

White, Kelly

From: Larkin, Lyn
Sent: Wednesday, 29 July 2020 11:59 AM
To: Jaques, Alison
Cc: EDU Media
Subject: FW: Yarralumla Primary

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

UNCLASSIFIED

Hey Ali, can you reach out to Yarralumla below and let them know we are handling this. Best to clue in school ops about the is query as well.

Warm regards

Lyn

From: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 29 July 2020 11:24 AM
To: Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Yarralumla Primary

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Sayers, Debra <Debra.Sayers@ed.act.edu.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 29 July 2020 9:55 AM
To: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>
Cc: Cooper, Julie <Julie.Cooper@act.gov.au>; Gwilliam, Stephen <Stephen.Gwilliam@act.gov.au>; Aschenberger, Emma (ACTEDU) <Emma.Aschenberger@ed.act.edu.au>
Subject: Yarralumla Primary

Good morning,

The school has just been contacted by [REDACTED] No-one spoke with [REDACTED] asked to speak with me. Whilst we had [REDACTED] on hold looking for your number, [REDACTED] hang up.

I wanted to give you a heads up.

Regards,

Deb


Debra Sayers | Deputy Principal

Yarralumla Primary School | La Scuola Elementare Bilingue Italo-Inglese di Yarralumla

24 Loftus St, Yarralumla ACT 2600

Ph: 6142 3250 debra.sayers@ed.act.edu.au






From: Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 30 July 2020 6:10 PM
To: Abbott, Janet <Janet.Abbott@act.gov.au>
Cc: Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Cooper, Julie <Julie.Cooper@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Lead-based paint media enquiry

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Janet,

Sorry today has just been manic and we've only just squared this all away.

David Mathews will be interviewed by  tomorrow morning at 9am. Emma and Deb are across everything that is happening and have had a visit from Andrew Parkinson today.

I think at this stage the fewer people there the better, so I think we're all good for support. Thank you for the offer though.

Kind regards ,
Ali

Ali Jaques
Phone: +61 2 6205 4755 | 0423 818 223
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Please note that my working days are Monday to Thursday

From: Abbott, Janet <Janet.Abbott@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 30 July 2020 5:55 PM
To: Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Lead-based paint media enquiry

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Ali
Is there any update on this enquiry? Did you need any support from SO?
Janet

From: Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 29 July 2020 12:18 PM
To: School Operations <SchoolOperations@act.gov.au>; Abbott, Janet <Janet.Abbott@act.gov.au>; Gwilliam,

Stephen <Stephen.Gwilliam@act.gov.au>

Cc: Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; Nakkan, John <John.Nakkan@act.gov.au>; Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>; Mulligan, Jo <Jo.Mulligan@act.gov.au>; ICW EBM Office <ICWEBMOffice@act.gov.au>; Gumley, Clair <Clair.Gumley@act.gov.au>; EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Lead-based paint media enquiry

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi all,

We have received a media request in relation to the lead paint issue at Yarralumla.

I have had a chat with the journalist [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] advises that [REDACTED] has been speaking with a member of the school community who is very distressed about the situation (but who also wishes to remain anonymous).

Some of the concerns raised by the community member are:

- How long have we known about this?
- The level of risk?
- What's going to happen to the buildings?
- Who will pay for replacements/upgrades- including all the Montessori items?
- What about the students in the mean time?

I have assured the journalist that we are working hard to resolve the issue and [REDACTED] is very understanding and doesn't think there is any conspiracy or that we are trying to hide anything.

[REDACTED] is aiming to run the story across TV and radio (and possibly print) and would like to interview someone from the Directorate. [REDACTED] asked if the Principal would be suitable and I said no – Principals can talk about education related matters and that this was an ICW matter. I have suggested to John Nakkan that Andrew Parkinson would likely be the best spokesperson from an ICW perspective, but perhaps given the community angle – Stephen, you might be in a position to speak to media also?

