

From: [McKinnon, Margaret](#)
To: [Mark Taylor; Short, Paul](#)
Cc: [Steele, Peter](#)
Subject: RE: Hazardous Materials Expert Panel - ACTION #2
Date: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 10:16:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

OFFICIAL

All good. Well done media talent!

WE have a fact sheet we also need to get EP to review – it will help supplement principals advice to schools.

marg

Margaret McKinnon | Executive Group Manager Business Services | **Education Directorate** | ACT Government

T: +61 2 6207 2790 | E: Margaret.McKinnon@act.gov.au

Level 6, 220 Northbourne Ave Braddon | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.education.act.gov.au



The Education Directorate acknowledges the Ngunnawal Peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the ACT and region upon which we live and work.

From: Mark Taylor [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 9:47 AM

To: Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>

Cc: Steele, Peter <Peter.Steele@act.gov.au>; McKinnon, Margaret <Margaret.McKinnon@act.gov.au>

Subject: Re: Hazardous Materials Expert Panel - ACTION #2

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Thanks - more information would have been good. I got 30 mins notice though this time.

M

Sent from my iPhone - please excuse typing errors and brevity.

[REDACTED]

On 2 Feb 2021, at 9:17 am, Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au> wrote:

Hi Mark

I caught the interview this morning and you did a great job - thank you!

In future I'm keen for us to brief you better about any latest developments in our school so you are up to speed. Peter - can we add this to the agenda for the next panel meeting?

[REDACTED]

Cheers

Paul

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Steele, Peter <Peter.Steele@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 9:08:27 AM

To: Mark Taylor [REDACTED]

Cc: McKinnon, Margaret <Margaret.McKinnon@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>

Subject: Re: Hazardous Materials Expert Panel - ACTION #2

Hi Mark,

Thanks for heads up. We will listen in!

Pete

Sent from iOS

From: Mark Taylor [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 8:35:27 AM

To: Steele, Peter <Peter.Steele@act.gov.au>

Cc: McKinnon, Margaret <Margaret.McKinnon@act.gov.au>

Subject: Re: Hazardous Materials Expert Panel - ACTION #2

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Peter and Margaret:

Just letting you know I on the ABC shortly re lead paint.

Don't fret - it's a hazard not a risk!

M

On 14 Jan 2021, at 9:57 am, Steele, Peter <Peter.Steele@act.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Hi Mark,

Just letting you know that I'm back on deck this week and I'll be following up your correspondence and coming back through to you shortly.

I've seen emails from through from both your MQ and [redacted] – is there one you'd prefer or both?

Ta

Pete

Peter Steele

ACT Government

0423390998

From: Mark Patrick Taylor [redacted]

Sent: Sunday, 27 December 2020 3:27 PM

To: Steele, Peter <Peter.Steele@act.gov.au>

Cc: Matthews, David <David.Matthews@act.gov.au>; McKinnon, Margaret <Margaret.McKinnon@act.gov.au>; Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; [redacted] Alford, Robert <Robert.Alford@act.gov.au>; Stedman, Andrew (Health) <Andrew.Stedman@act.gov.au>; Kneipp, Jason (Health) <Jason.Kneipp@act.gov.au>; Hooper, Richard <Richard.Hooper@act.gov.au>

Subject: Re: Hazardous Materials Expert Panel - ACTION #2

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Dear Peter et al.;

Just before Christmas these new dust standards were issued by the US EPA — these new clearance standards now match their hazard standards. These levels may arguably be still too high (based on research - see Braun et al. 2020), but these are the most recent and most stringent regulatory standards: <https://www.epa.gov/lead/hazard-standards-and-clearance-levels-lead-paint-dust-and-soil-tsca-sections-402-and-403#:~:text=EPA's%20new%20clearance%20levels%20are.the%20dust%20lead%20clearance%20levels> Given BLLs are now ~ 1 µg/dL (population average), then the HOME study standards for floors of 5 µg/ft² (~50 µg/m²); and for windowsills of 50 µg/ft² (~500 µg/m²) are clearly more protective as this would mean where the hazard is a risk (especially small children aged 1-3 yrs), then blood leads would be closer to the population average (see Figure 1).

Best

M

Professor Mark Patrick Taylor FRSN
Dept of Earth and Environmental Sciences
Faculty of Science & Engineering
Macquarie University



On 21 Dec 2020, at 12:29 pm, Steele, Peter <Peter.Steele@act.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon,

The attached documents are being provided per ACTION #2 of our December the 8th meeting –

ACTION Number	Responsible Member	ACTION
2.	PSt/ Secretariat	Directorate to distribute recent environmental reports that includes standards used for testing.

The PDF documents attached are:

Document File Name	Document Title	Notes
11181_YarralumlaPrimary_LeadDust_20200724	Lead Dust Investigation – Yarralumla Primary School and Montessori Preschool – July 24 2020	Section 5 – Page 10 covers the clearance levels used in testing
T01035_LPMP_Yarralumla_20191125	Lead Paint Management Plan – Yarralumla Primary &	

	Preschool – November 2019	
T01035 Yarralumla Primary School and Preschool Lead Paint Survey 20191015	Lead Paint Survey – Yarralumla Primary and Preschool – September 2019	

A follow up meeting will be scheduled out of session to discuss these documents further, including the levels used in the testing.

Please let us know if you would like to discuss further. I will return [REDACTED] from the 11th of January and be in touch shortly after.

Hope you all have a safe and happy holiday period.

Regards,

Pete

Peter Steele | Senior Director

P 02 62052179 | **M** 0423 390 998 | **E** peter.steele@act.gov.au

ACT Government – Education Directorate

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<11181_YarralumlaPrimary_LeadDust_20200724.pdf>

<T01035_LPMP_Yarralumla_20191125 (002).pdf>

<T01035_LPMP_Yarralumla_20191125.pdf>

White, Kelly

From: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 10:22 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: EDU Media
Subject: RE: Media inquiry

OFFICIAL

Hello [REDACTED]

Thanks for contacting us. Please attribute the following response to an Education Directorate spokesperson:

During routine maintenance work on Richardson Primary School's heating system over the summer break, dust containing lead particles was found in the boiler room and in heating ducts near the school hall. The areas connected to this particular heating system are the hall, the library and five learning spaces.

Licensed assessors, Robsons, conducted tests to check if lead dust has flowed from the heating system to other areas in the school. These tests have confirmed that all the spaces are safe to occupy. Following these tests, the learning spaces and library were cleared for occupation. No classrooms at Richardson Primary School are closed due to lead dust.

The affected heating system has been sealed and will not be used until it is safe to do so.

Please also find below some helpful background information about lead paint in schools that may be of use to you:

Over two-thirds of our public schools were built before 1992 – and just like houses built at this time, these schools were painted using lead paint. Lead paint isn't used any more, but we need to make sure these older buildings remain safe for students, staff and school communities – this is always the highest priority.

Across our public schools, lead paint is most typically found on painted timber surfaces including window frames, eaves and handrails, but has also been found in storage and equipment rooms.

Every public school with known hazardous materials has a Hazardous Materials Register, which is used by people doing maintenance or upgrades, so they know where any potentially hazardous materials are before they start work. The Education Directorate conducts regular reviews of all school buildings to make sure they remain safe.

Any time maintenance or upgrade works are carried out, we use trained professionals to check if any hazardous materials could be disturbed and make sure they are handled safely. Any work that could disturb lead paint is done in the school holidays to allow extra time for cleaning and follow-up testing to ensure the area is safe for students and staff.

Regular painting is also undertaken in public schools to make sure that existing lead paint is safely encapsulated.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

P: (02) 6205 4196 | M: 0431 252 698 | E: brenton.sloane@act.gov.au

Level 3, Nature Conservation House, 153 Emu Bank Belconnen | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 8:52 AM
To: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>
Subject: Media inquiry

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

I'm hoping to get a statement from you guys today regarding the lead dust found in an ACT school. Please give me a bell on [REDACTED]

Cheers,



White, Kelly

From: Parkinson, Andrew
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 12:03 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton
Cc: EDU Media; Larkin, Lyn; Short, Paul; Hunter, Stuart
Subject: RE: [REDACTED] - Lead Paint!

OFFICIAL

Happy with that

Andrew Parkinson | Executive Branch Manager
Infrastructure & Capital Works | Education Directorate | **ACT Government**
Phone 02 6205 4593 | **Mobile 0478 301 085**
220 Northbourne Ave, Braddon | www.act.gov.au

Gulanyin dhuniang, ngalawirinyin, dhunayinyin, Ngunnawal dhawra

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 11:49 AM
To: Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: [REDACTED] - Lead Paint!

OFFICIAL

Hello Andrew,

Another media follow up on lead paint. This one is from [REDACTED]

Suggest the following response:

Lead is a naturally occurring metal and lead-containing paint was in the past commonly used in many Australian buildings, including schools. Over two-thirds of our public schools were built before 1992 – and just like houses built at this time, these schools were painted using lead paint.

While lead paint isn't used any more, we need to make sure these older buildings remain safe for students, staff and school communities – this is always the highest priority. That's why every public school with known hazardous materials has a Hazardous Materials Register, which is used by people doing maintenance or upgrades, so they know where any potentially hazardous materials are before they start work.

Across our public schools, lead paint is most typically found on painted timber surfaces including window frames, eaves and handrails, but has also been found in storage and equipment rooms. The Education Directorate conducts regular reviews of all school buildings to make sure they remain safe for students, staff and school communities.

Happy to discuss in more detail if required.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

P: (02) 6205 4196 | M: 0431 252 698 | E: brenton.sloane@act.gov.au

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From: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 11:28 AM

To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: [REDACTED] - Lead Paint!

Another one –

Thanks Brenton

From: Dynon, Kaarin <Kaarin.Dynon@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 11:26 AM

To: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: [REDACTED] Lead Paint!

Over to you!

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 10:49 AM

To: Dynon, Kaarin <Kaarin.Dynon@act.gov.au>

Subject: [REDACTED]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Kaarin,

Following on from this morning's press conference:

Why was lead paint used at all?

Were there any concerns at the time that lead in schools could be hazardous? (After all, it was common knowledge throughout the 20th century that lead poisoning contributed to the fall of Rome.)

Could we have a response today?

Thank you in advance,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



White, Kelly

From: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 12:22 PM
To: Parkinson, Andrew
Cc: EDU Media; Larkin, Lyn; Short, Paul; Mulligan, Jo
Subject: RE: Toxic materials found in schools

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

OFFICIAL

Hey Andrew,

Here is a suggested revision based on a discussion with Lyn:

The Education Directorate is aware of the presence of lead paint and other hazardous materials across our school network – we don't need to order inspections because we know where the hazardous materials are. Over two-thirds of our public schools were built before 1992 – and just like houses built at this time, these schools were painted using lead paint. More than 70 of our schools have lead paint or other hazardous materials in them. That's why every public school with known hazardous materials has a Hazardous Materials Register, which is used by people doing maintenance or upgrades, so they know where any potentially hazardous materials are before they start work.

In the case of Richardson, as is the case at all our schools, the presence of lead paint at Richardson was known before this routine maintenance work was undertaken over the summer break.

Licensed assessors, Robsons, conducted tests to check if lead dust has flowed from the heating system to other areas in the school. These tests have confirmed that all the spaces are safe to occupy. Following these tests, the learning spaces and library were cleared for occupation. No classrooms at Richardson Primary School are closed due to lead dust.

The ACT Government has committed \$114 million dollars over the next four years to upgrade school buildings to keep them comfortable and safe, including funding to accelerate the removal of hazardous materials. This additional funding will allow for the accelerated removal of hazardous materials in ACT public schools.

A dedicated taskforce has also been formed within the Education Directorate to lead this important work. The taskforce is being supported by an independent panel of experts, including academics and health officials.

Let me know what you think about this one.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

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From: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 12:10 PM
To: Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; Mulligan, Jo <Jo.Mulligan@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Toxic materials found in schools

OFFICIAL

Hello Andrew,

Please see below media enquiry from [REDACTED]

Suggest the following:

During routine maintenance work on Richardson Primary School's heating system over the summer break, dust containing lead particles was found in the boiler room and in heating ducts near the school hall. The areas connected to this particular heating system are the hall, the library and five learning spaces.

Licensed assessors, Robsons, conducted tests to check if lead dust has flowed from the heating system to other areas in the school. These tests have confirmed that all the spaces are safe to occupy. Following these tests, the learning spaces and library were cleared for occupation. No classrooms at Richardson Primary School are closed due to lead dust.

The presence of lead paint at Richardson Primary School was known before this work was undertaken. The Education Directorate is aware of the presence of lead paint and other hazardous materials across our school network – we don't need to order inspections because we know where the hazardous materials are. That's why every public school with known hazardous materials has a Hazardous Materials Register, which is used by people doing maintenance or upgrades, so they know where any potentially hazardous materials are before they start work.

The ACT Government has committed \$114 million dollars over the next four years to upgrade school buildings to keep them comfortable and safe, including funding to accelerate the removal of hazardous materials. This additional funding will allow for the accelerated removal of hazardous materials in ACT public schools.

A dedicated taskforce has also been formed within the Education Directorate to lead this important work. The taskforce is being supported by an independent panel of experts, including academics and health officials.

Let me know what you think.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

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From: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 11:53 AM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Toxic materials found in schools

Another one –

Thanks Brenton

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 11:42 AM
To: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Subject: Toxic materials found in schools

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Megan,

I was hoping we could get a comment from the Education Minister, Yvette Berry, in regards to the latest discovery of dust at Richardson Primary School that contained toxic lead particles.

Considering this is the fourth time in the ACT that such material has been found, what will the ACT government do to rectify this problem so it does not rear its ugly head again? Will the government order inspections of all schools in the ACT so the health of children is not at risk? Or will the government set up an inquiry even to see how this has happen?

As this is an online story on our [REDACTED] website, we are happy to add further lines to the current story as I write it.

cheers,

[REDACTED]

Bowden, Julia

From: Steele, Peter
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 1:25 PM
To: Matthews, David; Matthews, David; McKinnon, Margaret; Parkinson, Andrew; Short, Paul; Agius, Jacqueline; Coleman, Kerry (Health); Alford, Robert; Stedman, Andrew (Health)
Cc: Kneipp, Jason (Health); Larkin, Lyn
Subject: Hazardous Materials Expert Panel Announcement today


OFFICIAL

Colleagues,

I am writing to inform you that this morning Minister Berry has publicly acknowledged the establishment of the Expert Panel on Hazardous Materials.

One of our external members, Professor Mark Taylor, has been interviewed this morning on ABC radio and will be on ABC TV this evening discussing lead paint in ACT public schools.

Could I please ask that if any of your organisations are contacted on this matter that you refer any media queries to Lyn Larkin (cc'd) and myself.

Lyn is also available on 

Thank you and we will be in touch soon to continue our work in this space.

Pete

Peter Steele | Senior Director
P 02 62052179 | M 0423 390 998 | E peter.steele@act.gov.au
ACT Government – Education Directorate

White, Kelly

From: Matthews, David
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 1:41 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton
Cc: EDU Media; Larkin, Lyn; Short, Paul; DDGEDUoffice
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: [REDACTED] - Lead Paint!

OFFICIAL

Great. Approved.

David Matthews

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 12:40 PM
To: Matthews, David <David.Matthews@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR APPROVAL: Canberra Weekly - Lead Paint!

OFFICIAL

Hello David,

Another media follow up on lead paint. This one is from The [REDACTED]

Suggest the following response, which has been cleared by Andrew Parkinson:

Lead is a naturally occurring metal and lead-containing paint was in the past commonly used in many Australian buildings, including schools. Over two-thirds of our public schools were built before 1992 – and just like houses built at this time, these schools were painted using lead paint.

While lead paint isn't used any more, we need to make sure these older buildings remain safe for students, staff and school communities – this is always the highest priority. That's why every public school with known hazardous materials has a Hazardous Materials Register, which is used by people doing maintenance or upgrades, so they know where any potentially hazardous materials are before they start work.

Across our public schools, lead paint is most typically found on painted timber surfaces including window frames, eaves and handrails, but has also been found in storage and equipment rooms. The Education Directorate conducts regular reviews of all school buildings to make sure they remain safe for students, staff and school communities.

Happy to discuss in more detail if required.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

P: (02) 6205 4196 | M: 0431 252 698 | E: brenton.sloane@act.gov.au

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From: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 11:28 AM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: [REDACTED] - Lead Paint!

Another one –

Thanks Brenton

From: Dynon, Kaarin <Kaarin.Dynon@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 11:26 AM
To: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: [REDACTED] - Lead Paint!

Over to you!

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 10:49 AM
To: Dynon, Kaarin <Kaarin.Dynon@act.gov.au>
Subject: [REDACTED]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Kaarin,

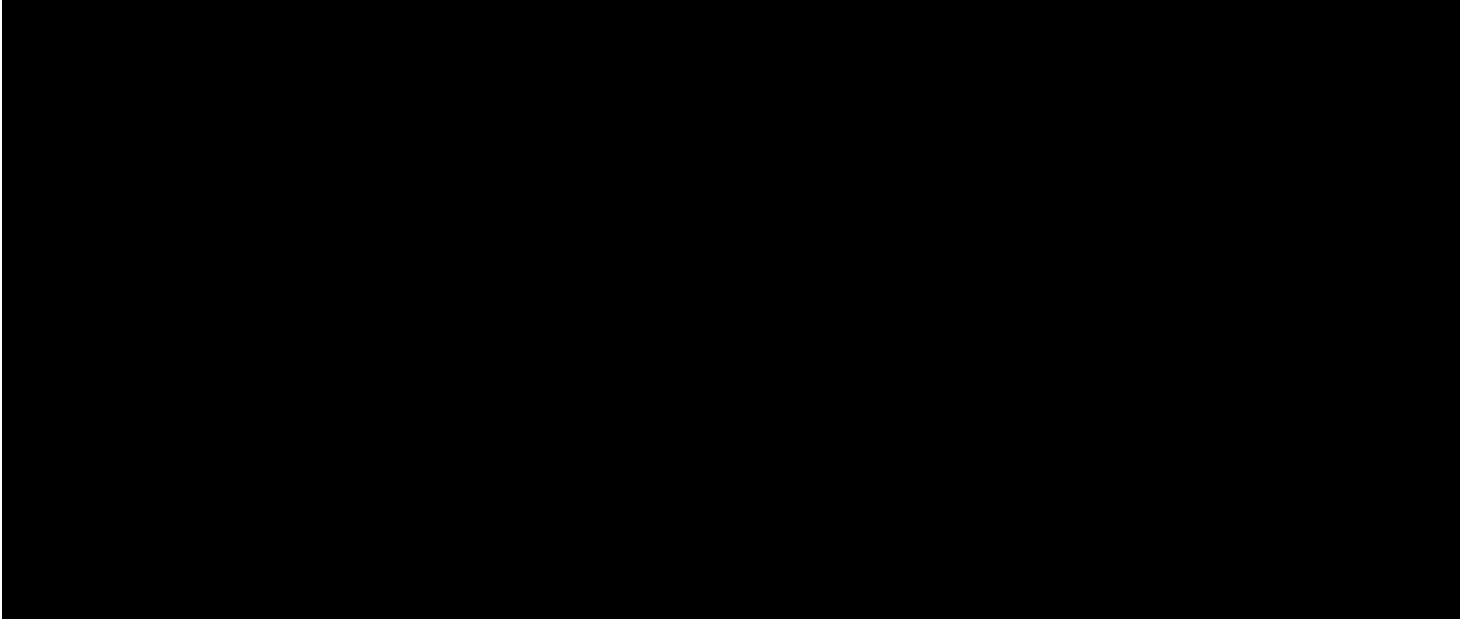
Following on from this morning's press conference:

Why was lead paint used at all?

