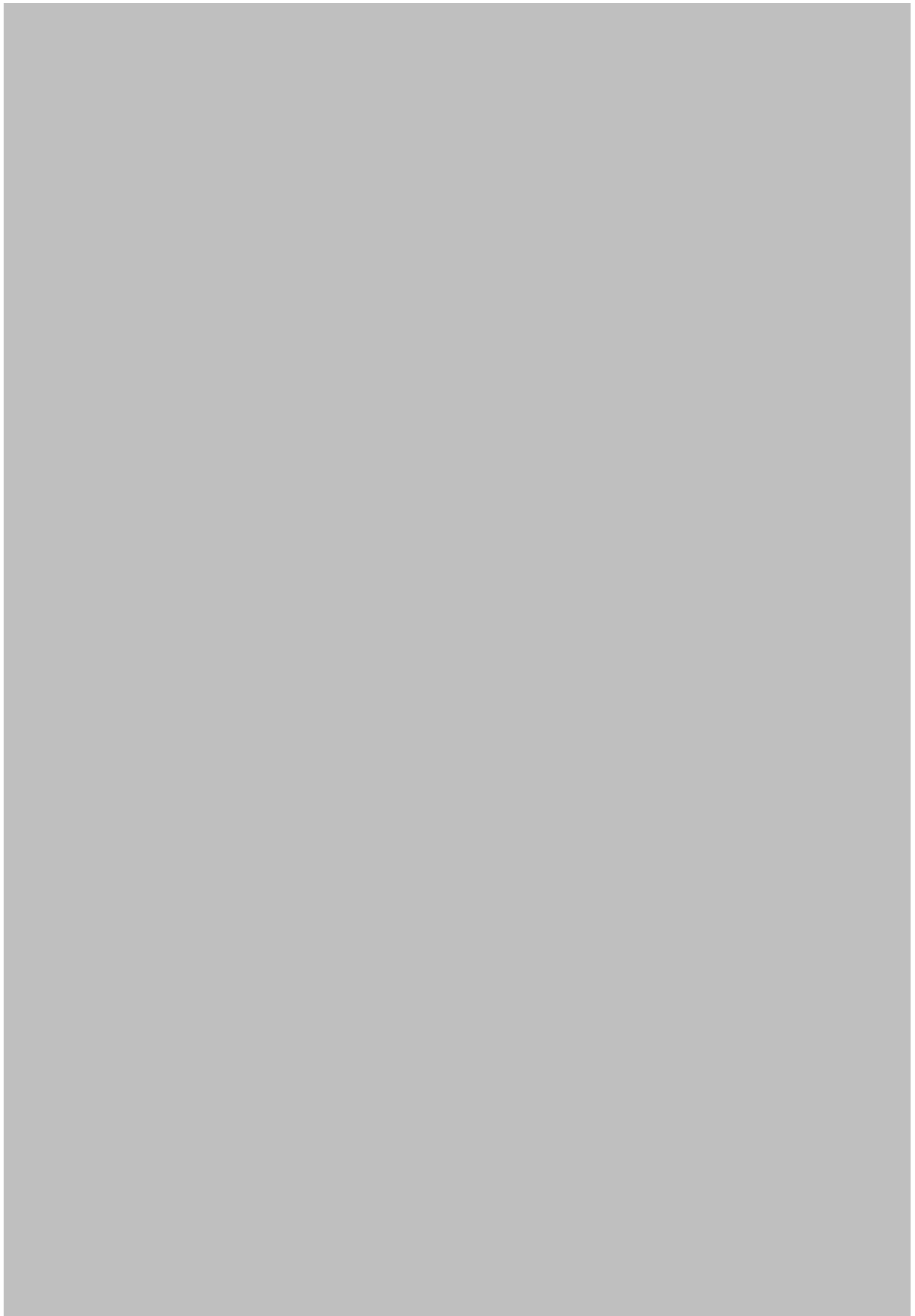
Noted / Please Discuss

Yvette Berry MLA /...../.....