[REDACTED] has also asked if [REDACTED] can film at the school – from a media perspective this is an obvious request but I wanted to gauge the sentiment within the school community regarding this.

Happy to chat on the phone if that's easier.

Kind regards,
Ali

Ali Jaques

Phone: +61 2 6205 4755 | 0423 818 223

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Please note that I work part-time, Monday to Thursday

From: Nakkan, John <John.Nakkan@act.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 29 July 2020 10:20 AM

To: Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>; Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>; Gumley, Clair <Clair.Gumley@act.gov.au>

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

Subject: RE: Lead-based paint media enquiry

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Ali,

We should have an update on the works at Yarralumla available later today as we await test results. At this stage the students are still in alternative accommodation while the cleaning continues.

I don't think a spokesperson has been nominated, but agree that Andrew would be the appropriate person.

It can be reasonably expected that schools (and houses) of a similar age to Yarralumla will have lead paint. We carry a register of known hazardous materials in schools and can check on this for you.

Regards,

John Nakkam | Acting Executive Branch Manager
Phone: +61 2 6205 1289 | Mobile: 0466 015 922 | Email: john.nakkam@act.gov.au
Infrastructure and Capital Works | Education | ACT Government
Level 1, 220 Northbourne Avenue | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
www.education.act.gov.au | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

From: Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 29 July 2020 10:09 AM
To: Nakkam, John <John.Nakkam@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Mulligan, Jo <Jo.Mulligan@act.gov.au>
Subject: Lead-based paint media enquiry
Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi John,

We have received a call from [REDACTED] about the lead based paint situation at Yarralumla.

[REDACTED] has been tipped off by a parent and has apparently seen the letter that was sent out on Friday.

[REDACTED] would like to know what is happening now/where is the situation up to. [REDACTED] has also asked if there are other schools with this lead based paint problem?

Are you able to provide an update please?

As an aside - do we need to do another letter to community at this point? And is Andrew our nominated spokesperson on this issue?

Thanks John,

Ali

Ali Jaques | Director Media & Communications
Phone: +61 2 6205 4755 | 0423 818 223 | Email: alison.jaques@act.gov.au
Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government
Level 6 220 Northbourne Avenue | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

Please note that I work part-time, Monday to Thursday

From: Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 31 July 2020 12:15 PM
To: Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>
Cc: ICW EBM Office <ICWEBMOffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR YOUR CLEARANCE: [REDACTED] follow up media questions

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Lyn,

Please see answers below. Let me know if you need additional information.

I've also attached the email trail with the WorkSafe comments to the contractor which also highlights the concerns with the school managed painting project.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,

Stuart Hunter | A/Senior Director, School Infrastructure Management
Phone: +61 2 6207 8831 | Mobile: 0478 488 885 | Email: stuart.hunter@act.gov.au
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Level 1 220 Northbourne Avenue | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 |
www.education.act.gov.au | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Google+](#)

From: Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 31 July 2020 11:18 AM
To: Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>
Subject: FOR YOUR CLEARANCE: [REDACTED] follow up media questions
Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Stuart, for your input and initial clearance, here are the follow up questions [REDACTED] today.
Are you able to provide answers for the areas in yellow highlight?
I'll clear through Andrew and the Minister's office.

How did the lead dust escape into the classrooms?

- Work commenced on 6 July to replace windows in 8 classrooms at Yarralumla Primary School and associated support spaces because the old lead-based paint on them was deteriorating.
- Following this work, a licensed assessor tested nearby surfaces in these classrooms and found above threshold lead levels in multiple areas and initial remediation works commenced on 18 July.
- As soon as these elevated levels were identified, the school closed the affected rooms so deep cleaning and further testing could be undertaken.
- Specialist cleaners [REDACTED] were engaged to do a full clean of the affected areas.

Why wasn't it considered an activity that needed lead safe paint management and processes used?

The works undertaken at Yarralumla Primary School were windows replacements, not lead paint removal. The works undertaken were done so in accordance with advice from Robson Environmental who have confirmed "The mechanical demolition of structures and objects painted with lead paint do not fall under the category of a 'lead process' as defined by the ACT Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011 (Section 392). The attached document formed part of the scope of work.