Were there any concerns at the time that lead in schools could be hazardous? (After all, it was common knowledge throughout the 20th century that lead poisoning contributed to the fall of Rome.)

Could we have a response today?

Thank you in advance,



White, Kelly

From: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 2:24 PM
To: Parkinson, Andrew; Steele, Peter; EDU Media; Larkin, Lyn; Short, Paul; EDU, EDBSD; Mulligan, Jo
Cc: Gumley, Clair
Subject: RE: Follow up questions.

Categories: Brenton - FOR ACTION

OFFICIAL

Thanks Andrew.

Will proceed.

From: Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 2:19 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>; Steele, Peter <Peter.Steele@act.gov.au>; EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; EDU, EDBSD <EDBSD.EDU@act.gov.au>; Mulligan, Jo <Jo.Mulligan@act.gov.au>
Cc: Gumley, Clair <Clair.Gumley@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Follow up questions.

OFFICIAL

Fine by me

Andrew Parkinson | Executive Branch Manager
Infrastructure & Capital Works | Education Directorate | **ACT Government**
Phone 02 6205 4593 | **Mobile 0478 301 085**
220 Northbourne Ave, Braddon | www.act.gov.au

Gulanyin dhuniang, ngalawirinyin, dhunayinyin, Ngunnawal dhawra

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 2:17 PM
To: Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>; Steele, Peter <Peter.Steele@act.gov.au>; EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; EDU, EDBSD <EDBSD.EDU@act.gov.au>; Mulligan, Jo <Jo.Mulligan@act.gov.au>
Cc: Gumley, Clair <Clair.Gumley@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Follow up questions.

OFFICIAL

Thanks Andrew, Peter and all for your assistance on this one.

Andrew – Clair Gumley has just come back to us with further advice on works at YPS.

As such, I'm proposing we proceed to David with the following:

What are the names of the people on the expert advisory group on lead paint?

Membership of the expert panel includes representatives of the executive of the Education Directorate, the ACT Chief Health Officer, a representative of ACT Worksafe, Professor Mark Taylor from Macquarie University and Professor Martyn Kirk from the Australian National University.

Has any further lead or asbestos remediation work been done at Yarralumla Primary school over the summer holidays? If so, what was done there?

Minor paint works, including encapsulation, as well as maintenance works have taken place at Yarralumla Primary School during the summer break.

Planning for the next round of major works was also undertaken. Larger projects, including window replacement and asbestos removal works, are scheduled to take place at Yarralumla Primary in line with the arrival of new transportable classrooms. These transportables will allow for the rooms to be freed up of students so the work can be safely undertaken during non-school holiday periods.

Please advise.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

P: (02) 6205 4196 | M: 0431 252 698 | E: brenton.sloane@act.gov.au

Level 3, Nature Conservation House, 153 Emu Bank Belconnen | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

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From: Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 1:52 PM

To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>; Steele, Peter <Peter.Steele@act.gov.au>; EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; EDU, EDBSD <EDBSD.EDU@act.gov.au>; Mulligan, Jo <Jo.Mulligan@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Follow up questions.

OFFICIAL

Planning for the next round of major works and some minor paint work were undertaken at YPS. Once the new RLU arrives in term 1 we will have space to decant classes and undertake these larger projects (such as more window replacement and asbestos removal).

Andrew Parkinson | Executive Branch Manager

Infrastructure & Capital Works | Education Directorate | ACT Government

Phone 02 6205 4593 | **Mobile 0478 301 085**

220 Northbourne Ave, Braddon | www.act.gov.au

Gulanyin dhuniang, ngalawirinyin, dhunayinyin, Ngunnawal dhawra

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 1:38 PM
To: Steele, Peter <Peter.Steele@act.gov.au>; EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; EDU, EDBSD <EDBSD.EDU@act.gov.au>; Mulligan, Jo <Jo.Mulligan@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Follow up questions.

OFFICIAL

Thanks Peter.

For everyone's benefit, this is where we are up to for this media enquiry:

What are the names of the people on the expert advisory group on lead paint?

Membership of the expert panel includes representatives of the executive of the Education Directorate, the ACT Chief Health Officer, a representative of ACT Worksafe, Professor Mark Taylor from Macquarie University and Professor Martyn Kirk from the Australian National University.

Has any further lead or asbestos remediation work been done at Yarralumla Primary school over the summer holidays? If so, what was done there?

(Information to be provided)

Once we have that information back from ICW on YPS, we'll look to proceed to David.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

P: (02) 6205 4196 | M: 0431 252 698 | E: brenton.sloane@act.gov.au

Level 3, Nature Conservation House, 153 Emu Bank Belconnen | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

www.education.act.gov.au | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

From: Steele, Peter <Peter.Steele@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 1:20 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; EDU, EDBSD <EDBSD.EDU@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Follow up questions.

OFFICIAL

Hi Brenton,

Below is the membership details of both the **Hazardous Materials Management Taskforce** (internal to Directorate) and the **Independent Expert Panel on Hazardous Materials** (includes external experts and members from across Government).

I have left a message with Professor Kirk and emailed him so that he is aware of the announcement by the Minister and have asked him to call Lyn or myself.

I will also send an email to the full panel members to make sure they are aware of the announcement and to contact us if there are any media queries.

I have also included a signed caveat brief to Minister Berry that notes all hazardous material work that was scheduled over the December/Jan holiday period – it does not include Yarralumla. ICW may need to provide any further info.

Please let me know if you require any further info,

Pete

Independent Expert Panel:

The Panel has held an initial meeting on *December 8 2020*. Further meetings will be scheduled as required.

Terms of reference attached - including membership in **Section 4**:

Membership of the Panel includes:

- David Matthews, Deputy Director-General ACT Education (Chair)

ACT Education Members

- Margaret McKinnon, Executive Group Manager, Business Services Division (EGM BSD)
- Andrew Parkinson, Executive Branch Manager, Infrastructure and Capital Works (EBM ICW)
- Paul Short, Executive Branch Manager, Communications and Engagement (EBM C&E)

Membership external to ACT Education

- Prof. Mark Taylor (MT) – Macquarie University
- Prof. Martyn Kirk (MK) – Australian National University
- Representative – ACT Worksafe
- Representative – ACT Chief Health Officer

The contact details for the Independent Experts are:

Name:	Email:	Phone:	Organisation:	Title:
Professor Martyn Kirk	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	ANU	Professor of Epidemiology
Professor Mark Taylor	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Macquarie University	Professor of Environmental Science and Human Health

Hazardous Materials Management Taskforce:

The taskforce has met regularly since October 2020 to provide further oversight of the Management and Removal of Hazardous Materials in ACT public schools.

The membership of the Taskforce is:

- Deputy Director-General (Chair)
- Executive Group Manager, Business Services Division (EGM BSD)
- Executive Branch Manager, Infrastructure and Capital Works (EBM ICW)
- Executive Branch Manager, Communications & Engagement (EBM C&E)

- Executive Branch Manager, People and Performance (EBM P&P)
- Senior Project Director – ICW
- Senior Project Director – Secretariat

Peter Steele
ACT Government
0423390998

-----Original Message-----

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 12:24 PM

To: Steele, Peter <Peter.Steele@act.gov.au>

Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Follow up questions.

OFFICIAL

Hello Peter,

My apologies - I understand the expert panel stuff sits with you.

Please find below the first question about the names of the expert panel. I'll need this info from you Peter.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

P: (02) 6205 4196 | M: 0431 252 698 | E: brenton.sloane@act.gov.au Level 3, Nature Conservation House, 153 Emu Bank Belconnen | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 www.education.act.gov.au | Facebook | Twitter | Instagram | LinkedIn

-----Original Message-----

From: Sloane, Brenton

Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 11:24 AM

To: Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>

Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Mulligan, Jo <Jo.Mulligan@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; ICW EBM Office <ICWEBMOffice@act.gov.au>;

Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Follow up questions.

OFFICIAL

Hello Andrew,

Please find below follow up questions from [REDACTED]

We'll need to pull together something ASAP.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

P: (02) 6205 4196 | M: 0431 252 698 | E: brenton.sloane@act.gov.au Level 3, Nature Conservation House, 153 Emu Bank Belconnen | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 www.education.act.gov.au | Facebook | Twitter | Instagram | LinkedIn

-----Original Message-----

From: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 10:56 AM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Follow up questions.

Hey Brenton

Are you able to help answer [REDACTED] questions below?

Thanks
Megan

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 10:07 AM
To: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Subject: Follow up questions.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

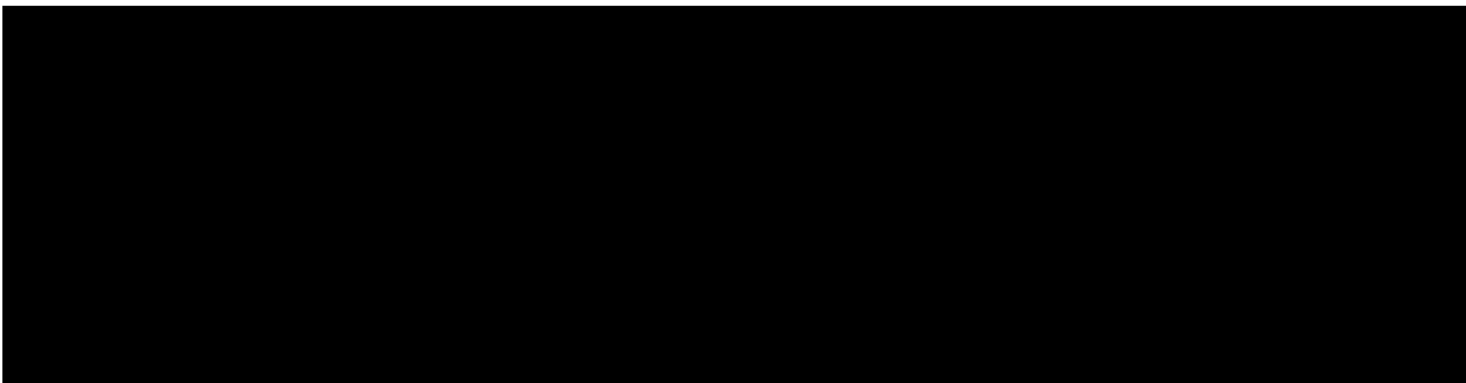
Hi Megan,

I attended the presser today but I have two follow up questions:

- what are the names of the people on the expert advisory group on lead paint?
- has any further lead or asbestos remediation work been done at Yarralumla Primary school over the summer holidays? If so, what was done there?

I'd appreciate a response by 4pm.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]



White, Kelly

From: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 2:56 PM
To: Parkinson, Andrew
Cc: EDU Media; Larkin, Lyn; Short, Paul; ICW EBM Office
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: Hazardous materials in Canberra school

OFFICIAL

Thanks Andrew!

From: Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 2:51 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; ICW EBM Office <ICWEBMOffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: Hazardous materials in Canberra school

OFFICIAL

I'm fine with this

Andrew Parkinson | Executive Branch Manager
Infrastructure & Capital Works | Education Directorate | **ACT Government**
Phone 02 6205 4593 | **Mobile 0478 301 085**
220 Northbourne Ave, Braddon | www.act.gov.au

Gulanyin dhuniang, ngalawirinyin, dhunayinyin, Ngunnawal dhawra

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 12:46 PM
To: Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; ICW EBM Office <ICWEBMOffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR APPROVAL: Hazardous materials in Canberra school

OFFICIAL

Hello Andrew,

Please find below another media enquiry about lead paint.

Suggest responding with the following:

During routine maintenance work on Richardson Primary School's heating system over the summer break, dust containing lead particles was found in the boiler room and in heating ducts near the school hall. The areas connected to this particular heating system are the hall, the library and five learning spaces.

Licensed assessors, Robsons, conducted tests to check if lead dust has flowed from the heating system to other areas in the school. These tests have confirmed that all the spaces are safe to occupy. Following these tests, the learning spaces and library were cleared for occupation. No classrooms at Richardson Primary School are closed due to lead dust. The affected heating system has been sealed and will not be used until it is safe to do so.

The presence of lead paint at the school was known before this work was undertaken. In line with the Directorate's usual process, we conducted lead dust testing at the completion of these works to ensure spaces remained safe for use.

In this case, testing found dust containing lead particles in the boiler room and in heating ducts near the school hall early last week. The school hall, the library and the five learning spaces connected to this heating system were also tested and cleared for occupation by licenced assessors over the weekend.

Let me know if you approve. If so I'll progress to David.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

P: (02) 6205 4196 | M: 0431 252 698 | E: brenton.sloane@act.gov.au

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From: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 12:23 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Cc: Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Hazardous materials in Canberra school

OFFICIAL

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 12:21 PM
To: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>
Subject: Hazardous materials in Canberra school

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi media team,

I'm hoping you'll be able to provide a statement or some lines on reports of lead paint found at Richardson Primary School.

When was the department made aware of this? What is being done to rectify the issue? Have parents/guardians been made aware of the presence of the materials?

Thanks!

[REDACTED]

White, Kelly

From: Cursley, Megan
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 3:05 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton
Cc: EDU Media; Larkin, Lyn; Short, Paul
Subject: RE: FOR USE: [REDACTED] - Lead Paint!

This has been provided to [REDACTED] as is. Thank you

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 1:59 PM
To: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR USE: [REDACTED] - Lead Paint!

OFFICIAL

Hello Megan,

Please see below suggested response for the MO re: [REDACTED] enquiry.

Suggest the following response, which has been cleared by DDG David Matthews:

Lead is a naturally occurring metal and lead-containing paint was in the past commonly used in many Australian buildings, including schools. Over two-thirds of our public schools were built before 1992 – and just like houses built at this time, these schools were painted using lead paint.

While lead paint isn't used any more, we need to make sure these older buildings remain safe for students, staff and school communities – this is always the highest priority. That's why every public school with known hazardous materials has a Hazardous Materials Register, which is used by people doing maintenance or upgrades, so they know where any potentially hazardous materials are before they start work.

Across our public schools, lead paint is most typically found on painted timber surfaces including window frames, eaves and handrails, but has also been found in storage and equipment rooms. The Education Directorate conducts regular reviews of all school buildings to make sure they remain safe for students, staff and school communities.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

P: (02) 6205 4196 | M: 0431 252 698 | E: brenton.sloane@act.gov.au

Level 3, Nature Conservation House, 153 Emu Bank Belconnen | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

www.education.act.gov.au | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

From: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 11:28 AM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: [REDACTED] Lead Paint!

Another one –

Thanks Brenton

From: Dynon, Kaarin <Kaarin.Dynon@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 11:26 AM
To: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: [REDACTED] Lead Paint!

Over to you!

From: Nick Fuller <nick.fuller@canberraweekly.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 10:49 AM
To: Dynon, Kaarin <Kaarin.Dynon@act.gov.au>
Subject: [REDACTED]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Kaarin,

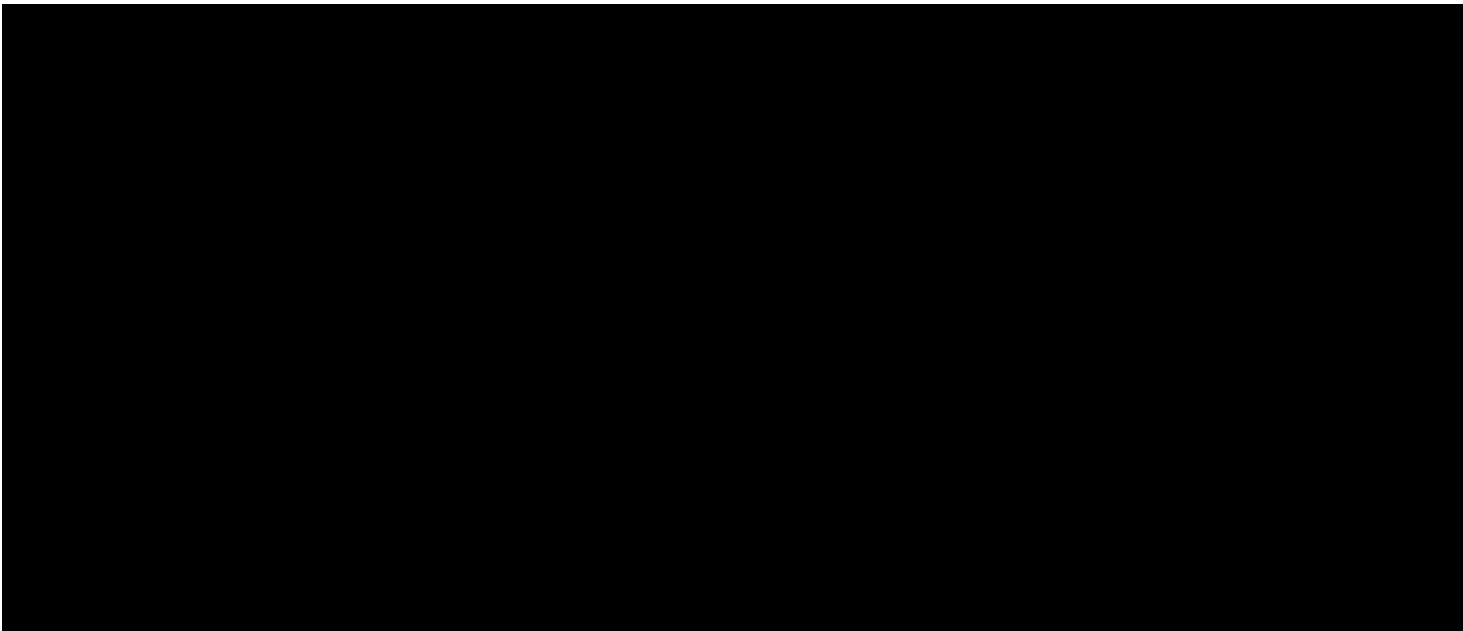
Following on from this morning's press conference:

Why was lead paint used at all?

Were there any concerns at the time that lead in schools could be hazardous? (After all, it was common knowledge throughout the 20th century that lead poisoning contributed to the fall of Rome.)

Could we have a response today?