Minister's Office Feedback









Infrastructure and Capital Works Projects

9. Repairs and maintenance

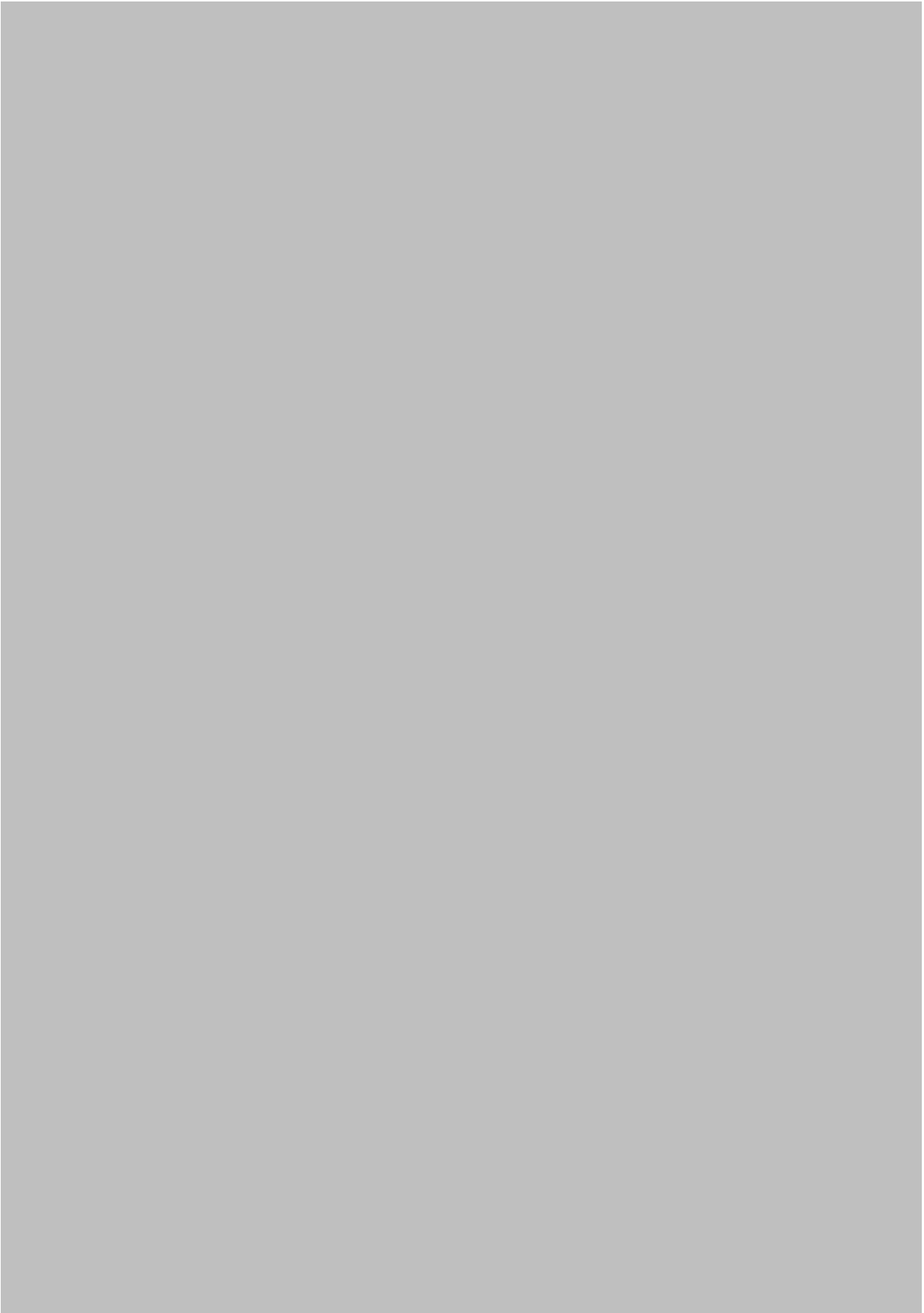


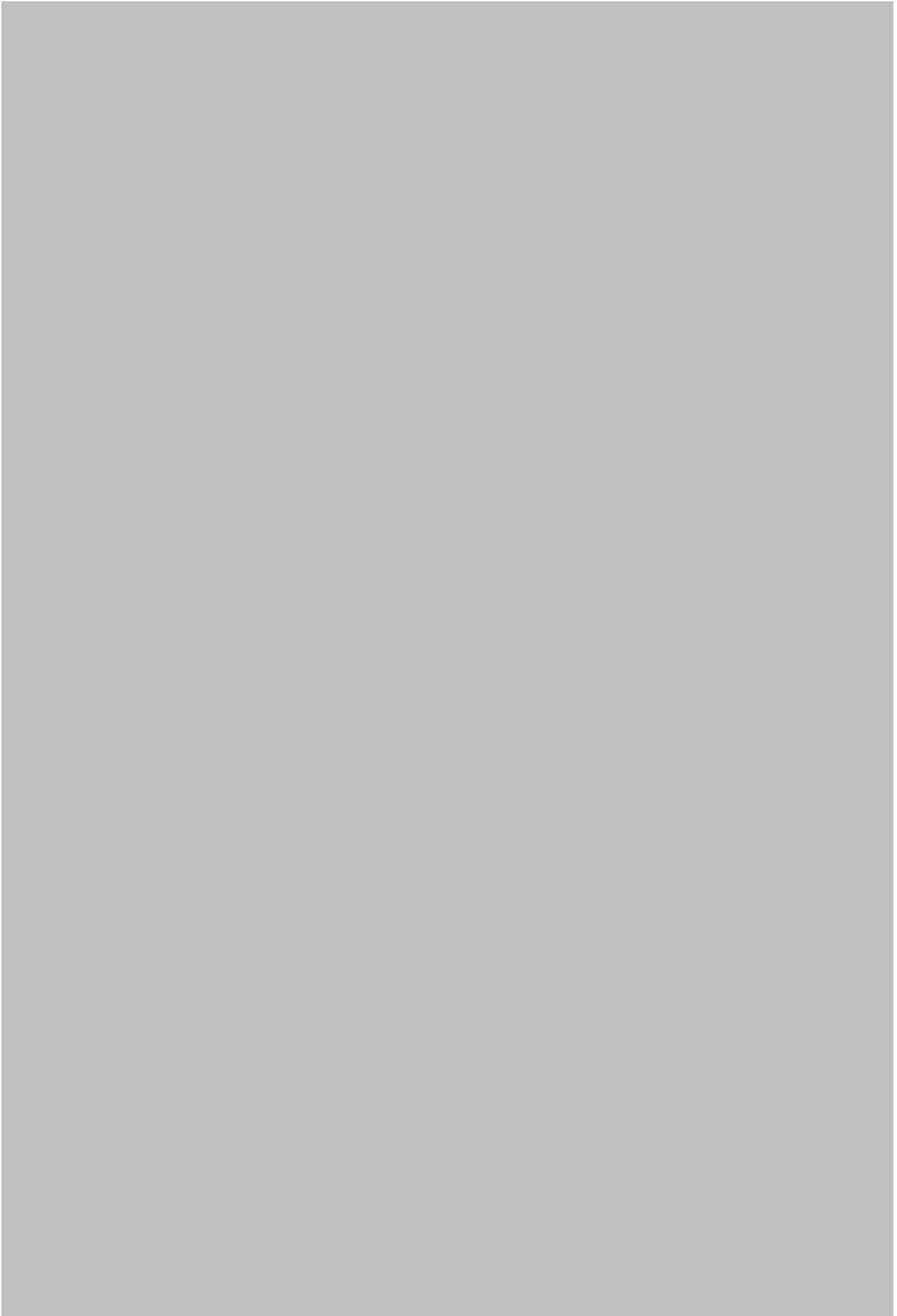
Contaminated material

Lead paint has been detected in the plantroom at Richardson Primary School. Access has been restricted to this area and environmental cleaning is scheduled for 8 December 2020, after hours.











Signatory Name:	Katy Haire	Phone:	59158
Action Officer:	Katy Penglis	Phone:	59155





Education Directorate

SENSITIVE

To: Minister for Education and Youth Affairs

Tracking No.: MIN20/1515

Date: 27/11/2020

From: Executive Group Manager, Business Services Division

Subject: Hazardous Materials Management in public schools – update and next steps

Critical Date: As soon as possible

Critical Reason: To progress the establishment of the independent expert panel

- DDG 11/11/20
- EBM .../.../...

Recommendations

That you:

1. Note the Directorate's actions to identify and address hazardous materials since September 2020.

Noted / Please Discuss

2. Agree to the establishment of an independent expert panel as proposed at paragraph 24 to provide the Directorate ongoing advice and guidance on the management of hazardous materials in public schools; and

Agreed / Not Agreed / Please Discuss

3. Note that the Directorate will provide your office with a further briefing seeking your approval to the proposed approach to continued hazardous materials management in public schools and the delivery of the related ACT Government election commitments.