This process included the use of drop sheets and standard project cleaning.

What were the lead levels found in the classrooms after the windows were replaced?

Lead levels were monitored on surfaces and in the air of each classroom where work had been undertaken. Levels varied between surfaces. These levels initially ranged between 0.09 – 24 mg/m² but dropped to <0.1 – 1.1 mg/m² following the initial cleaning on 18 and 19 July.

If possible, an up to date reading of the levels of lead in the classrooms now?

We are unable to provide up to date readings of levels in the classrooms until we receive a formal report from our specialist hygienists once cleaning is complete.

Warm regards

Lyn Larkin | Senior Director Media and Communications
Phone: +61 2 6205 0837 | Email: lyn.larkin@act.gov.au
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From: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 31 July 2020 5:34 PM
To: Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>

This is approved. Thanks Lyn

From: Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 31 July 2020 5:32 PM
To: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: [REDACTED] follow up media questions on lead at Yarralumla PS for story tonight

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Megan, just adjusted that wording again after talking with Andrew, see highlight.

Regards

Lyn

From: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 31 July 2020 5:13 PM
To: Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: [REDACTED] follow up media questions on lead at Yarralumla PS for story tonight

Are these additions correct:

How did the lead dust escape into the classrooms?

1. Work commenced on 6 July to replace windows in 8 classrooms at Yarralumla Primary School, during school holidays, and associated support spaces because the old lead-based paint on them was deteriorating.
2. Following this work, a licensed assessor tested nearby surfaces in these classrooms and on 17 July advised they had found above threshold lead levels in the affected classrooms and initial remediation works commenced on 18 July.
3. As soon as these elevated levels were identified, the school closed the affected rooms so deep cleaning and further testing could be undertaken.
4. Specialist cleaners [REDACTED] were engaged to do a full clean of the affected areas.

Why wasn't it considered an activity that needed lead safe paint management and processes used?

The works undertaken at Yarralumla Primary School were windows replacements, not lead paint removal. The works undertaken were done so in accordance with advice from Robson Environmental who have confirmed: "The mechanical demolition of structures and objects painted with lead paint do not fall under the category of a 'lead process' as defined by the ACT Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011 (Section 392)." This process used included the use of drop sheets and standard project cleaning.

What were the lead levels found in the classrooms after the windows were replaced?

Lead levels were monitored on surfaces and in the air of each classroom where work had been undertaken. Levels varied between surfaces. These levels initially ranged between 0.09 – 24 mg/m² but dropped to <0.1 – 1.1 mg/m² following the initial cleaning on 18 and 19 July. Further cleaning is still taking place.

If possible, an up to date reading of the levels of lead in the classrooms now?

We are unable to provide up to date readings of levels in the classrooms until we receive a formal report from our specialist hygienists once cleaning is complete.

Can you provide the WorkSafe statement about the work?

While Worksafe was engaged in the process, the Directorate did not seek a statement about the works carried out.

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

Sent: Friday, 31 July 2020 5:08 PM

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

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

Subject: RE: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: [REDACTED] follow up media questions on lead at Yarralumla PS for story tonight

UNCLASSIFIED

So the initial testing (when we got the numbers below) was done on 17 July. Initial remediation works started on 18 July (last week of the holidays). We told families on 22 July.

Regards

Lyn

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

Sent: Friday, 31 July 2020 5:05 PM

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

Subject: Fwd: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: [REDACTED] follow up media questions on lead at Yarralumla PS for story tonight

Hey Lyn,

Questions from the minister is when was the testing done? and what date and time were the results returned?

From: "Larkin, Lyn" <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>

Date: 31 July 2020 at 4:31:59 pm AEST

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

Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>, "Short, Paul" <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: [REDACTED] follow up media questions on lead at Yarralumla PS for story tonight

Hi Megan,
Updated as discussed

How did the lead dust escape into the classrooms?