Thank you in advance,



White, Kelly

From: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 3:24 PM
To: Cursley, Megan
Cc: EDU Media; Larkin, Lyn; Short, Paul
Subject: FOR USE: Follow up questions.

OFFICIAL

Hello Megan,

Please see below a proposed media response for the MO to use in response to [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The below has been approved by DDG David Matthews.

What are the names of the people on the expert advisory group on lead paint?

Membership of the expert panel includes representatives of the executive of the Education Directorate, the ACT Chief Health Officer, a representative of ACT Worksafe, Professor Mark Taylor from Macquarie University and Professor Martyn Kirk from the Australian National University.

Has any further lead or asbestos remediation work been done at Yarralumla Primary school over the summer holidays? If so, what was done there?

Minor paint works, including encapsulation, as well as maintenance works have taken place at Yarralumla Primary School during the summer break.

Planning for the next round of major works was also undertaken. Larger projects, including window replacement and asbestos removal works, are scheduled to take place at Yarralumla Primary in line with the arrival of new transportable classrooms. These transportables will allow for the rooms to be freed up of students so the work can be safely undertaken during non-school holiday periods.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

P: (02) 6205 4196 | M: 0431 252 698 | E: brenton.sloane@act.gov.au

Level 3, Nature Conservation House, 153 Emu Bank Belconnen | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

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-----Original Message-----

From: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 10:56 AM

To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Follow up questions.

Hey Brenton

Are you able to help answer [REDACTED] questions below?

Thanks
Megan

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 10:07 AM
To: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Subject: Follow up questions.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Megan,

I attended the presser today but I have two follow up questions:

- what are the names of the people on the expert advisory group on lead paint?
- has any further lead or asbestos remediation work been done at Yarralumla Primary school over the summer holidays? If so, what was done there?

I'd appreciate a response by 4pm.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

White, Kelly

From: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 3:26 PM
To: Matthews, David
Cc: DDGEDUoffice; Larkin, Lyn; Short, Paul; EDU Media; Parkinson, Andrew
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: Toxic materials found in schools

OFFICIAL

No worries David.

Based on your advice, I will proceed with the following version (CC Andrew as FYI):

The Education Directorate is aware of the presence of lead paint and other hazardous materials across our school network – we don't need to order inspections because we know where the hazardous materials are. Over two-thirds of our public schools were built before 1992 – therefore, 71 of our schools have lead paint or other hazardous materials in them. That's why every public school with known hazardous materials has a Hazardous Materials Register, which is used by people doing maintenance or upgrades, so they know where any potentially hazardous materials are before they start work.

In the case of Richardson, as is the case at all our schools, the presence of lead paint was known before this routine maintenance work was undertaken over the summer break.

Licensed assessors, Robsons, conducted tests to check if lead dust has flowed from the heating system to other areas in the school. These tests have confirmed that all the spaces are safe to occupy. Following these tests, the learning spaces and library were cleared for occupation. No classrooms at Richardson Primary School are closed due to lead dust.

The ACT Government has committed \$114 million dollars over the next four years to upgrade school buildings to keep them comfortable and safe, including funding to accelerate the removal of hazardous materials. This additional funding will allow for the accelerated removal of hazardous materials in ACT public schools.

A dedicated taskforce has also been formed within the Education Directorate to lead this important work. The taskforce is being supported by an independent panel of experts, including academics and health officials.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

P: (02) 6205 4196 | M: 0431 252 698 | E: brenton.sloane@act.gov.au

Level 3, Nature Conservation House, 153 Emu Bank Belconnen | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

www.education.act.gov.au | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

From: Matthews, David <David.Matthews@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 3:21 PM

To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>

Cc: DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul

<Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: Toxic materials found in schools

OFFICIAL

We should 71 if that is the number.

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 2:43 PM
To: Matthews, David <David.Matthews@act.gov.au>
Cc: DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: Toxic materials found in schools

OFFICIAL

Hi David,

The advice to me from Andrew Parkinson is that there are 71 schools known to contain lead paint or asbestos (or both).

Noting this, would you like me to proceed with the response as is, or make a change?

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director
Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government
P: (02) 6205 4196 | M: 0431 252 698 | E: brenton.sloane@act.gov.au
Level 3, Nature Conservation House, 153 Emu Bank Belconnen | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
www.education.act.gov.au | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

From: Matthews, David <David.Matthews@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 1:42 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Cc: DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: Toxic materials found in schools

OFFICIAL

Approved pending confirmation of numbers. What do we mean by “more than 70 of our schools”?

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 12:38 PM
To: Matthews, David <David.Matthews@act.gov.au>
Cc: DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR APPROVAL: Toxic materials found in schools

OFFICIAL

Hello David,

Please see below a media enquiry from the [REDACTED] re: lead paint.

Below is the proposed response cleared by Andrew Parkinson and Peter Steele.

Please advise if you approve. If so, I will proceed to MO for final clearance:

The Education Directorate is aware of the presence of lead paint and other hazardous materials across our school network – we don't need to order inspections because we know where the hazardous materials are. Over two-thirds of our public schools were built before 1992 – therefore, more than 70 of our schools have lead paint or other hazardous materials in them. That's why every public school with known hazardous materials has a Hazardous Materials Register, which is used by people doing maintenance or upgrades, so they know where any potentially hazardous materials are before they start work.

In the case of Richardson, as is the case at all our schools, the presence of lead paint at Richardson was known before this routine maintenance work was undertaken over the summer break.

Licensed assessors, Robsons, conducted tests to check if lead dust has flowed from the heating system to other areas in the school. These tests have confirmed that all the spaces are safe to occupy. Following these tests, the learning spaces and library were cleared for occupation. No classrooms at Richardson Primary School are closed due to lead dust.

The ACT Government has committed \$114 million dollars over the next four years to upgrade school buildings to keep them comfortable and safe, including funding to accelerate the removal of hazardous materials. This additional funding will allow for the accelerated removal of hazardous materials in ACT public schools.

A dedicated taskforce has also been formed within the Education Directorate to lead this important work. The taskforce is being supported by an independent panel of experts, including academics and health officials.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

P: (02) 6205 4196 | M: 0431 252 698 | E: brenton.sloane@act.gov.au

Level 3, Nature Conservation House, 153 Emu Bank Belconnen | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

www.education.act.gov.au | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

From: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 11:53 AM

To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Toxic materials found in schools

Another one –

Thanks Brenton

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 11:42 AM

To: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>

Subject: Toxic materials found in schools

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

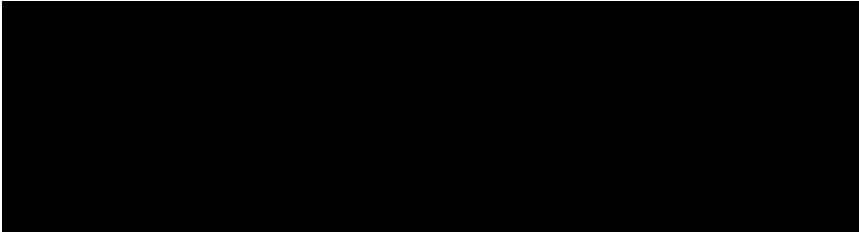
Hi Megan,

I was hoping we could get a comment from the Education Minister, Yvette Berry, in regards to the latest discovery of dust at Richardson Primary School that contained toxic lead particles.

Considering this is the fourth time in the ACT that such material has been found, what will the ACT government do to rectify this problem so it does not rear its ugly head again? Will the government order inspections of all schools in the ACT so the health of children is not at risk? Or will the government set up an inquiry even to see how this has happen?

As this is an online story on [REDACTED] we are happy to add further lines to the current story as I write it.

cheers,



White, Kelly

From: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 3:29 PM
To: Matthews, David
Cc: EDU Media; Larkin, Lyn; Short, Paul; DDGEDUoffice
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: Hazardous materials in Canberra school

OFFICIAL

Thanks David!

From: Matthews, David <David.Matthews@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 3:22 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: Hazardous materials in Canberra school

OFFICIAL

Approved.

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 2:57 PM
To: Matthews, David <David.Matthews@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR APPROVAL: Hazardous materials in Canberra school

OFFICIAL

Hello David,

Please find below another media enquiry about lead paint – this one from [REDACTED]

Suggested response, approved by Andrew Parkinson:

During routine maintenance work on Richardson Primary School's heating system over the summer break, dust containing lead particles was found in the boiler room and in heating ducts near the school hall. The areas connected to this particular heating system are the hall, the library and five learning spaces.

Licensed assessors, Robsons, conducted tests to check if lead dust has flowed from the heating system to other areas in the school. These tests have confirmed that all the spaces are safe to occupy. Following these tests, the learning spaces and library were cleared for occupation. No classrooms at Richardson Primary School are closed due to lead dust. The affected heating system has been sealed and will not be used until it is safe to do so.

The presence of lead paint at the school was known before this work was undertaken. In line with the Directorate's usual process, we conducted lead dust testing at the completion of these works to ensure spaces remained safe for use.

In this case, testing found dust containing lead particles in the boiler room and in heating ducts near the school hall early last week. The school hall, the library and the five learning spaces connected to this heating system were also tested and cleared for occupation by licenced assessors over the weekend.

Let me know if you approve. If so, I'll progress to MO for final clearance.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

P: (02) 6205 4196 | M: 0431 252 698 | E: brenton.sloane@act.gov.au

Level 3, Nature Conservation House, 153 Emu Bank Belconnen | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

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From: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 12:23 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Cc: Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Hazardous materials in Canberra school

OFFICIAL

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 12:21 PM
To: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>
Subject: Hazardous materials in Canberra school

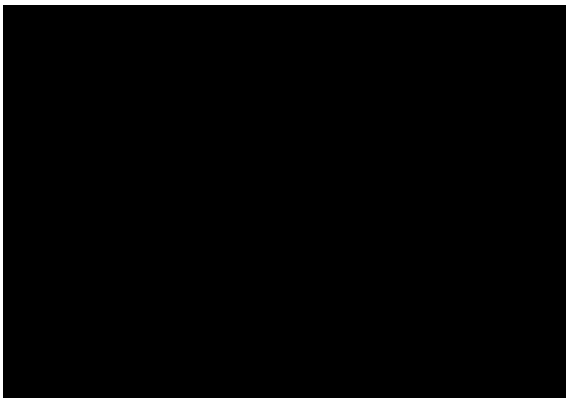
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

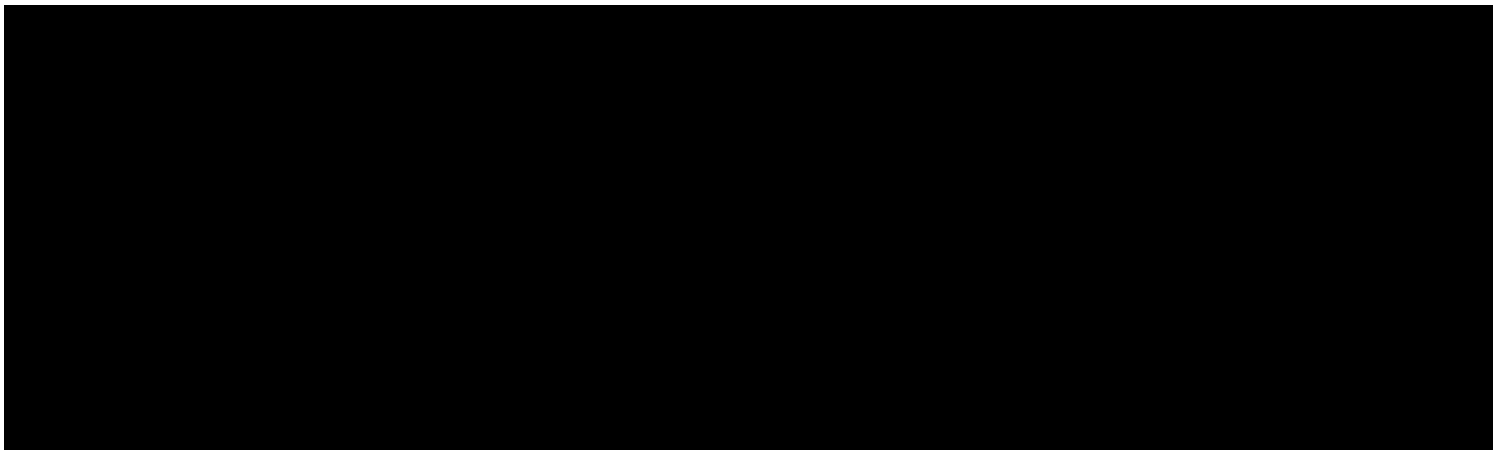
Hi media team,

I'm hoping you'll be able to provide a statement or some lines on reports of lead paint found at Richardson Primary School.

When was the department made aware of this? What is being done to rectify the issue? Have parents/guardians been made aware of the presence of the materials?

Thanks!





White, Kelly

From: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 3:54 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: EDU Media
Subject: RE: Hazardous materials in Canberra school

OFFICIAL

Hello Kirstie,

Please attribute the following statement to an Education Directorate spokesperson:

During routine maintenance work on Richardson Primary School's heating system over the summer break, dust containing lead particles was found in the boiler room and in heating ducts near the school hall. The areas connected to this particular heating system are the hall, the library and five learning spaces.

Licensed assessors, Robsons, conducted tests to check if lead dust has flowed from the heating system to other areas in the school. These tests have confirmed that all the spaces are safe to occupy. Following these tests, the learning spaces and library were cleared for occupation. No classrooms at Richardson Primary School are closed due to lead dust. The affected heating system has been sealed and will not be used until it is safe to do so.

The presence of lead paint at the school was known before this work was undertaken. In line with the Directorate's usual process, we conducted lead dust testing at the completion of these works to ensure spaces remained safe for use.

In this case, testing found dust containing lead particles in the boiler room and in heating ducts near the school hall early last week. The school hall, the library and the five learning spaces connected to this heating system were also tested and cleared for occupation by licenced assessors over the weekend.

Parents and carers were notified by the school principal on Monday 1 February.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

P: (02) 6205 4196 | M: 0431 252 698 | E: brenton.sloane@act.gov.au

Level 3, Nature Conservation House, 153 Emu Bank Belconnen | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 12:21 PM
To: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>
Subject: Hazardous materials in Canberra school

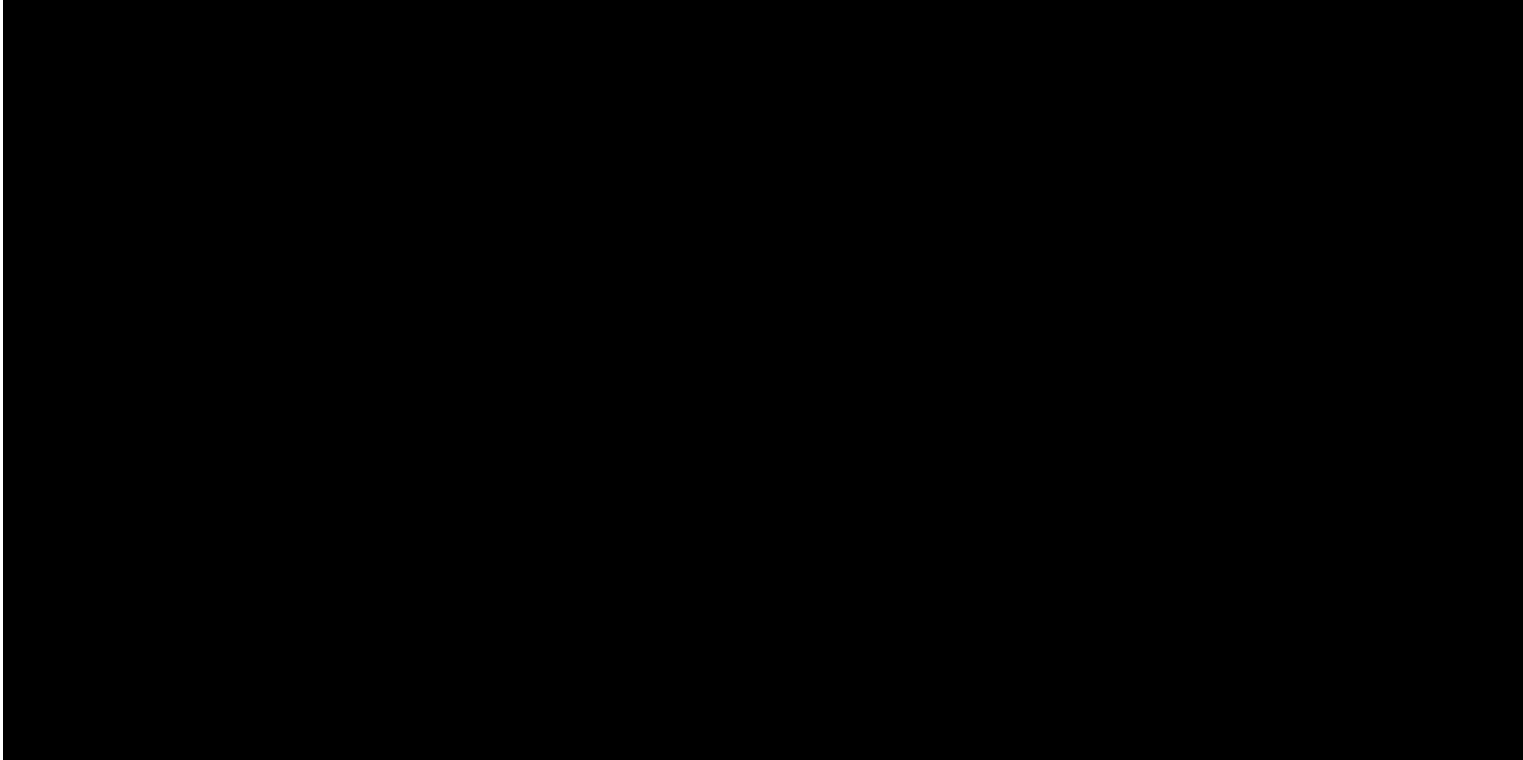
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi media team,

I'm hoping you'll be able to provide a statement or some lines on reports of lead paint found at Richardson Primary School.

When was the department made aware of this? What is being done to rectify the issue? Have parents/guardians been made aware of the presence of the materials?

Thanks!



White, Kelly

From: Cursley, Megan
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 3:54 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton
Cc: EDU Media; Larkin, Lyn; Short, Paul
Subject: RE: UPDATED: FOR USE: Toxic materials found in schools

Thanks Brenton

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 3:52 PM
To: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>
Subject: UPDATED: FOR USE: Toxic materials found in schools

OFFICIAL

Hi Megan,

As flagged, slight amendment on our end and then good to go from you:

Attributable to Minister Berry

I'd like to reassure families that the safety of our students, staff and the community is the highest priority.

The government takes the advice of experts when it comes to managing things like lead paint and asbestos.

That's why in December we formed an expert panel to provide advice and guidance. The expert panel includes health officials, academics and work safety experts.