Noted / Please Discuss



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Executive Feedback

Background

1. The Directorate has identified that 73 of the 88 ACT Government schools have an identified presence of asbestos, lead paint, or both.
2. Lead paint is defined as paint that has a lead content of greater than 1%.
3. Lead paint had been previously identified at 69 schools (and a total of 92 unique sites) via a review of existing hazardous materials assessments.
4. A 70th school was identified in late October 2020 following an inspection at Fraser Primary school that observed paint in poor condition (making a total of 93 sites). This paint was then referred to testing and confirmed the presence of lead paint at a level of potential concern.
5. The Government is committed to providing safe learning environments to deliver inclusive education to children and young people in the ACT. The safety of students, staff and school communities is the highest priority.

ACT Government Election Commitment

6. The ACT Government *Education Policy Position Statement* outlined:
 - a. a commitment to provide \$15m in additional funding to accelerate the removal of hazardous materials from public school infrastructure,
 - b. the establishment of a new team in the Education Directorate to oversee this program and work with schools to give them confidence that school facilities remain safe, and
 - c. a commitment to accelerate a program of works to remove hazardous materials from public schools.
7. The Directorate is currently developing a detailed project plan for your consideration to progress the Election Commitment.
8. This project plan will inform a business case to be put forward for consideration in the February budget update. The business case will feature a program of screwdriver ready capital works, with the first tranche proposed to be delivered in the April 2021 school holiday period.

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Immediate Directorate Response - Lead Paint Rapid Assessments

9. Between Monday 21 September and Friday 23 October 2020, staff from Infrastructure and Capital Works (ICW) undertook school visits to observe and report on the condition of lead paint.
10. The assessments were prioritised as follows:
 - a. Preschools and Early Learning Centres,
 - b. Primary Schools, and,
 - c. High Schools and Colleges.
11. The Rapid Assessments identified that two schools required urgent works to remediate lead paint that was observed as being in poor condition.
12. A further 81 issues of concern were observed across all sites, with further investigation underway on determining the paint type, appropriate treatment, and urgency for these matters.
13. With the completion of the Rapid Assessments, any works identified as needing immediate action are being undertaken through existing resources. This includes the delivery of works through funds allocated for hazardous materials management as part of the Repairs and Maintenance budget.
14. It is estimated that these currently known immediate works will be completed by the end of Term 4, 2020.
15. The Directorate will engage directly with affected schools, ensuring that the details of works are clearly communicated and understood by school communities. These activities will be managed on a site by site basis to avoid undue concern when minor works are needed.

Accelerating the response to Hazardous Materials Management

16. A Hazardous Materials Management Taskforce has been established within the Directorate to oversee and report on all activities involving the management of hazardous materials at public schools.
17. Chaired by the Deputy Director-General, the Taskforce will ensure that activities align with Government policy settings and health and safety requirements, provide the appropriate level of engagement with stakeholders and ensures effective communication to the Government and school communities.
18. The first item for the Taskforce to focus on is the approach, methodology and program for the management of lead paint in public schools. As this matter is better understood and controlled, the focus will expand to cover a broader approach to hazardous materials management.

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Establishing an Independent Expert Panel

19. Following discussion with your Office, the Directorate will establish an independent expert panel (the Panel) to provide advice on the approach and methodology used to manage hazardous materials in public schools.
20. The establishment of a panel aligns with a suggestion from the ACT Council of Parents and Citizens Associations at the 13 August 2020 meeting with the Directorate to convene an expert panel on lead thresholds and risk mitigation.
21. The proposed membership is:

Name	Organisation	Note
Prof. Martyn Kirk	National Centre for Epidemiology & Population Health (NCEPH), ANU	Recommended by CHO and assisted with Mr Fluffy work. Has confirmed availability
Prof. Mark Taylor,	Professor of Environmental Science at Macquarie University	Lead expert and has provided commentary on ACT situation in media. Has confirmed availability
Ms. Jacqueline Agius (or delegate)	Worksafe ACT	Has confirmed availability
Dr Kerry Coleman (or delegate)	Office of the ACT Chief Health Officer	Has confirmed availability of Delegate

22. The Panel will report to the Directorate and will be invited to join by the Director-General of ACT Education.
23. The Directorate is also seeking collaboration from other Australian jurisdictions on their approach and methodology for management of hazardous materials in public schools.

Issues

24. The Australian Standard on Hazardous Paint Management (ASNZS4361.2:2017) sets out four general strategies for the management of lead paint:
 - I. doing nothing,
 - II. stabilising the paint,
 - III. carrying out abatement (or removal), or

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IV. a combination of these options.