1. Work commenced on 6 July to replace windows in 8 classrooms at Yarralumla Primary School and associated support spaces because the old lead-based paint on them was deteriorating.
2. Following this work, a licensed assessor tested nearby surfaces in these classrooms and found above threshold lead levels in the affected classrooms and initial remediation works commenced on 18 July.
3. As soon as these elevated levels were identified, the school closed the affected rooms so deep cleaning and further testing could be undertaken.
4. Specialist cleaners [REDACTED] were engaged to do a full clean of the affected areas.

Why wasn't it considered an activity that needed lead safe paint management and processes used?

The works undertaken at Yarralumla Primary School were windows replacements, not lead paint removal. The works undertaken were done so in accordance with advice from Robson Environmental who have confirmed: "The mechanical demolition of structures and objects painted with lead paint do not fall under the category of a 'lead process' as defined by the ACT Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011 (Section 392)." This process used included the use of drop sheets and standard project cleaning.

What were the lead levels found in the classrooms after the windows were replaced?

Lead levels were monitored on surfaces and in the air of each classroom where work had been undertaken. Levels varied between surfaces. These levels initially ranged between 0.09 – 24 mg/m² but dropped to <0.1 – 1.1 mg/m² following the initial cleaning on 18 and 19 July. Further cleaning is still taking place.

If possible, an up to date reading of the levels of lead in the classrooms now?

We are unable to provide up to date readings of levels in the classrooms until we receive a formal report from our specialist hygienists once cleaning is complete.

Can you provide the WorkSafe statement about the work?

While Worksafe was engaged in the process, the Directorate did not seek a statement about the works carried out.

Warm regards

Lyn Larkin | Senior Director Media and Communications
Phone: +61 2 6205 0837 | Email: lyn.larkin@act.gov.au
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Level 6 220 Northbourne Avenue | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 31 July 2020 11:03 AM
To: Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Friday shoot please Northbourne COS
Importance: High

Dear Lyn

Thank you very much for your time this morning and for helping us better understand what's gone on at Yarralumla Primary.

As discussed, if we could please get in writing the following pieces of information, that would be great:

1. ICW's great explanation of the window replacement work, and why it wasn't considered an activity that

needed lead safe paint management and processes used

2. The lead levels found in the classrooms after the windows were replaced
3. If possible, an up to date reading of the levels of lead in the classrooms now

Thank you so much again Lyn and we look forward to hearing from you.

Best



Thanks so much Lyn.

I forgot to ask about the WorkSafe statement too – if you'd be able to provide that, that would be terrific.

Thank you again.



White, Kelly

From: Larkin, Lyn
Sent: Wednesday, 5 August 2020 9:15 AM
To: Sloane, Brenton
Cc: EDU Media; Jaques, Alison
Subject: RE: Yarralumla - Forrest enquiry

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

OFFICIAL

Excellent. Good to go.

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 5 August 2020 9:09 AM
To: Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Yarralumla - Forrest enquiry

OFFICIAL

No worries. Change incorporated.

I've left a phone message with Megan Young, but otherwise had no luck.

I will email her as well about this.

Noting your approval, I will move forward with the process and seek to get John Nakkam to look at it, and fill in the cost gap.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane

Public Information Coordination Centre (COVID-19 response)

E: covid-19media@act.gov.au

ACT Health Directorate – Level 2, 2 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

health.act.gov.au

From: Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 4 August 2020 5:16 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Yarralumla - Forrest enquiry

OFFICIAL

Hi Brenton, this is looking really good. I've just edited out the term remediation for Yarralumla as it's not remediation but environmental cleaning. Andrew pulled me up on that today. Did you manage to get hold of Megan

Young? We need to get those plans from Forrest and Yarralumla and it might mean we need to visit and photocopy ourselves if she doesn't have them.