The panel is providing guidance on the implementation of the election commitment to spend \$15 million to fast-track the removal of hazardous materials in our public schools.

Attributable to Education Directorate

The Education Directorate is aware of the presence of lead paint and other hazardous materials across our school network – we don't need to order inspections because we know where the hazardous materials are.

Over two-thirds of our public schools were built before 1992 – therefore, 71 of our schools have lead paint or other hazardous materials in them. That's why every public school with known hazardous materials has a Hazardous Materials Register, which is used by people doing maintenance or upgrades, so they know where any potentially hazardous materials are before they start work.

In the case of Richardson, as is the case at all our schools, the presence of lead paint was known before routine maintenance work was undertaken on a heating system over the summer break.

Licensed assessors, Robsons, conducted tests to check if lead dust has flowed from the heating system to other areas in the school. These tests have confirmed that all the spaces are safe to occupy. No classrooms at Richardson Primary School are closed due to lead dust.

The ACT Government has committed \$114 million dollars over the next four years to upgrade school buildings to keep them comfortable and safe, including funding to accelerate the removal of hazardous materials. This additional funding will allow for the accelerated removal of hazardous materials in ACT public schools.

A dedicated taskforce has also been formed within the Education Directorate to lead this important work. The taskforce is being supported by an independent panel of experts, including academics and health officials.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

P: (02) 6205 4196 | M: 0431 252 698 | E: brenton.sloane@act.gov.au

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From: Sloane, Brenton

Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 3:47 PM

To: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>

Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: FOR USE: Toxic materials found in schools

OFFICIAL

All good on our end.

From: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 3:34 PM

To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>

Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: FOR USE: Toxic materials found in schools

This is what I'm going to suggest to the Minister if you can check that you're okay with that?

Response to [REDACTED]

I was hoping we could get a comment from the Education Minister, Yvette Berry, in regards to the latest discovery of dust at Richardson Primary School that contained toxic lead particles.

Considering this is the fourth time in the ACT that such material has been found, what will the ACT government do to rectify this problem so it does not rear its ugly head again? Will the government order inspections of all schools in the ACT so the health of children is not at risk? Or will the government set up an inquiry even to see how this has happen?

As this is an online story on our [REDACTED] website, we are happy to add further lines to the current story as I write it.

Attributable to Minister Berry

I'd like to reassure families that the safety of our students, staff and the community is the highest priority.

The government takes the advice of experts when it comes to managing things like lead paint and asbestos.

That's why in December we formed an expert panel to provide advice and guidance. The expert panel includes health officials, academics and work safety experts.

The panel is providing guidance on the implementation of the election commitment to spend \$15 million to fast-track the removal of hazardous materials in our public schools.

Attributable to Education Directorate

The Education Directorate is aware of the presence of lead paint and other hazardous materials across our school network – we don't need to order inspections because we know where the hazardous materials are.

Over two-thirds of our public schools were built before 1992 – therefore, 71 of our schools have lead paint or other hazardous materials in them. That's why every public school with known hazardous materials has a Hazardous Materials Register, which is used by people doing maintenance or upgrades, so they know where any potentially hazardous materials are before they start work.

In the case of Richardson, as is the case at all our schools, the presence of lead paint was known before this routine maintenance work was undertaken over the summer break.

Licensed assessors, Robsons, conducted tests to check if lead dust has flowed from the heating system to other areas in the school. These tests have confirmed that all the spaces are safe to occupy. Following these tests, the learning spaces and library were cleared for occupation. No classrooms at Richardson Primary School are closed due to lead dust.

The ACT Government has committed \$114 million dollars over the next four years to upgrade school buildings to keep them comfortable and safe, including funding to accelerate the removal of hazardous materials. This additional funding will allow for the accelerated removal of hazardous materials in ACT public schools.

A dedicated taskforce has also been formed within the Education Directorate to lead this important work. The taskforce is being supported by an independent panel of experts, including academics and health officials.

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 3:28 PM

To: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>

Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>

Subject: FOR USE: Toxic materials found in schools

OFFICIAL

Hello Megan,

Please see below proposed media response for use by the MO to [REDACTED] re: lead paint.

The below has been approved by DDG David Matthews:

The Education Directorate is aware of the presence of lead paint and other hazardous materials across our school network – we don't need to order inspections because we know where the hazardous materials are. Over two-thirds of our public schools were built before 1992 – therefore, 71 of our schools have lead paint or other hazardous materials in them. That's why every public school with known hazardous materials has a Hazardous Materials Register, which is used by people doing maintenance or upgrades, so they know where any potentially hazardous materials are before they start work.

In the case of Richardson, as is the case at all our schools, the presence of lead paint was known before this routine maintenance work was undertaken over the summer break.

Licensed assessors, Robsons, conducted tests to check if lead dust has flowed from the heating system to other areas in the school. These tests have confirmed that all the spaces are safe to occupy. Following these tests, the learning spaces and library were cleared for occupation. No classrooms at Richardson Primary School are closed due to lead dust.

The ACT Government has committed \$114 million dollars over the next four years to upgrade school buildings to keep them comfortable and safe, including funding to accelerate the removal of hazardous materials. This additional funding will allow for the accelerated removal of hazardous materials in ACT public schools.

A dedicated taskforce has also been formed within the Education Directorate to lead this important work. The taskforce is being supported by an independent panel of experts, including academics and health officials.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

P: (02) 6205 4196 | M: 0431 252 698 | E: brenton.sloane@act.gov.au

Level 3, Nature Conservation House, 153 Emu Bank Belconnen | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

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From: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 11:53 AM

To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Toxic materials found in schools

Another one –

Thanks Brenton

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 11:42 AM

To: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>

Subject: Toxic materials found in schools

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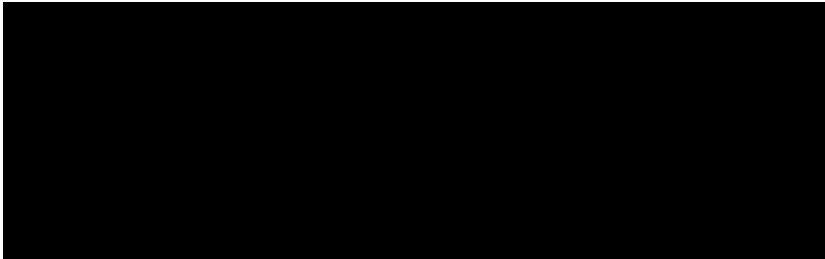
Hi Megan,

I was hoping we could get a comment from the Education Minister, Yvette Berry, in regards to the latest discovery of dust at Richardson Primary School that contained toxic lead particles.

Considering this is the fourth time in the ACT that such material has been found, what will the ACT government do to rectify this problem so it does not rear its ugly head again? Will the government order inspections of all schools in the ACT so the health of children is not at risk? Or will the government set up an inquiry even to see how this has happen?

As this is an online story on our [REDACTED] website, we are happy to add further lines to the current story as I write it.

cheers,



White, Kelly

From: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 5:03 PM
To: Cursley, Megan; Parkinson, Andrew
Cc: EDU Media; Larkin, Lyn; Short, Paul
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: Richardson lead dust

OFFICIAL

Thanks Megan!

From: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 5:02 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>; Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: Richardson lead dust

Cleared:

What were the lead readings for the library, hall and five learning areas? I understand that they were below the acceptable threshold of 0.11 mg/sq m but I wanted to know if those readings would be made public. Perhaps you could provide the range of readings for this area if there were many tests completed.

Of the 47 test samples taken by the licenced assessors across the library, hall and five learning areas at Richardson Primary School, 44 returned results with no lead.

Two samples taken in staff only areas of the library returned readings of 0.09mg/m², below the accepted threshold of <0.11mg/m². These areas were cleaned over the weekend.

Only one returned an elevated result above the acceptance criteria. This test, taken from a ceiling rafter out of the reach of students and staff, returned a reading of 1.73mg/m² (the acceptance criteria in this location is <1.08mg/m²).

While all rooms have been cleared by the licenced assessors as being safe to occupy, this ceiling rafter will be cleaned by specialists out of school hours.

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 4:40 PM
To: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>; Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: Richardson lead dust

OFFICIAL

Thanks Megan.

Keen to respond to [REDACTED] before 5pm, if possible.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

P: (02) 6205 4196 | M: 0431 252 698 | E: brenton.sloane@act.gov.au

Level 3, Nature Conservation House, 153 Emu Bank Belconnen | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

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From: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 4:38 PM

To: Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>; Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>

Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: Richardson lead dust

Thanks Andrew and Brenton

From: Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 4:36 PM

To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>; Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>

Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: Richardson lead dust

OFFICIAL

Sorry – should have mentioned this to Brendan - but the staff areas were cleaned over the weekend after the samples were taken.

Andrew Parkinson | Executive Branch Manager

Infrastructure & Capital Works | Education Directorate | ACT Government

Phone 02 6205 4593 | **Mobile 0478 301 085**

220 Northbourne Ave, Braddon | www.act.gov.au

Gulanyin dhuniang, ngalawirinyin, dhunayinyin, Ngunnawal dhawra

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 4:31 PM

To: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>

Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>

Subject: FOR APPROVAL: Richardson lead dust

OFFICIAL

Hey Megan,

We have just received confirmation from Robsons on the numbers we were checking. (CC Andrew as FYI)

Propose the following:

Of the 47 test samples taken by the licenced assessors across the library, hall and five learning areas at Richardson Primary School, 44 returned no result.

Two samples taken in staff only areas of the library returned readings of 0.09mg/m2, below the relevant acceptance criteria of <0.11mg/m2.

Only one returned an elevated result above the acceptance criteria. This test, taken from a ceiling rafter out of the reach of students and staff, returned a reading of 1.73mg/m2 (the acceptance criteria in this location is <1.08mg/m2).

While all rooms have been cleared by the licenced assessors as being safe to occupy, this ceiling rafter will be cleaned by specialists out of school hours.

Please advise if you approve.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

P: (02) 6205 4196 | M: 0431 252 698 | E: brenton.sloane@act.gov.au

Level 3, Nature Conservation House, 153 Emu Bank Belconnen | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

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From: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 4:03 PM

To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>

Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: Richardson lead dust

Could you clarify a couple of things here:

- The 44 tests returned results showing no lead particles at all?
- The remaining 3 include the rafter, the boiler room and the ducts?

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 3:22 PM

To: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>

Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>

Subject: FOR APPROVAL: Richardson lead dust

OFFICIAL

Hello Megan,

Please find below a media enquiry from [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] re: lead paint.

The below has been cleared by DDG David Matthews:

Of the 47 test samples taken by the licenced assessors across the library, hall and five learning areas at Richardson Primary School, 44 returned no result.

Only one returned an elevated result above the acceptance criteria. This test, taken from a ceiling rafter out of the reach of students and staff, returned a reading of 1.73mg/m² (the acceptance criteria in this location is <1.08mg/m²).

While all rooms have been cleared by the licenced assessors as being safe to occupy, this ceiling rafter will be cleaned by specialists out of school hours.

Please advise if you approve. If so, I will respond to the journalist.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

P: (02) 6205 4196 | M: 0431 252 698 | E: brenton.sloane@act.gov.au

Level 3, Nature Conservation House, 153 Emu Bank Belconnen | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 12:43 PM

To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>

Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>

Subject: Re: Richardson lead dust

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Brenton,

Thanks for this information.

I have a follow up question regarding the lead readings.

What were the lead readings for the library, hall and five learning areas? I understand that they were below the acceptable threshold of 0.11 mg/sq m but I wanted to know if those readings would be made public. Perhaps you could provide the range of readings for this area if there were many tests completed.

I'd appreciate a response by 4.30pm.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

On Mon, Feb 1, 2021 at 6:36 PM Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Hello [REDACTED]

Apologies for the delay. Please attribute to a Directorate spokesperson:

Are any classrooms closed as a result of the lead dust?

No. During routine maintenance work on Richardson Primary School's heating system over the summer break, dust containing lead particles was found in the boiler room and in heating ducts near the school hall. The areas connected to this particular heating system are the hall, the library and five learning spaces.

Licensed assessors, Robsons, conducted tests to check if lead dust has flowed from the heating system to other areas in the school. These tests have confirmed that all the spaces are safe to occupy. Following these tests, the learning spaces and library were cleared for occupation. No classrooms at Richardson Primary School are closed due to lead dust.

The affected heating system has been sealed and will not be used until it is safe to do so.

When was the discovery made?

Routine maintenance work on Richardson Primary School's heating system was conducted over the summer break.

The presence of lead paint at the school was known before this work was undertaken. In line with the Directorate's usual process, we conducted lead dust testing at the completion of these works to ensure spaces remained safe for use.

In this case, testing found dust containing lead particles in the boiler room and in heating ducts near the school hall early last week. The school hall, the library and the five learning spaces connected to this heating system were also tested and cleared for occupation by licenced assessors over the weekend.

Have other parts of the school been tested for lead particles since the lead dust was detected?

Yes. The heating ducts service the school hall, library and five learning spaces. As a precaution, each of these spaces has been tested and cleared for use.

Areas tested for lead dust include desks, floors and library resources.

How much was spent on specialist cleaning?

The cost is yet to be determined.

Is the heating system also used for cooling?

No.

Was this discovery made as a direct result of the communication sent to principals after the issues with lead paint at Yarralumla Primary School?

No. The lead dust was found following routine maintenance work on Richardson Primary School's heating system over the summer break.

What were the lead readings in the boiler room and the heating ducts?

The reports containing the exact readings from these areas have not yet been finalised. Preliminary results indicate that the highest reading in the areas you have asked was 8.89. These areas are not accessible to students.

Note that, as mentioned above, tests conducted in the areas accessible to students attached to the heating ducts (school hall, library and five learning spaces) were assessed and cleared for use by licence assessors.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 1 February 2021 3:18 PM
To: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Richardson lead dust

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Sorry, one further question:

- What were the lead readings in the boiler room and the heating ducts?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

On Mon, Feb 1, 2021 at 3:16 PM Sarah Lansdown <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Good afternoon,

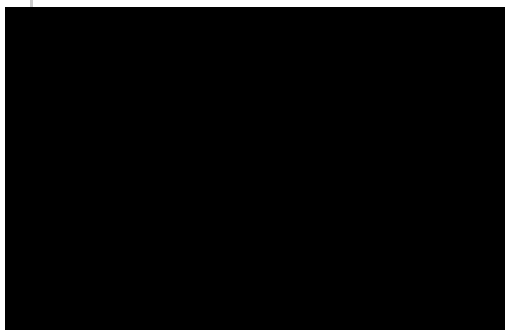
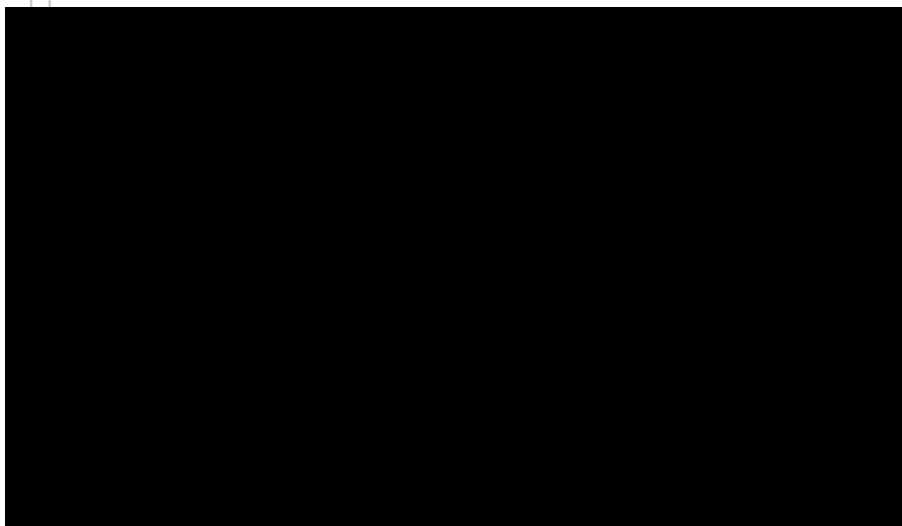
I understand that communication was sent to parents and carers at Richardson Primary School today regarding the discovery of lead dust in the boiler room and heating ducts in the school hall. I have some questions regarding this:

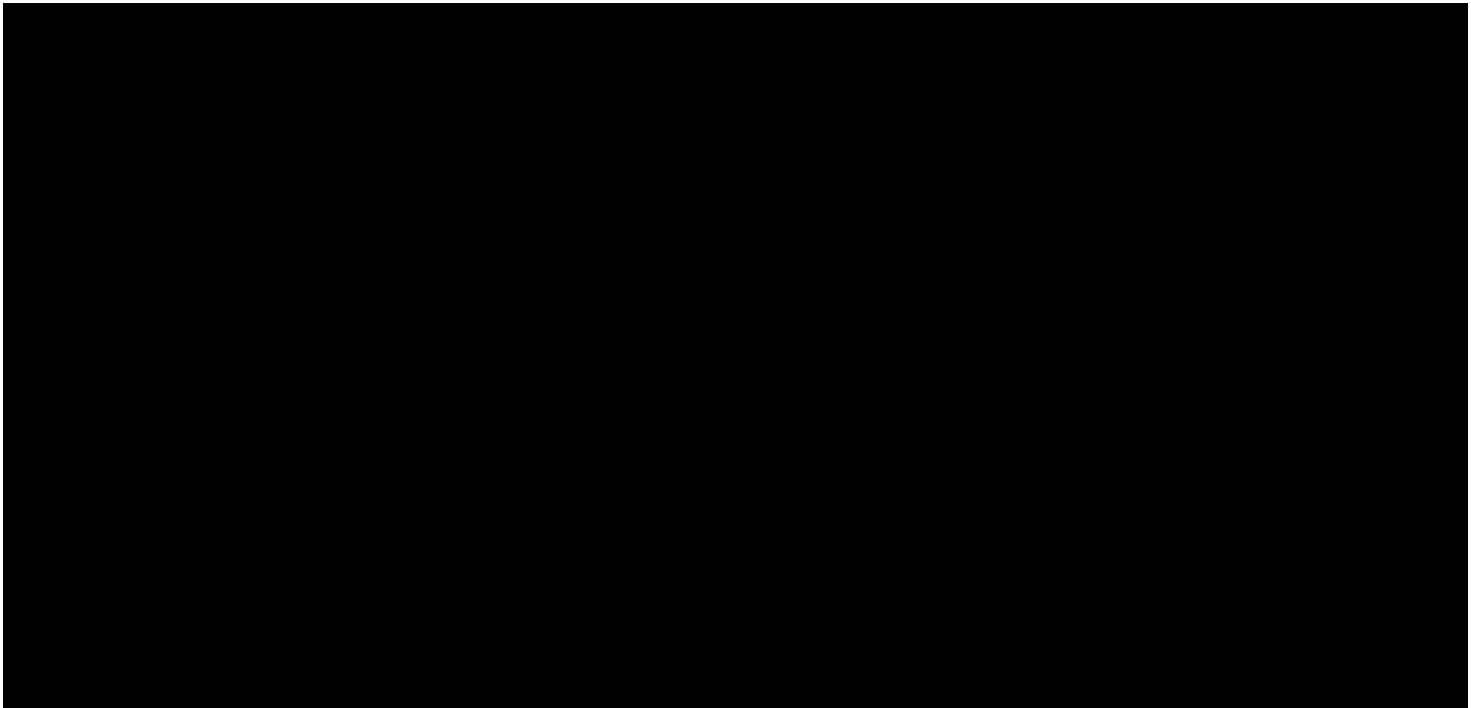
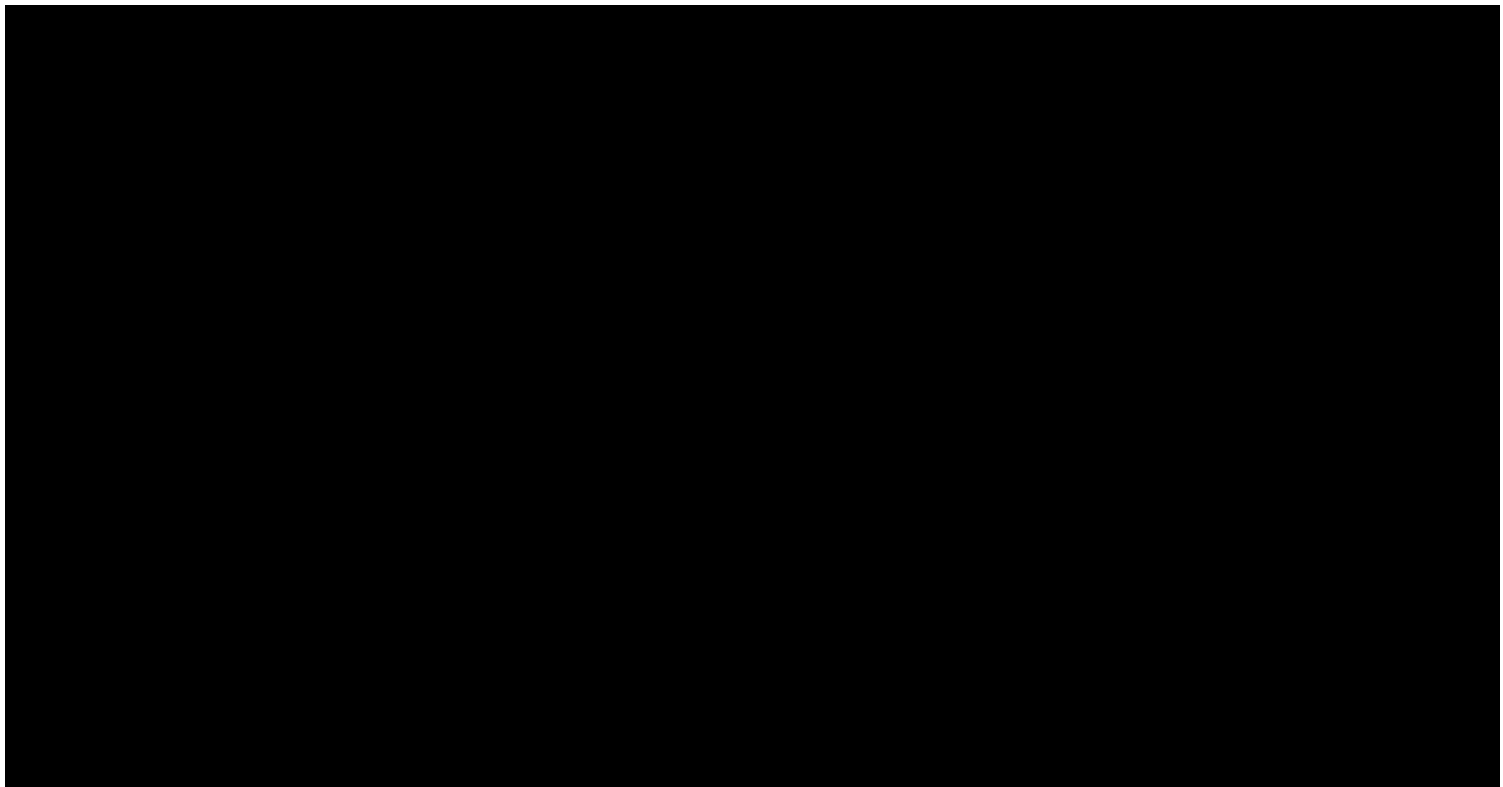
- Are any classrooms closed as a result of the lead dust?

- When was the discovery made?
- Have other parts of the school been tested for lead particles since the lead dust was detected?
- How much was spent on specialist cleaning?
- Is the heating system also used for cooling?
- Was this discovery made as a direct result of the communication sent to principals after the issues with lead paint at Yarralumla Primary School?

I would appreciate a response by close of business today.

Regards,





White, Kelly

From: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 5:05 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: EDU Media
Subject: RE: Richardson lead dust

OFFICIAL

Hello Sarah,

Please attribute the following response to an Education Directorate spokesperson:

Of the 47 test samples taken by the licenced assessors across the library, hall and five learning areas at Richardson Primary School, 44 returned results with no lead.

Two samples taken in staff only areas of the library returned readings of 0.09mg/m², below the acceptance threshold of <0.11mg/m². These areas were cleaned over the weekend.

Only one returned an elevated result above the acceptance criteria. This test, taken from a ceiling rafter out of the reach of students and staff, returned a reading of 1.73mg/m² (the acceptance criteria in this location is <1.08mg/m²).

While all rooms have been cleared by the licenced assessors as being safe to occupy, this ceiling rafter will be cleaned by specialists out of school hours.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

P: (02) 6205 4196 | M: 0431 252 698 | E: brenton.sloane@act.gov.au

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 12:43 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Richardson lead dust

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Hi Brenton,

Thanks for this information.

I have a follow up question regarding the lead readings.

What were the lead readings for the library, hall and five learning areas? I understand that they were below the acceptable threshold of 0.11 mg/sq m but I wanted to know if those readings would be made public. Perhaps you could provide the range of readings for this area if there were many tests completed.

I'd appreciate a response by 4.30pm.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

On Mon, Feb 1, 2021 at 6:36 PM Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL

[REDACTED]

Apologies for the delay. Please attribute to a Directorate spokesperson:

Are any classrooms closed as a result of the lead dust?

No. During routine maintenance work on Richardson Primary School's heating system over the summer break, dust containing lead particles was found in the boiler room and in heating ducts near the school hall. The areas connected to this particular heating system are the hall, the library and five learning spaces.

Licensed assessors, Robsons, conducted tests to check if lead dust has flowed from the heating system to other areas in the school. These tests have confirmed that all the spaces are safe to occupy. Following these tests, the learning spaces and library were cleared for occupation. No classrooms at Richardson Primary School are closed due to lead dust.

The affected heating system has been sealed and will not be used until it is safe to do so.

When was the discovery made?

Routine maintenance work on Richardson Primary School's heating system was conducted over the summer break.

The presence of lead paint at the school was known before this work was undertaken. In line with the Directorate's usual process, we conducted lead dust testing at the completion of these works to ensure spaces remained safe for use.

In this case, testing found dust containing lead particles in the boiler room and in heating ducts near the school hall early last week. The school hall, the library and the five learning spaces connected to this heating system were also tested and cleared for occupation by licenced assessors over the weekend.

Have other parts of the school been tested for lead particles since the lead dust was detected?

Yes. The heating ducts service the school hall, library and five learning spaces. As a precaution, each of these spaces has been tested and cleared for use.

Areas tested for lead dust include desks, floors and library resources.

How much was spent on specialist cleaning?

The cost is yet to be determined.

Is the heating system also used for cooling?

No.

Was this discovery made as a direct result of the communication sent to principals after the issues with lead paint at Yarralumla Primary School?

No. The lead dust was found following routine maintenance work on Richardson Primary School's heating system over the summer break.

What were the lead readings in the boiler room and the heating ducts?

The reports containing the exact readings from these areas have not yet been finalised. Preliminary results indicate that the highest reading in the areas you have asked was 8.89. These areas are not accessible to students.

Note that, as mentioned above, tests conducted in the areas accessible to students attached to the heating ducts (school hall, library and five learning spaces) were assessed and cleared for use by licence assessors.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

P: (02) 6205 4196 | M: 0431 252 698 | E: brenton.sloane@act.gov.au

Level 3, Nature Conservation House, 153 Emu Bank Belconnen | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 1 February 2021 3:18 PM
To: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Richardson lead dust

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Sorry, one further question:

- What were the lead readings in the boiler room and the heating ducts?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

On Mon, Feb 1, 2021 at 3:16 PM Sarah Lansdown [REDACTED] wrote:

Good afternoon,

I understand that communication was sent to parents and carers at Richardson Primary School today regarding the discovery of lead dust in the boiler room and heating ducts in the school hall. I have some questions regarding this:

- Are any classrooms closed as a result of the lead dust?
- When was the discovery made?
- Have other parts of the school been tested for lead particles since the lead dust was detected?
- How much was spent on specialist cleaning?
- Is the heating system also used for cooling?
- Was this discovery made as a direct result of the communication sent to principals after the issues with lead paint at Yarralumla Primary School?

I would appreciate a response by close of business today.

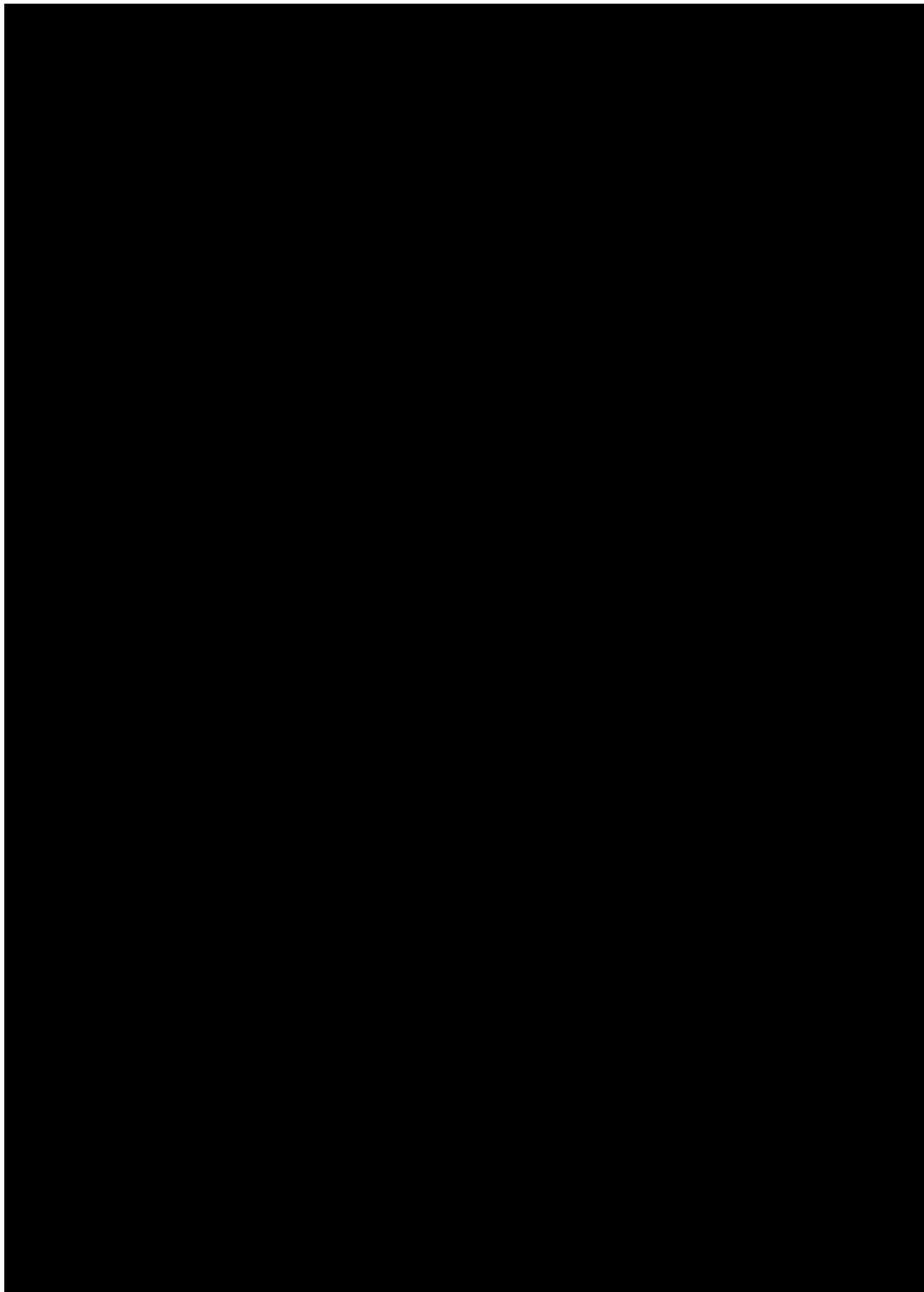
Regards,

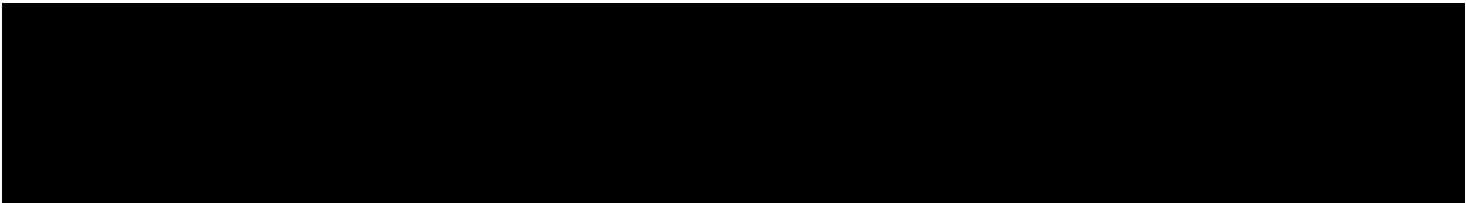
[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]





White, Kelly

From: Parkinson, Andrew
Sent: Wednesday, 10 February 2021 1:38 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton
Cc: EDU Media; Larkin, Lyn; Short, Paul
Subject: Re: FOR APPROVAL: Hazardous materials fund

I'm happy with the changed version

Andrew Parkinson
Education Directorate | ACT Government
Phone 02 6205 4593 | Mobile 0478 301 085

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 1:37:40 PM
To: Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: Hazardous materials fund

OFFICIAL

Hello Andrew,

With that change, I will proceed:

The safety of students, staff and the community is the ACT Government's highest priority.

The government takes the advice of experts when it comes to managing hazardous materials. There are already comprehensive hazardous materials management plans in place at schools to manage things like lead paint and asbestos and ensure our schools remain safe to occupy.

The \$15 million election commitment of additional funding for hazardous material management in ACT public schools will be appropriated through upcoming ACT budgets. This \$15 million funding commitment will be in addition to the resources already allocated to this task through the Education Directorate's existing infrastructure budget.

Any funding required for hazardous materials management in ACT public schools in the 2020-21 financial year will be made available through the Directorate's infrastructure budget.

The 2021-22 budget will be delivered in August this year.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

P: (02) 6205 4196 | M: 0431 252 698 | E: brenton.sloane@act.gov.au

Level 3, Nature Conservation House, 153 Emu Bank Belconnen | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

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From: Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 10 February 2021 1:26 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>
Subject: Re: FOR APPROVAL: Hazardous materials fund

The current main source of Hazmat funding is the R&M budget which is not capital works. You could say "infrastructure" budget instead.

Andrew Parkinson
Education Directorate | ACT Government
Phone 02 6205 4593 | Mobile 0478 301 085

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 11:56:30 AM
To: Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR APPROVAL: Hazardous materials fund

OFFICIAL

Hello Andrew,

Please see below media enquiry to Minister Berry on hazardous materials.

Based on my understanding, and discussions yesterday, suggesting the following response:

The safety of students, staff and the community is the ACT Government's highest priority.

The government takes the advice of experts when it comes to managing hazardous materials. There are already comprehensive hazardous materials management plans in place at schools to manage things like lead paint and asbestos and ensure our schools remain safe to occupy.

The \$15 million election commitment of additional funding for hazardous material management in ACT public schools will be appropriated through upcoming ACT budgets. This \$15 million funding commitment will be in addition to the resources already allocated to this task through the Education Directorate's existing budget.

Any funding required for hazardous materials management in ACT public schools in the 2020-21 financial year will be made available through the Directorate's capital works program.

The 2021-22 budget will be delivered in August this year.