25. The standard identifies that the most appropriate course of action may not be to remove the lead paint, and specific assessments will be developed and prioritised by the dedicated team.
26. Stabilisation may include sealing the lead-based paint surface with an appropriate encapsulant (which may be a liquid or adhesive) to prevent the release of paint chips or dust. This provides a barrier between the lead-based paint and the environment.
27. The methods and approach being taken will be communicated to key stakeholders and the broader community, including advice from the independent expert panel.

Good Point.

Risks

28. There is an ongoing risk that hazardous materials will be disturbed before accelerated work can be undertaken to either identify or control the material.
29. To help control these risks, the Director-General has directed schools to refer all capital works matters to the the Infrastructure and Capital Works (ICW) branch before undertaking capital works so that appropriate assessments can be carried out.
30. It is anticipated that as part of the normal maintenance or capital works, further schools (above the 70) may be identified as having the presence of lead paint. For example, removal of joinery may expose lead paint that was not previously visible or accessible.
31. In the case of the 70th school, paint was tested in a new location as a result of a request to undertake minor works and the results came back as above the 1% threshold. Previously, lead paint had not been detected at this school at these levels.

Financial Implications

32. Where instances requiring urgent action have been identified, ICW are delivering works through the existing hazardous materials allocation of \$2m p.a. within the Repairs and Maintenance budget.
33. The delivery of the accelerated program will be undertaken through the availability of \$15m in funds identified as part of the Government election commitment.
34. The Directorate will develop and submit a business case for the February 2021 budget update to support the appropriation of these funds.
35. Any costs incurred by panel members will be covered by the Directorate.

Consultation

Internal

36. ICW Network Officers have engaged with school based staff while undertaking Rapid Assessments, including with Business Managers and Business Service Officers.

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Cross Directorate

37. The Chief Health Officer has been consulted to provide expert advice relating to the health risk of hazardous materials in public schools and recommendations for an expert panel on hazardous materials.

External

38. Environmental assessors have been engaged to undertake testing and provide expert advice as required throughout the Rapid Assessment process.

Work Health and Safety

39. All works being conducted in relation to hazardous materials are undertaken by appropriately skilled and experienced contractors with safety management systems under the supervision of ACT Property Group assisted by Environmental Assessors.

Benefits/Sensitivities

40. The development and delivery of an accelerated program of works to manage hazardous materials within ACT public schools will help ensure that public schools continue to be safe environments for students, staff and the community and is likely to be welcomed by schools and the wider community.
41. The establishment of the Panel is expected to be welcomed by the community, including the P&C who previously suggested that such a panel be convened.
42. There is a risk that expectations exist for the immediate removal of all hazardous materials from ACT public schools, which cannot be delivered due to the immense scope and cost of such a program. In line with expert advice, it is also not considered necessary to remove all lead paint.
43. The Directorate will manage broader community expectations through robust policy and procedures, and continued engagement and education with stakeholders.
44. Construction works required as part of the continued management of hazardous materials in ACT public schools will grow jobs and contribute to the recovery of the ACT economy.
45. The Directorate will ensure that all actions on hazardous materials are transparent, documented, and auditable through transparent governance arrangements.

Communications, media and engagement implications

46. The Government response to the management of hazardous materials in public schools is expected to draw continued media interest.
47. The Directorate will manage expectations through continued engagement with stakeholders including but not limited to:
- a. Public school principals,

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- b. School communities, including school boards and P&C Associations,
 - c. Unions, including the AEU ACT, CPSU and United Workers' Union, and,
 - d. Worksafe ACT.
48. The Directorate will also undertake a proactive public education approach to the management of hazardous materials in public schools. This approach will provide clear and transparent information to stakeholders and our community, including:
- a. Identifying all public schools with a presence of hazardous materials,
 - b. Providing advice on the treatments underway and scheduled for individual schools, and,
 - c. Leveraging other ACT Government information and education campaigns on hazardous material management, including asbestos.
49. The establishment of the proposed independent expert panel on hazardous materials management in public schools will also provide input into stakeholder advice and education materials, using plain and relatable language.
50. The Directorate will develop material to be hosted on the ACT Education website, drawn from a range of authoritative sources (including the expert panel) which will provide parents and the community with a plain English guide to how and when the presence of lead paint presents a hazard.
51. A full communications plan will be provided to your office as part of the further briefing, which appropriately complements the proposed accelerated program and broader approach to hazardous materials management.