Regards

Lyn

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

Sent: Tuesday, 4 August 2020 4:49 PM

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

Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>

Subject: Yarralumla - Forrest enquiry

OFFICIAL

Hi Lyn,

I now believe I am up to speed on Yarralumla, and once I realised that Forrest was the asbestos-related matter that happened just before I went to the PICC it all came back to me very quickly.

As discussed over the phone, attached is what I've put together as a draft media response on the [redacted] enquiry.

I think this effectively answers all of the questions of the [redacted] with the one exception regarding cost associated with Forrest.

I also don't yet have copies of the Hazardous Material Survey and Management Plans for either school, but have drafted the response as if we are providing them.

Please advise if you approve of the attached. If so, I will seek to pursue with John Nakkam in the morning.

CC'd Ali as FYI, and because unsure if this requires clearance through you as well under new structure.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Assistant Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

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

Level 6, 220 Northbourne Avenue | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

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White, Kelly

From: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Wednesday, 5 August 2020 9:24 AM
To: Nakkan, John; Young, Megan
Cc: EDU Media; Larkin, Lyn; Mulligan, Jo
Subject: RE: Yarralumla - Forrest enquiry

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

OFFICIAL

Thanks John!

Draft response coming to you in one minute.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Assistant Director
Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government
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From: Nakkan, John <John.Nakkan@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 5 August 2020 9:23 AM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>; Young, Megan <Megan.Young@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>
Subject: RE: Yarralumla - Forrest enquiry

OFFICIAL

Hi all,

ICW has copies of these and they will be supplied shortly.

Regards,

John Nakkan | Acting Executive Branch Manager
Phone: +61 2 6205 1289 | Mobile: 0466 015 922 | Email: john.nakkan@act.gov.au
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From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 5 August 2020 9:19 AM
To: Young, Megan <Megan.Young@act.gov.au>

Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Nakkan, John <John.Nakkan@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Mulligan, Jo <Jo.Mulligan@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Yarralumla - Forrest enquiry

OFFICIAL

Hello Megan,

I am contacting you because we have received a media request from [REDACTED] which requests (among other things) copies of the Hazardous Material Survey and Management Plans for both Yarralumla Primary School and Forrest Primary School.

There is a general consensus that, as these are displayed within the school and available to the public, we should provide these to the journalist.

Do you have copies of these documents? If so, can you provide them to us?

Please call me on the mobile below if you need to discuss in more detail.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Assistant Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

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

Level 6, 220 Northbourne Avenue | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

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White, Kelly

From: Nakkan, John
Sent: Wednesday, 5 August 2020 1:44 PM
To: Hunter, Stuart; Sloane, Brenton
Cc: EDU Media; Mulligan, Jo; Jaques, Alison; Young, Megan; ICW EBM Office; Larkin, Lyn
Subject: RE: MEDIA QUERY - ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS Yarralumla lead paint
Attachments: Yarralumla - Forrest hazardous materials enquiry 05082020 - MO included.docx; 11181_CleaningLeadMethod_YarralumlaPrimarySchool_20200724.pdf

OFFICIAL

Hi all,

Cleared without change from ICW.

Regards,

John Nakkan | Acting Executive Branch Manager
Phone: +61 2 6205 1289 | Mobile: 0466 015 922 | Email: john.nakkan@act.gov.au
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From: Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 5 August 2020 1:35 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>; Nakkan, John <John.Nakkan@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Mulligan, Jo <Jo.Mulligan@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>; Young, Megan <Megan.Young@act.gov.au>; ICW EBM Office <ICWEBMOffice@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: MEDIA QUERY - ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS Yarralumla lead paint

OFFICIAL

Hi All,

My comments / answers attached and highlighted yellow. I've also attached a copy of the full cleaning process being used and have done my best to summarise in the response.

I will be leaving home at around 2:10 to assist the school with any on site queries. If there are any questions after this time, please contact me on the mobile.