Let me know what you think. Note – we are working to a 4pm timeline on this one.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

P: (02) 6205 4196 | M: 0431 252 698 | E: brenton.sloane@act.gov.au

Level 3, Nature Conservation House, 153 Emu Bank Belconnen | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

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From: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 10 February 2021 11:34 AM

To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>

Subject: Fwd: Hazardous materials fund

Hey Brenton

See below - are you able to help with a response? Much of this will be the same response from yesterday

Thanks

Megan

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 10:57 am

To: Cursley, Megan

Subject: Hazardous materials fund

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Hi Megan,

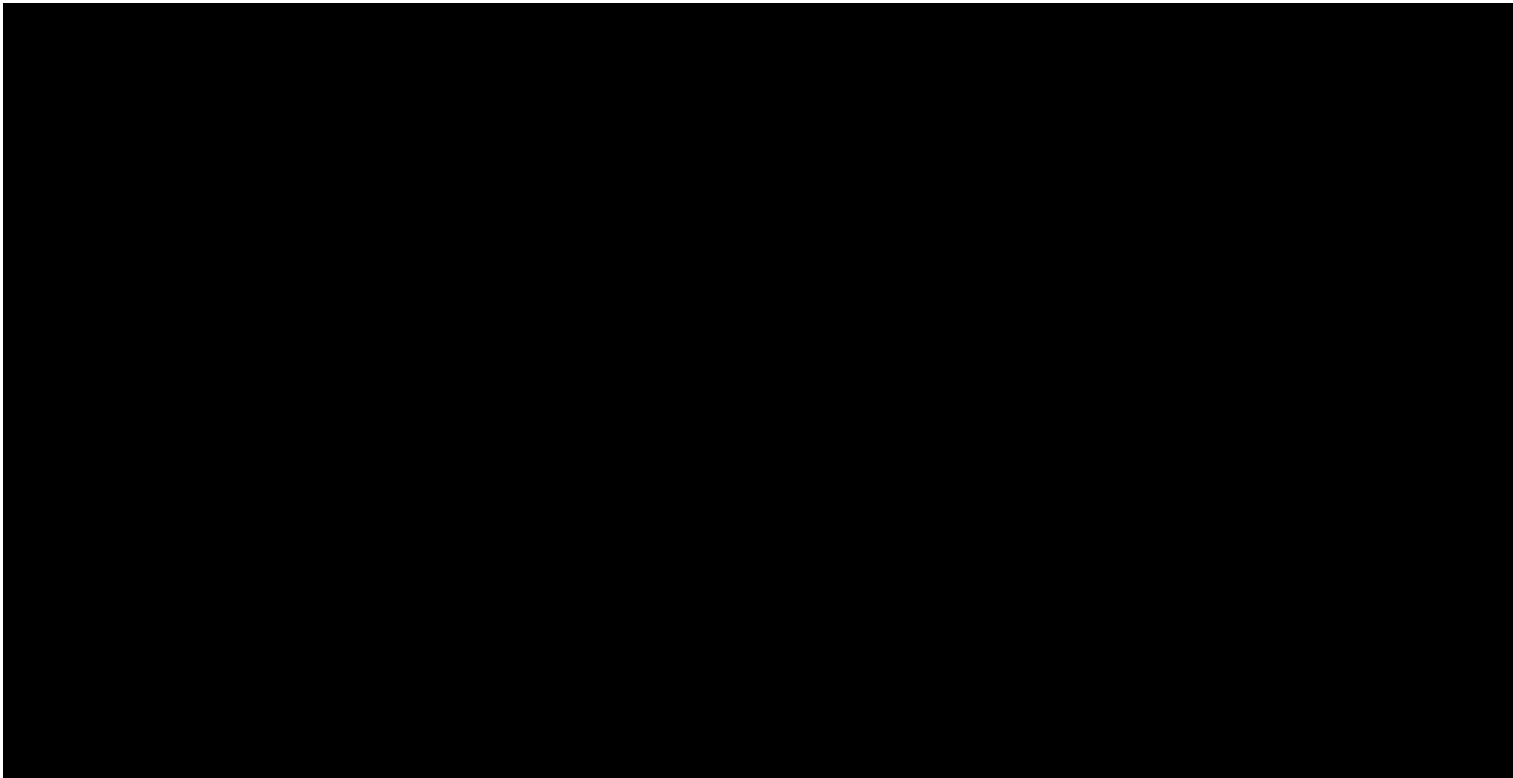
I hope you are well. I had a discussion on background with the Education Directorate regarding the \$15 million that was pledged to fast track remediation of hazardous materials in schools. I was advised that this money was not included in the 2020-21 budget but that it would be appropriated in the 2021-22 budget.

I would like to get some on-the-record comments from Ms Berry about this issue. My questions are:

- Why was the \$15 million fund for hazardous materials not included in the 2020-21 budget?
- How will urgent work be financed in this financial year?
- How much has been spent on environmental cleaning related to lead contamination so far in the 2020-21 financial year?
- Will the \$15 million fund be budgeted over the forward estimates?
- Will funding be capped at \$15 million?

I would appreciate a response by 4pm today.

Kind regards,



White, Kelly

From: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Wednesday, 3 February 2021 2:33 PM
To: Hobbs, Rebecca
Cc: McKinnon, Margaret; Parkinson, Andrew; Short, Paul; Cursley, Megan; Education DLO; EDU Media
Subject: RE: Richardson PS media questions

OFFICIAL

Hello Bec,

Just thought I'd contact you directly about this in Megan's absence this afternoon.

As you know, some of these matters were dealt in the last couple of days media responses.

Regarding the above-threshold readings in impacted spaces, this was our media response:

Of the 47 test samples taken by the licenced assessors across the library, hall and five learning areas at Richardson Primary School, 44 returned results with no lead.

Two samples taken in staff only areas of the library returned readings of 0.09mg/m², below the acceptance threshold of <0.11mg/m². These areas were cleaned over the weekend.

Only one returned an elevated result above the acceptance criteria. This test, taken from a ceiling rafter out of the reach of students and staff, returned a reading of 1.73mg/m² (the acceptance criteria in this location is <1.08mg/m²).

Regarding works done at Yarralumla over the summer break, this was our media response:

Minor paint works, including encapsulation, as well as maintenance works have taken place at Yarralumla Primary School during the summer break.

Planning for the next round of major works was also undertaken. Larger projects, including window replacement and asbestos removal works, are scheduled to take place at Yarralumla Primary in line with the arrival of new transportable classrooms. These transportables will allow for the rooms to be freed up of students so the work can be safely undertaken during non-school holiday periods.

My question is if you would still like some TPs to address the highlighted section? If so, I can work with Andrew on this.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

P: (02) 6205 4196 | M: 0431 252 698 | E: brenton.sloane@act.gov.au

Level 3, Nature Conservation House, 153 Emu Bank Belconnen | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

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From: Hobbs, Rebecca <Rebecca.Hobbs@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 11:22 AM

To: McKinnon, Margaret <Margaret.McKinnon@act.gov.au>; Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>

Cc: Education DLO <EDUDLO@act.gov.au>; EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>

Subject: Richardson PS media questions

Hi team

Thanks for your support over the last few days. Minister was asked a bunch of questions about Richardson at this morning's press conference.

One of the points where there was a little bit of confusion was on whether there was a risk of long-term exposure to the students/staff, e.g. is there a risk that the heating system was spewing dust into the classrooms for many years.

Also, whether we had actually found above-threshold dust in the impacted spaces. Can you please prepare some talking points that go to those questions?

█ specifically asked Yvette for information about what works have been done at Yarralumla PS over the holidays. Yvette said we'd get back to her, so we'll need to prepare a response to that question for her, please.

Thanks

Bec

Rebecca Hobbs | Senior Adviser

02 6207 2413 | 0435 095 234

Office of Yvette Berry MLA | Member for Ginninderra

Deputy Chief Minister

Minister for Early Childhood Development

Minister for Education and Youth Affairs

Minister for Housing and Suburban Development

Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence

Minister for Women

Minister for Sport and Recreation

Phone: +61 2 6205 0233 | Email: berry@act.gov.au

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | www.yvetteberry.com.au



I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land, the Ngunnawal people, and pay my respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

White, Kelly

From: McKinnon, Margaret
Sent: Wednesday, 10 February 2021 3:09 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton; Matthews, David
Cc: EDU Media; DDGEDUoffice; Parkinson, Andrew
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: Hazardous materials fund

OFFICIAL

My only thought is saying something like “Much of the scheduled works to deal with hazardous materials is done in school holiday periods. There was work on hazardous materials carried out in during the summer holidays and further work funded from existing budget is scheduled for Term 1 holidays across a number of schools”. The \$15million in the next budget will accelerate the number of hazardous materials management projects scheduled during the second half of 2021 to be undertaken

To deal with what Brenton will reckon is the story out of the current answer.

Margaret McKinnon | Executive Group Manager Business Services | **Education Directorate** | ACT Government
T: +61 2 6207 2790 | E: Margaret.Mckinnon@act.gov.au
Level 6, 220 Northbourne Ave Braddon | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.education.act.gov.au



The Education Directorate acknowledges the Ngunnawal Peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the ACT and region upon which we live and work.

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 10 February 2021 1:44 PM
To: Matthews, David <David.Matthews@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>; McKinnon, Margaret <Margaret.McKinnon@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR APPROVAL: Hazardous materials fund

OFFICIAL

Hello David,

Please see below a media enquiry the MO have received re: funding for hazardous materials management. The MO have come to us for assistance.

This is directly related to the conversation you had with [REDACTED] yesterday.

Please find below suggested response, approved by Andrew Parkinson.

Please advise if you approve. If so, I will provide to MO for use accordingly:

The safety of students, staff and the community is the ACT Government’s highest priority.

The government takes the advice of experts when it comes to managing hazardous materials. There are already comprehensive hazardous materials management plans in place at schools to manage things like lead paint and asbestos and ensure our schools remain safe to occupy.

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Any funding required for hazardous materials management in ACT public schools in the 2020-21 financial year will be made available through the Directorate's infrastructure budget.

The 2021-22 budget will be delivered in August this year.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

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From: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 10 February 2021 11:34 AM

To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>

Subject: Fwd: Hazardous materials fund

Hey Brenton

See below - are you able to help with a response? Much of this will be the same response from yesterday

Thanks

Megan

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 10:57 am

To: Cursley, Megan

Subject: Hazardous materials fund

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Hi Megan,

I hope you are well. I had a discussion on background with the Education Directorate regarding the \$15 million that was pledged to fast track remediation of hazardous materials in schools. I was advised that this money was not included in the 2020-21 budget but that it would be appropriated in the 2021-22 budget.

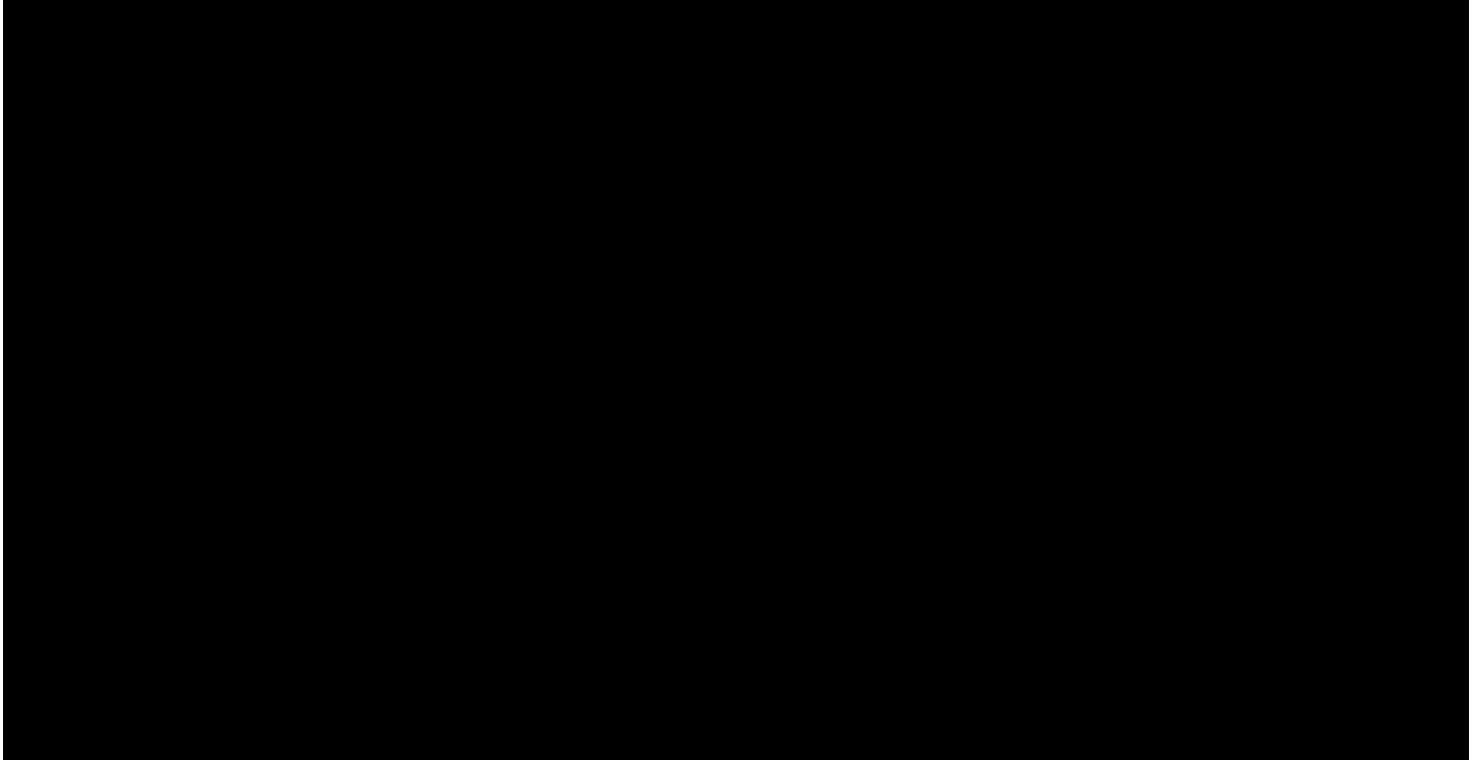
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- How will urgent work be financed in this financial year?

- How much has been spent on environmental cleaning related to lead contamination so far in the 2020-21 financial year?
- Will the \$15 million fund be budgeted over the forward estimates?
- Will funding be capped at \$15 million?

I would appreciate a response by 4pm today.

Kind regards,



White, Kelly

From: Matthews, David
Sent: Wednesday, 10 February 2021 3:28 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton
Cc: EDU Media; DDGEDUoffice; McKinnon, Margaret
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: Hazardous materials fund

OFFICIAL

Approved.

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 10 February 2021 2:59 PM
To: Matthews, David <David.Matthews@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>; McKinnon, Margaret <Margaret.McKinnon@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: Hazardous materials fund

OFFICIAL

Hello David,

Further to our conversation, suggesting we proceed with this version:

The safety of students, staff and the community is the ACT Government's highest priority.

The \$15 million election commitment of additional funding for hazardous material management in ACT public schools will be appropriated through upcoming ACT budgets.

Any funding required for hazardous materials management in ACT public schools in the 2020-21 financial year will be made available through the Directorate's infrastructure budget.

The 2021-22 budget will be delivered in August this year.

Please advise if you approve.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

P: (02) 6205 4196 | M: 0431 252 698 | E: brenton.sloane@act.gov.au

Level 3, Nature Conservation House, 153 Emu Bank Belconnen | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

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From: Matthews, David <David.Matthews@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 10 February 2021 2:41 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>; McKinnon, Margaret <Margaret.McKinnon@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: Hazardous materials fund

OFFICIAL

For the record I did NOT say the funding would be appropriated in 20-21, I said that the next budget would be in late August and election commitments would be appropriated over the term of the government (Lyn was present).

We approved the below yesterday, why wouldn't we use the again today?

- The Election commitment of funding for hazardous material management in ACT public schools will be appropriated through upcoming ACT budgets.
- Any funding required for hazardous material management in ACT public schools in the 2020-21 financial year will be made available.
- The 2021-22 budget will be delivered in August this year.

Regards
David Matthews

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 10 February 2021 1:44 PM
To: Matthews, David <David.Matthews@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>; McKinnon, Margaret <Margaret.McKinnon@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR APPROVAL: Hazardous materials fund

OFFICIAL

Hello David,

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This is directly related to the conversation you had with [REDACTED] yesterday.

Please find below suggested response, approved by Andrew Parkinson.

Please advise if you approve. If so, I will provide to MO for use accordingly:

The safety of students, staff and the community is the ACT Government's highest priority.

The government takes the advice of experts when it comes to managing hazardous materials. There are already comprehensive hazardous materials management plans in place at schools to manage things like lead paint and asbestos and ensure our schools remain safe to occupy.

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The 2021-22 budget will be delivered in August this year.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

P: (02) 6205 4196 | M: 0431 252 698 | E: brenton.sloane@act.gov.au

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From: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 10 February 2021 11:34 AM

To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>

Subject: Fwd: Hazardous materials fund

Hey Brenton

See below - are you able to help with a response? Much of this will be the same response from yesterday

Thanks

Megan

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 10:57 am

To: Cursley, Megan

Subject: Hazardous materials fund

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Hi Megan,

I hope you are well. I had a discussion on background with the Education Directorate regarding the \$15 million that was pledged to fast track remediation of hazardous materials in schools. I was advised that this money was not included in the 2020-21 budget but that it would be appropriated in the 2021-22 budget.

I would like to get some on-the-record comments from Ms Berry about this issue. My questions are:

- Why was the \$15 million fund for hazardous materials not included in the 2020-21 budget?
- How will urgent work be financed in this financial year?
- How much has been spent on environmental cleaning related to lead contamination so far in the 2020-21 financial year?
- Will the \$15 million fund be budgeted over the forward estimates?
- Will funding be capped at \$15 million?

I would appreciate a response by 4pm today.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

--



From: [Steele Peter](#)
 To: [Matthews David](#); [McKinnon Margaret](#); [Parkinson Andrew](#); [Short Paul](#); [REDACTED]; [Alford Robert](#); [Stedman Andrew](#) ([Health](#))
 Cc: [Kneipp Jason](#) ([Health](#)); [Hooper Richard](#); [Larkin Lyn](#)
 Subject: ACTGOV Hazardous Materials Expert Panel - ACTION #2
 Date: Thursday, 11 February 2021 1:49:02 PM
 Attachments: [ACTEDU Lead Paint Fact Sheet - 20210211.docx](#)

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon all,

As the 2021 school year is now well underway, I am contacting you all to continue our discussions and actions as part of our Hazardous Materials Expert Panel.

I will be in contact shortly to propose and seek availability for our second meeting.

The attached document is a fact sheet that has been developed by the Education Directorate per ACTION #4 of our December 8 meeting.

ACTION Number	Responsible Member	ACTION
4.	EBM M&C/Pst	Provide example of products for Term 1 2021 (e.g. Factsheet) for panel to review

The purpose of this fact sheet is to assist in communicating in simple language - what lead paint is, where it can be found in our community, methods of management and information on lead and health.

This has in part been developed by reviewing other items, including material from Broken Hill that Professor Taylor provided.

We are seeking feedback and endorsement from the panel for this content, so that it can be placed on our website and distributed to school communities.

Could you please review this document for discussion at our next meeting, or I am happy to discuss and share feedback prior.

Thank you.

Pete

Peter Steele Senior Director

P 02 62052179 | M 0423 390 998 | E peter.steele@act.gov.au

ACT Government

Below are all ACTION items arising and their status from Meeting #1:

ACTION Number	Responsible Member	ACTION	Status	Notes/Updates
1.	Pst/ Secretariat	TOR to be distributed with meeting minutes and actions as adopted.	Closed	Distributed with minutes and actions from Meeting #1
2.	Pst/ Secretariat	Directorate to distribute recent environmental reports that includes standards used for testing.	Closed	Documents distributed to panel members via email on 21/12/2020
3.	EBM ICW	Directorate to use ranking tool for first level of triaging and come back to panel with reflection and feedback on how it served for identifying future priorities.	Open / Ongoing	ICW to provide update
4.	EBM M&C	Provide example of products for Term 1 2021 (e.g. Factsheet) for panel to review	Open	Draft distributed to panel for review on 11/02/2021

Caring for our ACT public school buildings

Managing lead paint

Over two-thirds of our public schools were built before 1992 – and just like houses built at this time, these schools were painted using lead paint.

Lead paint isn't used any more, but we need to make sure these older buildings remain safe for students, staff and school communities – this is always the highest priority.

To care for our ACT public school buildings, the ACT Government has committed \$114 million dollars over the next four years to upgrade school buildings to keep them comfortable and safe, including funding to remove lead paint.

What is lead paint?

Lead is a naturally occurring metal widely used in manufacturing.

Up until 1969, paint was allowed to have 50% lead content and was not reduced below 1 per cent until 1992. Paint available today is only allowed to contain very small quantities of lead, if any.