Signatory Name: Margaret McKinnon

Phone: 6207 2790

Action Officer: Peter Steele

Phone: 6205 2179

Caveat Brief

To: Minister for Education and Youth Affairs
Subject: Hazardous Materials work over December 2020 and January 2021 school holiday period
Date: 18 December 2020

That you:

Note the information contained in this brief.

Noted / Please Discuss

Yvette Berry M

23/12/20

Minister's Office Feedback

*Please advise re Dickson Asbestos
 Marilyn*

- During the December 2020 and January 2021 school holiday period, the Infrastructure and Capital Works Branch will be undertaking a series of works at 23 school sites involving hazardous materials.
- Most of these works will be the remediation of lead-based paint. The remediation method will be encapsulation, which is where deteriorating lead paint is painted over with a non-lead-based paint to reduce the risk of the lead paint deteriorating further and becoming a hazard.
- Other sites will have lead-based paint abatement performed. This is the complete removal of the lead paint and this option is pursued when the paint is deteriorated to a point where other methods, including encapsulation, are not appropriate.
- For one site, Dickson College, there will also be work undertaken to remove asbestos debris and insulation from the roof.
- Following completion of these works all school hazardous materials registers will be updated to reflect the changes.
- A table of school sites and works is listed below in *Table 1* below.

- The Directorate proposes that in the medium-term, a list of planned capital works is listed on the EDU website for each school. This will provide further transparency of the works being undertaken and keep a public record of planned and completed works at each school.
- The Directorate will provide further advice to your office as this strategy develops for your approval before proceeding.

Table 1: List of school sites and works scheduled over December 2020 and January 2021

Site	Type of work scheduled
Ainslie Primary	Lead-based paint remediation
Aranda Primary & Pre-school	Lead-based paint remediation
Calwell High	Lead-based paint remediation
Chapman Pre-school	Environmental Cleaning and Lead-based paint remediation
Cranleigh School	Lead-based paint remediation
Curtin Primary	Lead Paint Survey Report Remediations
Dickson College	Lead-based paint remediation and minor works
Dickson College	Removal of asbestos debris and insulation in the roof space
Dickson College	Lead-based paint remediation
Evatt Primary	Lead-based paint remediation
Farrer Pre-school	Lead-based paint remediation
Forrest Pre-school	Lead-based paint remediation
Fraser Primary & Pre-school	Lead-based paint remediation
Hawker College	Removal of Vermiculite Ceiling
Hughes Primary	Lead-based paint remediation
Kaleen High	Lead-based paint remediation
Macquarie Primary	Lead-based paint abatement and remediation
Mawson Primary	Lead-based paint remediation
Miles Franklin Pre-school	Lead-based paint remediation
Red Hill Primary	Lead-based paint abatement and remediation
Reid Pre-school	Lead-based paint remediation
Southern Cross ECS	Lead-based paint remediation
Telopea Park School	Environmental Cleaning and Lead-based paint remediation
Telopea Park School	Lead-based paint remediation
Torrens Primary	Lead-based paint remediation
Wanniassa Hills Pre-school	Lead-based paint remediation

Signatory Name: Andrew Parkinson
 Title Executive Branch Manager,
 Infrastructure & Capital Works
 Date 18 December 2020

Caveat Brief

To: Minister for Education and Youth Affairs
Subject: Richardson Primary School Lead Paint
Date: 17 December 2020

That you note the information contained in this brief.

Noted / Please Discuss

Yvette Berni

23/12/20

Minister's Office Feedback

- In preparation for planned works (including modifications to ductwork) to the plantroom at Richardson Primary School, an inspection and sampling of paint on the ductwork was undertaken by Robson Environmental on 12 October 2020.
- The assessor's report classified the paint sampled as lead-based paint and was issued to ACT Property Group (ACTPG) on 19 October 2020. ACTPG notified Infrastructure and Capital Works (ICW) on 20 October 2020.
- The planned works were then conducted on 18 November 2020 in accordance with the '*Lead Paint Contamination Management and Exposure Control Guide*' and the '*AS/NZS 4361.2:2017 Lead Paint in residential, public, and commercial buildings*' standard.
- During and following the works, air monitoring and surface dust sampling was undertaken with above threshold levels being detected on ductwork within the plant room. This necessitated additional environmental cleaning.
- Environmental cleaning to remove this dust was completed on 8 December 2020. A Clearance Certificate for Environmental Cleaning was issued on 14 December 2020 to ICW and to the school on 15 December 2020.
- In consultation with the school and ACTPG, access to the plant room was restricted from 18 November 2020 until a Clearance Certificate was received. The ventilation plant was also removed from service during this time.
- This has not impacted on students or teaching activities in the school. Copies of the reports have been added to the school's hazardous materials register located at the front office.