Regards,

Stuart Hunter | A/Senior Director, School Infrastructure Management
Phone: +61 2 6207 8831 | Mobile: 0478 488 885 | Email: stuart.hunter@act.gov.au
Infrastructure & Capital Works | Education | ACT Government
Level 1 220 Northbourne Avenue | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 |
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From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 5 August 2020 12:25 PM
To: Nakkam, John <John.Nakkam@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Mulligan, Jo <Jo.Mulligan@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>; Young, Megan <Megan.Young@act.gov.au>; Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>; ICW EBM Office <ICWEBMOffice@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: MEDIA QUERY - ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS Yarralumla lead paint

OFFICIAL

Hello John,

Please find attached an updated version of the document Lyn sent you earlier. What this does is bring the relevant info from the answers we'd already developed for the Directorate response into the MO response (with language adapted accordingly).

We've also developed a suggested response to the 'Do you think it is acceptable' questions, based on our existing 'ideal situation' message.

As such, the questions we really need input into from you are the following ones:

Why was the lead paint recently detected in these spaces not discovered and remediated following the assessments conducted by Robson Environmental into lead paint and asbestos in April 2019?

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What company has been contracted to conduct the cleaning work?

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Given the COB deadline, if you could get this back to us ASAP that will give us as much time as possible to get the necessary approvals from Exec and MO.

Please feel free to call me to discuss this further if required.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Assistant Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

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

Level 6, 220 Northbourne Avenue | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

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

From: Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 5 August 2020 10:49 AM
To: Nakkam, John <John.Nakkam@act.gov.au>; Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Mulligan, Jo <Jo.Mulligan@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>; Young, Megan <Megan.Young@act.gov.au>; Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>; ICW EBM Office <ICWEBMOffice@act.gov.au>

Subject: MEDIA QUERY - ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS Yarralumla lead paint
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi John, this morning the journalist has come back to the Minister's office with a range of further questions. Please find attached the updated media response document with those questions added in. We require a few more answers unfortunately.

Warm regards

Lyn

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Sent: Wednesday, 5 August 2020 10:13 AM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@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>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>; Young, Megan <Megan.Young@act.gov.au>; Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>; ICW EBM Office <ICWEBMOffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Media request

OFFICIAL

Hi Brenton,

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Please see attached the following reports:

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Could you please review the attached for accuracy?

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

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Please see below a media enquiry we have received regarding Yarralumla and Forrest Primary Schools and hazardous materials.

I just spoke to you on the phone as a heads up about this, but we're going to have ongoing discussions about how to respond to these questions.

Regarding the Hazardous Material Survey and Management Plans for both schools, it would be useful if we were able to provide these, even if we have to do so with caveats.

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Brenton Sloane | Assistant Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 August 2020 11:19 AM
To: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>
Subject: Media request

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 would like to request a copy of the Hazardous Material Survey and Management Plan for both Yarralumla Primary School and Forrest Primary School.

I would also like some information about the work that has been undertaken at these two sites this year, including:

- What remediation work has been undertaken this year?
- When was it completed or when is it expected to be completed?
- What, if any, disruption has this caused to students and teachers? (For example, classrooms closed, parts of playgrounds closed)
- What was the cost of this remediation work?

I would appreciate an answer on the four questions above for each site by close of business on Wednesday. Please call me if you require any further details or clarification about this request.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Media Enquiry

Hazardous Materials at Yarralumla Primary School and Forrest Primary School

5 August 2020

Enquiry:

I would like to request a copy of the Hazardous Material Survey and Management Plan for both Yarralumla Primary School and Forrest Primary School.

I would also like some information about the work that has been undertaken at these two sites this year, including:

- What remediation work has been undertaken this year?
- When was it completed or when is it expected to be completed?
- What, if any, disruption has this caused to students and teachers? (For example, classrooms closed, parts of playground closed)
- What was the cost of this remediation work?

Response from Directorate:

Hello [REDACTED]

Thank you for contacting us about this matter. Please find attached the Hazardous Material Survey and Management Plan for both Yarralumla Primary School and Forrest Primary School.