Lead paint can become a risk to people when it deteriorates, is damaged or disturbed.

This needs to be managed in all instances of lead paint. For example, when old houses are renovated or demolished, expert professionals are needed to make sure any lead paint is removed safely.

Lead paint in ACT public schools

The Education Directorate inspects public school buildings regularly to make sure they remain safe. This includes checking the condition of paint and addressing it where it is deteriorating or has been damaged or disturbed.

Through a continual program of site inspections and testing, the Directorate has identified 70 public schools with buildings that have lead paint.

To accurately test for lead, a sample of the paint is sent to a testing lab. Testing will determine the amount of lead contained in the paint which provides important information on next steps in managing the paint.

Across our public schools, lead paint is most typically found on painted timber surfaces including window frames, eaves and handrails, but has also been found in storage and equipment rooms.

Lead paint management

There are four general strategies for managing lead paint*:

1. do nothing
2. stabilise the paint
3. abate or remove
4. a combination of these options.

Often the most appropriate course of action may not be removing the paint. This is because removing lead paint that is in good condition can unnecessarily disturb the surface and increase the risk of lead exposure by producing lead dust particles.

* Adapted from Australian Standard on Hazardous Paint Management (ASNZS4361.2:2017)

In most cases, lead paint can be stabilised by painting over the surface with a non-lead based paint. This is called encapsulation. Paint in good condition remains safe if it is not flaking or chalking, or if it is covered by well-maintained lead-free paint.

Managing lead paint in ACT public schools

The Education Directorate regularly checks and manages lead paint that is in our public school buildings. Our approach is informed by a panel of experts, which includes academics and health officials.

Every public school with known hazardous materials has a Hazardous Materials Register, which is used by people doing maintenance or upgrades, so they know where any potentially hazardous materials are before they start work. Hazardous Materials Registers are kept at each school's front office.

There is always maintenance and upgrades work happening across our public schools and no new work is undertaken without painted surfaces first being assessed for lead paint. For example, before installing a new smart board the wall is assessed for lead paint and, if positive, the lead paint is managed accordingly.

Any scheduled works that will disturb lead paint is done in the school holidays, by trained professionals. This allows extra time for cleaning and follow-up testing to ensure the area is safe for students and staff.

Regular painting is also undertaken in public schools to make sure that existing lead paint is safely encapsulated.

Lead and health

Lead can be harmful to the human body if it is swallowed or inhaled.

Children under five years of age are at greater risk because they tend to put their hands on objects and into their mouths, they absorb a higher percentage of ingested lead than adults, and their brains are still developing so they are more sensitive to the effects of lead.

For this reason, the Education Directorate prioritises remediation work in public preschools and primary schools.

One of the most important ways to reduce risk of exposure is to make sure that children and young people wash their hands after playing outside and before eating.

Everyone should avoid contact with lead – in their homes, communities and workplaces – by taking care when performing activities that could expose them to lead, like renovating or sanding painted surfaces.

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) recommends blood lead level testing in individuals if there is a reason to suspect they have swallowed or breathed lead from a particular source (more than the very small amounts that exist in most people's everyday environments – which is why regular hand washing especially before eating is important), or if they have unexplained health problems that could be due to lead exposure.

More information

Further information about lead paint is available from:

- National Health and Medical Research Council: <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/health-advice/environmental-health/lead-blood-levels>
- ACT Health: <https://health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/population-health/fact-sheets>

Bowden, Julia

From: Steele, Peter
Sent: Thursday, 11 February 2021 5:27 PM
To: McKinnon, Margaret; Parkinson, Andrew
Subject: Re: Expert Panel Papers

Agree - we spoke about it.

I think we provide the paper and raise at EP then schedule an out of session meeting with Andrew and maybe some of his team as well? Richard, John, Stuart?

We certainly can't talk the levels. It's too complex.

Sent from iOS

From: McKinnon, Margaret <Margaret.McKinnon@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2021 5:25:04 PM
To: Steele, Peter <Peter.Steele@act.gov.au>; Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Expert Panel Papers

OFFICIAL

I'm concerned if Andrew is not at the Panel meeting to talk through the lead levels.....

Margaret McKinnon | Executive Group Manager Business Services | **Education Directorate** | ACT Government
T: +61 2 6207 2790 | E: Margaret.McKinnon@act.gov.au
Level 6, 220 Northbourne Ave Braddon | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.education.act.gov.au



The Education Directorate acknowledges the Ngunnawal Peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the ACT and region upon which we live and work.

From: Steele, Peter <Peter.Steele@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 11 February 2021 5:18 PM
To: Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>; McKinnon, Margaret <Margaret.McKinnon@act.gov.au>
Subject: Expert Panel Papers

OFFICIAL

All,

I want to confirm the following is needed for the expert panel:

1. Lead dust levels – Andrew is looking at this now and hopefully can go tomorrow
2. Fact Sheet – This went out today as it was an action from the last meeting
3. Media Guidelines – Paul you said Lyn was working on this today, is it right to go tomorrow?

Marg – is there anything else you want? We can fill up the agenda on these items alone.

We do have the process chart – should that go up as well? Andrew will not be available to talk to it unfortunately.

I'll be on my mobile tomorrow if you're after me.

Pete

Peter Steele | Senior Director
P 02 62052179 | M 0423 390 998 | E peter.steele@act.gov.au
ACT Government

From: [Short, Paul](#)
To: [McKinnon, Margaret](#); [EDU, EDBSD](#)
Cc: [Larkin, Lyn](#)
Subject: FOR APPROVAL: Expert panel media protocols
Date: Wednesday, 17 February 2021 3:56:41 PM
Attachments: [Independent Expert Advisory Committee media protocols v.1 PS.docx](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi Margaret

As discussed at today's taskforce meeting, please see attached for your clearance a draft media protocol for our HazMat expert panel members.

This is based on existing ACT Government media protocols and tailored for our circumstances.

Importantly we are encouraging panel members to talk to their expertise, but putting in place steps to appropriately support media engagements and direct any relevant questions back to us.

Due dates

- EGM cleared: Thursday 18 Feb
- To directorate taskforce: Friday 19 Feb
- To expert panel: Next meeting in w/c 22 Feb

Cheers,

Paul

Paul Short

Executive Branch Manager, Communications, Engagement & Government Support

Education Directorate | ACT Government

Phone: 02 620 72809 | Mobile: 0408 368 746

www.education.act.gov.au

Hazardous Materials Management Taskforce Independent Expert Panel Media protocol

Draft 18/02/2021

This document provides guidance to members of the Independent Expert Panel about handling requests from media in relation to lead paint management in ACT public schools.

1. Media requests

1.1. All media enquiries and requests for interview for members of the Expert Panel in relation to Hazardous Materials Management in ACT public schools must first be referred to the Education Directorate Media Team to manage:

- Lyn Larkin, Senior Director Communications and Engagement
- phone: 0466 721 421
- email: EDU.Media@act.gov.au

1.2. Upon receiving a media request the Education Directorate Media Team will:

- ensure a deadline or interview time has been confirmed and ask that the request be put in writing to avoid any misunderstanding
- work with the Directorate's Hazardous Materials Taskforce to determine whether the query relates to matters being managed by the Education Directorate and is best dealt with by the directorate or the Minister's Office, or a matter that can be addressed by an Expert Panel member
- alert the Minister's Office of the media request.

1.3. If the enquiry or request for interview is best handled by the directorate, it will be handled according to normal processes.

1.4. If the enquiry or interview request is best dealt with by an Expert Panel member the relevant panel member will be contacted to discuss whether they are able to respond to the enquiry or undertake the interview.

1.5. Where appropriate, assistance will be provided to the panel member, including talking points if required.

2. Scope of commentary

2.1. Expert Panel members are free to talk their area of expertise. They are also welcome to share the nature of the advice they are providing to the directorate.

2.2. Expert Panel members are not accountable for the management of hazardous materials in ACT public schools. All questions in this area should be redirected to the directorate.

3. Media releases

3.1. All media releases about the management of hazardous materials in ACT public schools will be prepared by the Education Directorate Media Team.

3.2. All media releases will be drafted by the Education Directorate Media Team and reviewed in consultation with the appropriate line areas and the Taskforce.

3.3. All media releases must be approved by the relevant Executive Branch Manager, Executive Group Manager and Deputy Director General and the Minister via their media advisor.

3.4 Expert panel members should not prepare or issue any independent media releases about management of hazardous materials in ACT public schools.

4. Speaking in public forums

4.1. General, topical or contentious public speaking appearances/presentations relating to the work of the Independent Expert Panel are to be managed in consultation with the Education Directorate Media Team.

4.2 If needed, talking points will be drafted in consultation with the relevant area and the Education Directorate Media Team.

4.3 Presentations relating to the work of the Independent Expert Panel must be prepared in line with the ACT Government Design and Brand Guidelines.

4.4 Expert panel members are welcome to reference their work with the Directorate in public presentations, but any detail about the nature of hazardous materials management in ACT public schools must be first cleared through the directorate.

4.5 Expert panel members may be invited by the directorate to participate in briefings with the Minister, key stakeholders or media.

Bowden, Julia

From: Steele, Peter
Sent: Thursday, 18 February 2021 3:26 PM
To: Matthews, David
Cc: DDGEDUoffice; McKinnon, Margaret; Parkinson, Andrew; Short, Paul
Subject: CLEARANCE: Surface lead dust acceptable project clearance criteria - DRAFT discussion paper
Attachments: Discussion Paper - Lead Clearance Thresholds 1.0 .docx

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi David,

Attached is the Discussion Paper on Lead Clearance Thresholds that has been prepared for the Expert Panel.

Could you please approve for distribution as part of the paper for Meeting #2 (all papers will come through as a pack for clearance with agenda etc).

Pete

Peter Steele
ACT Government
0423390998

From: Steele, Peter
Sent: Thursday, 18 February 2021 11:04 AM
To: Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>; McKinnon, Margaret <Margaret.McKinnon@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU, EDBSD <EDBSD.EDU@act.gov.au>; DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: REVIEW/DISCUSSION: Surface lead dust acceptable project clearance criteria - DRAFT discussion paper

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Thanks Paul – really helpful comments.

The attached is the version that will go to the expert panel and will be a discussion item for the next meeting.

Pete

Peter Steele
ACT Government
0423390998

From: Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 17 February 2021 9:49 PM
To: Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>; Steele, Peter <Peter.Steele@act.gov.au>; McKinnon, Margaret <Margaret.McKinnon@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU, EDBSD <EDBSD.EDU@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: REVIEW/DISCUSSION: Surface lead dust acceptable project clearance criteria - DRAFT discussion paper

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi folks

Here are some suggested edits on this one to improve readability. I've not run it past the 9 year olds.

Cheers,
Paul

From: Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 12 February 2021 10:27 AM
To: Steele, Peter <Peter.Steele@act.gov.au>; McKinnon, Margaret <Margaret.McKinnon@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU, EDBSD <EDBSD.EDU@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: REVIEW/DISCUSSION: Surface lead dust acceptable project clearance criteria - DRAFT discussion paper

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

I've had a bit of a re-draft to try and keep the language consistent with talking points about acceptance levels.

These also some new words around cleaning first as these levels are post-remediation levels.

It needs Paul to have a look with clear eyes and see if it makes sense to a layperson.

Andrew Parkinson | Executive Branch Manager
Infrastructure & Capital Works | Education Directorate | **ACT Government**
Phone 02 6205 4593 | **Mobile 0478 301 085**
220 Northbourne Ave, Braddon | www.act.gov.au

Gulanyin dhuniang, ngalawirinyin, dhunayinyin, Ngunnawal dhawra

From: Steele, Peter <Peter.Steele@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 10 February 2021 3:42 PM
To: Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>
Cc: McKinnon, Margaret <Margaret.McKinnon@act.gov.au>; EDU, EDBSD <EDBSD.EDU@act.gov.au>
Subject: REVIEW/DISCUSSION: Surface lead dust acceptable project clearance criteria - DRAFT discussion paper

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Andrew,

Attached is my first draft of a discussion paper for us to take to the Expert Panel on the recommended lead dust clearance levels for ACT Education.

Given the level of consultation undertaken within this email appeared close to landing on the final position, I have shaped the document to provide the last piece as the recommended position and for us to seek endorsement from the panel.

Prof. Taylor has sent further background information through, however, I believe it would best to approach him (and the panel) with this paper and discuss whether our recommendation is appropriate rather than provide options to an expert.

Appreciate if you can review and let me know if this recommendation is still appropriate or if you would like to update/test further options with the panel.

We would like to finalise tomorrow so we can send papers out to the panel. Give me a call if you want to discuss.

- $<1.08\text{mg}/\text{m}^2$ for samples taken to represent inaccessible surfaces (high windowsills, tops of bookcases, surfaces accessible only if furniture is moved etc.); and
- $<0.43\text{ mg}/\text{m}^2$ for exterior contact surfaces.
- These criteria will apply regardless of whether children have access to a room, because of the equally low blood-lead limits for women of childbearing age as for children.
- Representative sampling for clearance testing of high contact surfaces such as furniture, toys and other objects should generally have lead concentrations below the detection limit (BDL) of the analysis method, with a small allowance made for exceedances up to $0.11\text{mg}/\text{m}^2$ in no more than 10% of samples (where samples are taken in sets, e.g. boxes of items taken for off-site cleaning).

Exceedance response

- Where surface lead sampling in classrooms (and similar areas) shows evidence of surface contamination:
 - above the detection limit but below the criteria level:
 - The room can remain in use, cleaning can be undertaken on the weekend and the room reoccupied before clearance results are received.
 - above the criteria level:
 - consideration should be given to closing the room (based on a case-by-case risk assessment), and results of clearance (after cleaning) should be received before the room is reoccupied.
- As samples are representative, cleaning of all surfaces expected to have similar contamination is required (i.e. generally the entire room).
- There is some flexibility on exceedances where a room is assessed to be low-risk.

Furniture and objects

- For objects in boxes there will be one sample taken per 50L box for clearance after cleaning.
- For furniture and objects (things with a high lead dust ingestion risk) all items represented by the sample/s will need to be clean/re-cleaned if any sample exceeds $<0.11\text{ mg}/\text{m}^2$, or if more than 10% of a set of samples exceed the detection limit.
- For a typical set of 25 boxes/samples, 23 samples should be below the detection limit.
- For soft furnishings which the client wants to retain, cleaning by HEPA vacuuming will be undertaken once, and if the clearance sample fails the item should be replaced.

High dust load surfaces

- These criteria are not appropriate for surfaces with high dust loads (such as in ceiling cavities) because the total volume of dust could result in a high volume of lead in a surface sample even if the percentage of lead in the dust is very low.
- Where workers are accessing ceiling cavities (and similar areas) there should have personal exposure controls (respirator, coveralls etc.) and containment controls (e.g. sheeting on ground beneath ladder) in place.

Hazmat requests to [REDACTED]

- Education and Property group will set up emails for us to contact/send reports for all requests that come to us directly.

Lead Paint/Hazmat Survey report cover sheet

- [REDACTED] to draft a cover sheet to be attached to schools' survey reports covering:
 - General brief information on lead paint risk
 - Changes to the definition of lead paint in the 2017 standard update

- Other relevant changes in the standard
- How this affects the survey report
- Where lead paint is likely to occur
- Actions which should be taken based on risk

As an outcome of today's meeting we have drafted the below text explaining the adopted surface lead dust clearance criteria, which we will be using for all assessments going forward. If anyone has any suggested amendments could you please let me know by 1pm-ish tomorrow so that we can release all outstanding clearance reports ASAP.

Kind regards,



1.1 Surface lead dust

The previous version of Australian Standard AS4631.2-1998 (*Guide to lead paint management, Part 2: Residential and commercial buildings*) had criteria levels for clearance after lead paint management activities of 8 mg/m² for exterior surfaces, 5 mg/m² for interior window sills, and 1 mg/m² for interior floors. This standard covered domestic settings, which would be expected to have vulnerable people present, including small children at increased risk of ingesting lead particles.

The AS4631.2 standard was updated in 2017 (AS 4361.2-2017) and no longer includes acceptable levels for surface dust lead levels after cleaning activities, instead it specifies that 'lead surface dust loading should not exceed the limits provided by the relevant statutory authority with jurisdiction over the area within which the work has been carried out'.

Neither the ACT nor the Commonwealth jurisdictions have criteria levels for surface lead after clearance activities. However, AS 4361.2-2017 also states that 'if there are no relevant legislated limits, project acceptance criteria should be established'.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Office of Lead Hazard Control and Health Homes (OLHCHH), released *the Guidelines for the Evaluation and Control of Lead-Based Paint Hazards in Housing* in 2012, which gave acceptable lead dust clearance action levels following lead paint removal. After additional research on adverse effects of lead exposure in children and evidence of feasibility of lower clearance levels was undertaken, the OLHCHH established more stringent lead clearance action levels in 2017, as follows:

- Interior floors: <0.11 mg/m²;
- Porch floors: <0.43 mg/m²; and
- Interior windowsills and window troughs: <1.08 mg/m².

These clearance levels are intended to protect small children (who are inherently more susceptible to lead poisoning due to their small body size and factors related to their growth) crawling on the floor in a domestic setting, who would be expected to be ingesting lead dust from their hands or through direct mouth to surface contact. As such, adoption of the OLHCHH lead dust clearance action levels for representative surfaces as shown in Table 4 as a criteria level to assess contamination will provide an appropriate degree of protection against lead exposure risks for students, workers and visitors.

Table 4: Lead Dust Clearance Criteria Levels

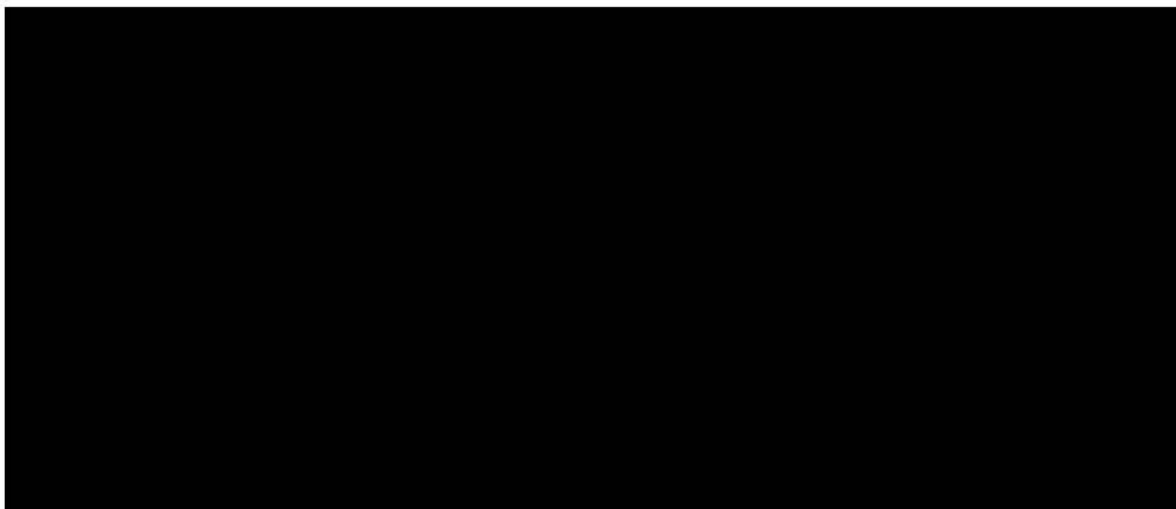
Surface	Lead Dust Clearance Criteria Level
Interior Floors	<0.11 mg/m ²

Surface	Lead Dust Clearance Criteria Level
(representing interior high-contact surfaces)	
Porch Floors (representing all exterior contact surfaces)	<0.43 mg/m ²
Windowsills and window troughs (representing interior low-contact surfaces)	<1.08 mg/m ²

ities,
because the total volume of dust could result in a high volume of lead in a surface sample even if the percentage of lead in the dust is very low.