- No further action is required at this time with the existing paint to be monitored.

Signatory Name: Andrew Parkinson
Title Executive Branch Manager,
Infrastructure & Capital Works
Date 17 December 2020

To: Minister for Education and Youth Affairs
Subject: Richardson Primary School Lead Dust
Date: 28 January 2021

That you:

Note the information contained in this brief.

Noted / Please Discuss

Yvette Berry MLA /...../.....

Minister's Office Feedback

- While inspecting repairs to the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system at Richardson Primary School, dust accumulation was observed on the floor and the ductwork.
- Testing has confirmed above threshold lead levels in some ductwork samples.
- The ducts also serviced the hall, so samples were taken within this space at floor level. These samples all returned below threshold results and have been cleared for use.
- The HVAC contractor also identified the library and five teaching spaces are serviced by these ducts.
- These spaces were isolated and further samples from the ductwork collected on 27 January 2021 with results received late on 28 January 2021 confirming lead dust in the ductwork.
- As a precaution, specialist cleaners have now cleaned the rooms where lead dust was detected in the ductwork.
- Further samples from the classrooms at desk and floor level were taken on 29 January with results expected on 31 January.
- While this targeted cleaning and follow up testing is underway, classes 1-2 H and 1-2 M will be temporarily relocated to other classrooms.
- Communications are now ready for the principal to send to the school community on Monday to keep them informed of the cleaning and testing.
- ICW met with the Richardson Primary School teachers on Friday 29 January and gave a briefing on the actual risks of lead paint in their school context.

Signatory Name: Andrew Parkinson
Title: Executive Branch Manager
Date: 28 January 2021

Caveat Brief

To: Minister for Education and Youth Affairs
Subject: Wanniasa School (Senior Campus) Hazardous Materials
Date: 11 January 2021

That you note the information contained in this brief.

Noted / Please Discuss

Yvette Berry M

01/02/21

Minister's Office Feedback

Please ensure concerns go to the school and parents.

- In preparation for planned works to upgrade the chemical store at Wanniasa School senior campus, lead flashing was identified on 18 August 2020.
- No urgent work was required, as the lead flashing represented no immediate risk to staff or students.
- A contractor was engaged to remove the lead sheeting in conjunction with chemical store upgrade works undertaken on 10 December 2020. Robson Environmental undertook dust sampling and air monitoring during the removal works.
- Additional testing of the adjacent rooms (Lab 88 and 76 and Science Prep room 79) was undertaken by Robson Environmental on 17 December 2020.
- The assessment report for both sets of samples identified lead-containing dust above threshold levels. The report was issued to ACT Property Group (ACTPG) and Infrastructure and Capital Works (ICW) on 18 December 2020.
- In consultation with the school and ACTPG, access was restricted from 18 December 2020 and the area will remain off limits until a clearance Certificate is received.
- Environmental cleaning to remediate the chemical store was conducted on 18 December 2020. Environmental cleaning to the adjacent rooms will be conducted over the school holidays.

- Once a Clearance Certificate for environmental cleaning has been received for both the chemical store and the adjacent rooms, then works to upgrade the chemical store will commence and the adjacent rooms can be reoccupied.
- Staff from ICW discussed the impact of isolating the spaces with the Business Manager who advised teaching activities in this space had been completed for the year and isolation of the space did not have an operational impact.
- It is anticipated that remediation work will be completed prior to the beginning of the 2021 school year. In the instance that this work cannot be completed, the EBM ICW will phone the Principal to discuss and agree the level of communications that may be required to their school community.
- Copies of all reports and clearances will be included in the school's hazardous material register, which is available at the front office.
- Note that these works were not included in Caveat Brief *MIN20/1735 - Hazardous Materials work over December 2020 and January 2021 school holiday period* as the works are inclusive of the upgrade to the works to the chemical store and not a hazardous material specific project.

Signatory Name: Andrew Parkinson
Title Executive Branch Manager,
Infrastructure & Capital Works
Date 11 January 2021