Consultation with ACT Property Group and ACT Education has resulted in a decision to apply the criteria level of <0.11mg/m² to all samples taken to represent accessible interior surfaces within ACT Schools, and the criteria level of <1.08mg/m² to samples taken to represent inaccessible surfaces (high windowsills, tops of bookcases, surfaces accessible only if furniture is moved etc.).

The OLHCHH criteria level of <0.11mg/m² is intended for floors and there is no lower criteria levels for high contact surfaces (because it is assumed by the OLHCHH that high contact items such as furniture and household objects would normally have been removed prior to works commencing and would not become contaminated by lead dust during lead paint removal). Representative sampling for clearance testing of high contact surfaces such as furniture, toys and other objects should generally have lead concentrations below the detection limit (BDL) of the analysis method, with a small allowance made for exceedances up to 0.11mg/m² in no more than 10% of samples.



From: Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 8 September 2020 7:32 PM

To: [Redacted]

Cc: [Redacted]

[Redacted]; Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>; Connors, Kevin

<Kevin.Connors@act.gov.au>

Subject: Re: Surface lead dust acceptable project clearance criteria



I support the 3rd acceptance criteria threshold (<0.11 on interior surfaces accessible to children). In a domestic situation window sills are generally out of reach of small children but in our schools many windows sills are at a lower level. For example, many of the recently replaced windows in the Gambarri centre at Yarralumla have sills just above the carpet level.

Happy to work out a definition or guide to what “accessible to children” means.

I generally support the proposed recommendation about high contact surfaces but I think the “generally (at least 90% of samples)” language requires more consideration.

A couple of thoughts come to mind:

Is the sample count across a school or room?

Will we need to have more samples in order to have a percentage?

How do we consider soft items that we dispose of rather than test?

Given the CHO’s Office has started a health risk assessment on lead in schools that will add to this conversation in the future, I suggest that “(at least 90% of samples)” not be used at this time. That keeps the recommendation subjective and allows us to consider on a case by case basis.

Happy to discuss further if required.

Regards

Andrew Parkinson | Executive Branch Manager
Infrastructure & Capital Works | Education Directorate | ACT Government
Phone 02 6205 4593 | Mobile 0478 301 085

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 6:19 pm
To: Connors, Kevin; Parkinson, Andrew
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Surface lead dust acceptable project clearance criteria

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Kevin and Andrew,

I have been given your details as the most appropriate people to talk to about this, but please feel free to forward on my email if there is a better contact.

Over the past week we have undertaken a review of our report template for lead clearance reporting and have subsequently developed a ACT Property Group/ACT Schools-specific report template, which should ensure that clearance reports are more consistent and unambiguous going forward. As part of this review it has been identified that there is a lack of clarity around the adopted assessment criteria for surface lead dust.

What I would like to achieve is an agreement between ACT Property Group, ACT Education and [REDACTED] on the acceptable project clearance criteria so that reporting is consistent and everyone is happy with the selected criteria.

[REDACTED] have adopted the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Lead Hazard Control and Health Homes (OLHCHH, 2017) *Revised Dust-Lead Action Levels for Risk Assessment and Clearance* as follows:

1. Interior floors: <0.11 mg/m² (bare and carpeted floors, with which children will have frequent direct skin contact)
2. Windowsills and window troughs: <1.08 mg/m² (representing low-contact indoor surfaces)

3. Porch floors: $<0.43 \text{ mg/m}^2$ (outdoor, hard surfaced living areas such as porches, decks, and balconies. In a school environment this will all outdoor hard surfaces that children would be expected to play on)

These criteria are intended to protect small children (who are inherently more susceptible to lead poisoning due to their small body size and factors related to their growth) crawling on the floor in a domestic setting, who would be expected to be ingesting lead dust from hands, etc, and as such will be suitably protective in a school environment. These criteria were also adopted by the US EPA in the *Hazard Standards and Clearance Levels for Lead in Paint, Dust and Soil* in June 2020.

I see three options for project clearance criteria, based on discussion that [REDACTED] has had with various people from Education and from Property Group:

1. Use the OLHCHH criteria
 1. This option is evidence based
4. Use the most stringent criteria (Interior floors: $<0.11 \text{ mg/m}^2$) for all interior surfaces
 1. This is probably the simplest option
5. Use the most stringent criteria (Interior floors: $<0.11 \text{ mg/m}^2$) for all interior surfaces accessible to children and the OLHCHH criteria in all other locations
 1. Determining what is 'accessible to children' is potentially not as clear-cut as it sounds, so if we select this criteria we will need to define 'accessible to children' to avoid inconsistency between assessments

Regardless of the criteria selected I propose that going forward our reports will also recommend:

'This interior floors OLHCHH criteria level of $<0.11 \text{ mg/m}^2$ is intended for floors and there is no lower criteria levels for high contact surfaces (because it is assumed by the OLHCHH that high contact items such as furniture and household objects would normally have been removed prior to works commencing and would not become contaminated by lead dust during lead paint removal). It is recommended that high contact surfaces such as furniture, toys and other objects should generally (at least 90% of samples) have lead concentrations below the detection limit (BDL) of the analysis method.'

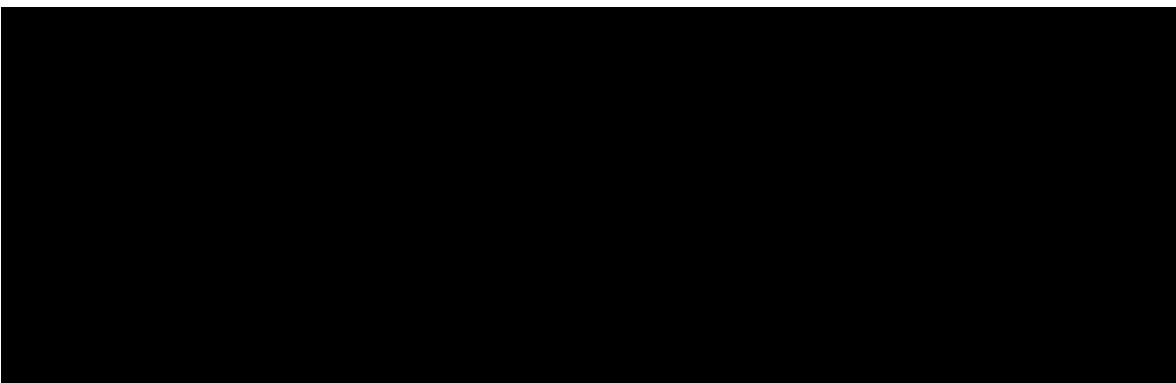
This recommendation is proposed to overcome limitations in the OLHCHH criteria, which are not intended to be used to assess lead contamination on items such as toys. I believe this is adequately protective, but I am seeking your feedback to ensure that everyone is on the same page with what we are trying to achieve through the clearance criteria.

Sorry to put the pressure on but we currently can't finalise a number of reports until we select the criteria so could you (or a representative from Property Group and ACT Education) please advise:

1. Your preferred option for project clearance criteria; and
2. If the proposed recommendation for high contact surfaces is acceptable.

Happy to have a meeting to discuss if it will help.

Kind regards,







<p>What is the purpose of this paper?</p>	<p>The purpose of this paper is to provide background to the Hazardous Materials Expert Panel on ACT Education Directorate's <u>project acceptance criteria for surface lead dust</u>.</p>										
<p>What is the outcome we are trying to achieve?</p>	<p>The Directorate is seeking endorsement from the Expert Panel on the proposed project acceptance criteria for lead dust clearances that ensures the safety of our students, staff and school communities.</p> <p>We are also seeking advice on how we can explain our criteria to the broader ACT Community, with an appropriate balance of technical and plain English terms.</p>										
<p>What is the background for this discussion?</p>	<p>Australian Standard AS4631.2-1998 (<i>Guide to lead paint management, Part 2: Residential and commercial buildings</i>) was updated in 2017 (AS 436.1-2017) and no longer includes acceptable levels for surface dust lead levels after cleaning activities.</p> <p>The standard now specifies that 'lead surface dust loading should not exceed the limits provided by the relevant statutory authority with jurisdiction over the area within which the work has been carried out'.</p> <p>Neither the ACT nor the Commonwealth jurisdictions have criteria levels for surface lead after cleaning activities. However, AS 436.1-2017 also states that 'if there are no relevant legislated limits, project acceptance criteria should be established'.</p> <p>The ACT Education Directorate currently uses the following acceptance criteria for surface lead dust:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="400 1120 1484 1388"> <thead> <tr> <th>Surface</th> <th>Acceptance Level</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Interior Floors</td> <td><0.11 mg/m²</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Windowsills (Interior)</td> <td><0.43 mg/m²</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Window Troughs (Exterior)</td> <td><1.08 mg/m²</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Exterior Surfaces</td> <td><2.00 mg/m²</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>These levels are based on The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Office of Lead Hazard Control and Health Homes (OLHCHH), 2017 update.</p> <p>They were used in the "Lead Dust Investigation: Yarralumla Primary School and Montessori Preschool" prepared by Robson's Environmental in July 2020 and have been consistently used in later reports and investigations.</p>	Surface	Acceptance Level	Interior Floors	<0.11 mg/m ²	Windowsills (Interior)	<0.43 mg/m ²	Window Troughs (Exterior)	<1.08 mg/m ²	Other Exterior Surfaces	<2.00 mg/m ²
Surface	Acceptance Level										
Interior Floors	<0.11 mg/m ²										
Windowsills (Interior)	<0.43 mg/m ²										
Window Troughs (Exterior)	<1.08 mg/m ²										
Other Exterior Surfaces	<2.00 mg/m ²										
<p>What are the recommended clearance levels by the Education Directorate?</p>	<p>The Education Directorate, through engagement with Independent Assessors and ACT Property Group, has identified that the following lead clearance levels should be established. Note the wording below includes background and rationale:</p> <p><u>Recommended Lead Clearance Levels for surface Lead Dust:</u></p> <p>The previous version of Australian Standard AS4631.2-1998 (<i>Guide to lead paint management, Part 2: Residential and commercial buildings</i>) had criteria levels for clearance after lead paint management activities of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 mg/m² for exterior surfaces, 										



- 5 mg/m² for interior window sills, and

- 1 mg/m² for interior floors.

This standard covered domestic settings, which would be expected to have vulnerable people present, including small children at increased risk of ingesting lead particles.

The AS4631.2 standard was updated in 2017 (AS 4361.2-2017) and no longer includes acceptable levels for surface dust lead levels after cleaning activities, instead it specifies that 'lead surface dust loading should not exceed the limits provided by the relevant statutory authority with jurisdiction over the area within which the work has been carried out'.

Neither the ACT nor the Commonwealth jurisdictions have criteria levels for surface lead after clearance activities. However, AS4361.2-2017 also states that 'if there are no relevant legislated limits, project acceptance criteria should be established'.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Office of Lead Hazard Control and Health Homes (OLHCHH), released *the Guidelines for the Evaluation and Control of Lead-Based Paint Hazards in Housing* in 2012, which gave acceptable lead dust clearance action levels following lead paint removal. After additional research on adverse effects of lead exposure in children and evidence of feasibility of lower clearance levels was undertaken, the OLHCHH established more stringent lead clearance action levels in 2017, as follows:

- Interior floors: <0.11 mg/m²;
- Porch floors: <0.43 mg/m²; and
- Interior windowsills and window troughs: <1.08 mg/m².

These clearance levels are intended to protect small children, who are inherently more susceptible to lead poisoning. This due to their small body size, factors related to their growth, and behaviours like crawling on the floor and ingesting lead dust from their hands or through direct mouth to surface contact.

As such, the Education Directorate is proposing to adopt the OLHCHH lead dust clearance action levels for representative surfaces, as shown in the following table. Using these criteria to assess contamination in ACT public schools will provide an appropriate degree of protection against lead exposure risks for students, workers and visitors.

Surface	Acceptance Level
Interior Floors (representing interior high-contact surfaces)	<0.11 mg/m ²
Porch Floors (representing all exterior contact surfaces)	<0.43 mg/m ²
Windowsills and window troughs (representing interior low-contact surfaces)	<1.08 mg/m ²



	<p>These criteria are not considered appropriate for surfaces with high concentrations of dust, such as within ceiling cavities. This is because the total volume of dust could result in a high volume of lead in a surface sample, even if the percentage of lead in the dust is very low.</p> <p>The ACT Education Directorate's practice has been to apply the acceptance level of $<0.11\text{mg}/\text{m}^2$ for all accessible interior surfaces within ACT Schools, and the acceptance level of $<1.08\text{mg}/\text{m}^2$ for inaccessible surfaces (high windowsills, tops of bookcases, surfaces accessible only if furniture is moved etc.).</p> <p>The OLHCHH level of $<0.11\text{mg}/\text{m}^2$ is intended for floors. There is no lower level for high contact surfaces such as furniture and household objects (because it is assumed by OLHCHH that such items would normally be removed before lead paint works commence and they would not become contaminated by lead dust).</p> <p>Representative sampling for clearance testing of high contact surfaces such as furniture, toys and other objects should generally have lead concentrations below the detection limit (BDL) of the analysis method, with a small allowance made for exceedances up to $0.11\text{mg}/\text{m}^2$ in no more than 10% of samples.</p> <p>These acceptance levels were determined for clearances after lead paint management actions. If high concentrations of dust or paint fragments are found in schools with known lead paint, management actions such as cleaning, removal and encapsulation should be undertaken before sampling for clearance purposes.</p>
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Document Tracking:

Date	Updated by	Notes
18/02/2021	Peter Steele	First draft for expert panel discussion

From: [Steele, Peter](#)
To: [Matthews, David](#); [McKinnon, Margaret](#); [Parkinson, Andrew](#); [Short, Paul](#)
Cc: [DDGEDUoffice](#); [EDU_EBBSD](#)
Subject: UPDATE - Expert Panel Meeting #2
Date: Thursday, 18 February 2021 3:32:41 PM

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

All,

In order to be able to provide a suitable level of notification for the next Expert Panel meeting, we will cancel the Taskforce/Panel placeholder in diaries for Tuesday 23rd Feb.

You will see placeholders come into diaries for Thursday 25th Feb and Friday 26th of Feb from the DDG inbox.

I will be calling external members tomorrow to canvas for suitable times.

The proposed papers for the panel (which will inform the agenda) are:

Paper Name	Status	Purpose
Lead Paint Fact Sheet	Already distributed to members per previous ACTION.	For endorsement and use in communications activities.
Media Protocols	DRAFT has been provided to EGMBSD for comment 18/2.	For endorsement and management of media enquiries.
Discussion Paper – Lead Clearance Thresholds	Sent to DDG for clearance 18/2.	For endorsement and establishment as project protocols.

We may also be able to provide our updated communications plan/slide deck for discussion.

Pete

Peter Steele | Senior Director

P 02 62052179 | **M** 0423 390 998 | **E** peter.steele@act.gov.au

ACT Government

From: [Short, Paul](#)
To: [McKinnon, Margaret](#); [Steele, Peter](#); [EDU, EDBSD](#); [Larkin, Lyn](#)
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: Expert panel media protocols
Date: Thursday, 18 February 2021 4:42:54 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Marg, I'll call you...

Cheers,

Paul

From: McKinnon, Margaret <Margaret.McKinnon@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 18 February 2021 4:29 PM
To: Steele, Peter <Peter.Steele@act.gov.au>; EDU, EDBSD <EDBSD.EDU@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: Expert panel media protocols

OFFICIAL

Yep. Or

This is how we support you –

Let us know.

Separate contact re ACT public schools etc

Happy to discuss

m

Margaret McKinnon | Executive Group Manager Business Services | **Education Directorate** |

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The Education Directorate acknowledges the Ngunnawal Peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the ACT and region upon which we live and work.

From: Steele, Peter <Peter.Steele@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 18 February 2021 2:45 PM
To: McKinnon, Margaret <Margaret.McKinnon@act.gov.au>; EDU, EDBSD <EDBSD.EDU@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: Expert panel media protocols

OFFICIAL

Marg – It may be appropriate that we make this a discussion point in the meeting and Paul provides a verbal briefing only rather than creating a standalone document.

Would you be more comfortable with that?

Peter Steele

ACT Government

0423390998

From: McKinnon, Margaret <Margaret.McKinnon@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 18 February 2021 2:06 PM
To: EDU, EDBSD <EDBSD.EDU@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul

<Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; Steele, Peter <Peter.Steele@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: FOR APPROVAL: Expert panel media protocols

OFFICIAL

This enforces the bit of sick I had in my mouth when we talked about this yesterday

A couple of things –

This sounds prescriptive, not supportive.

They are volunteering and what happens if they don't meet the intent of the protocol. (What? We dock their pay?)

And it all presupposes a lovely long lead time and notification of media ops – instead, we get two minutes.

Can we discuss or you just have another go. I have some ideas

margaret

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The Education Directorate acknowledges the Ngunnawal Peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the ACT and region upon which we live and work.

From: Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 17 February 2021 3:57 PM

To: McKinnon, Margaret <Margaret.McKinnon@act.gov.au>; EDU, EDBSD <EDBSD.EDU@act.gov.au>

Cc: Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>

Subject: FOR APPROVAL: Expert panel media protocols

OFFICIAL

Hi Margaret

As discussed at today's taskforce meeting, please see attached for your clearance a draft media protocol for our HazMat expert panel members.

This is based on existing ACT Government media protocols and tailored for our circumstances.

Importantly we are encouraging panel members to talk to their expertise, but putting in place steps to appropriately support media engagements and direct any relevant questions back to us.

Due dates

- EGM cleared: Thursday 18 Feb
- To directorate taskforce: Friday 19 Feb
- To expert panel: Next meeting in w/c 22 Feb

Cheers,

Paul

Paul Short

Executive Branch Manager, Communications, Engagement & Government Support

Education Directorate | ACT Government

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