Please attribute the following responses, separated out by school, to an ACT Education Directorate spokesperson:

Yarralumla Primary School:

What remediation work has been undertaken this year?

Work commenced on 6 July to replace windows in eight classrooms at Yarralumla Primary School, during school holidays, and associated support spaces because the old lead-based paint on them was deteriorating.

Following this work, a licensed assessor tested nearby surfaces in these classrooms and on 17 July advised they had found above threshold lead levels in the affected classrooms. Initial remediation works commenced on 18 July.

As soon as these elevated levels were identified, the school closed the affected rooms so deep cleaning and further testing could be undertaken. Following this, the Education Directorate commissioned a licensed assessor to conduct background testing for lead levels in all areas of the school.

Upon receiving this report, on 3 August the Directorate has determined to close a further three classrooms in the school for cleaning and further testing. Advanced environmental cleaning is now being conducted.

The safety of Yarralumla Primary School students, staff and the community is our highest priority. Classes have been relocated to alternative spaces in the school to make sure students' learning can continue with minimum disruption.

The school is keeping families and staff informed of this matter while the remediation work is carried out.

Lead paint was common in Australian buildings constructed before 1970, including homes and schools. The lead paint at Yarralumla Primary School has been managed over time and where areas are deteriorating, remediation works are undertaken.

When was it completed or when is it expected to be completed?

Environmental cleaning is currently occurring. It is expected the impacted rooms will be available for students, staff and the after school care providers to reoccupy from late next week.

What, if any, disruption has this caused to students and teachers? (For example, classrooms closed, parts of playground closed)

We understand this is not an ideal situation. However, the safety of our students and staff is our absolute priority and so the impacted areas will not reopen until we are sure they are safe to occupy.

Classes have been temporarily relocated to alternative spaces in the school to make sure students' learning can continue with minimum disruption.

Provision is being for the two after school programs that operate at the school to relocate to alternate rooms while cleaning is being carried out.

As mentioned above, it is expected the impacted rooms will be available for students, staff and the after school care providers to reoccupy from late next week.

What was the cost of this remediation work?

As this remediation work is ongoing, it is not yet possible to provide information on the cost of this project.

Forrest Primary School:

What remediation work has been undertaken this year?

On 2 July, a small amount of bonded asbestos material was found underground in a playground area at Forrest Primary School. Following detection, the area was immediately isolated and the material was sent for testing.

On 7 July, the results of the independent testing of this material were returned to the Directorate and school, confirming it contained bonded asbestos.

The term 'bonded' means that if left undisturbed, the material is unlikely to release asbestos fibres into the air and is considered a low risk for people who are in contact with it.

Remediation works were conducted on the weekend of 11 and 12 July. No students or staff were present at school during the remediation works. The remediated site was handled in compliance with all legislative and WorkSafe ACT requirements.

The Directorate worked closely with the school, after school care service providers and the contractor to ensure the works were completed as quickly as possible with minimal disruption.

When was it completed or when is it expected to be completed?

Remediation works were conducted on the weekend of 11 and 12 July.

What, if any, disruption has this caused to students and teachers? (For example, classrooms closed, parts of playground closed)

Other than the isolation of the area where the bonded asbestos material was found until the remediation works were completed, there was no disruption to students or teachers as a result of this remediation works. No students or staff were present at school during the remediation works.

What was the cost of this remediation work?

The costs for the remediation works are still being finalised but are expected to be under \$10,000.

Response from MO:

Can you confirm that eight classrooms plus the music room, one kindergarten room and the YWCA after school care room were found to have unacceptable levels of lead?

Work commenced on 6 July to replace windows in eight classrooms at Yarralumla Primary School, during school holidays, and associated support spaces because the old lead-based paint on them was deteriorating.

Following this work, a licensed assessor tested nearby surfaces in these classrooms and on 17 July advised they had found above threshold lead levels in the affected classrooms. Initial remediation works commenced on 18 July.

As soon as these elevated levels were identified, the school closed the affected rooms so deep cleaning and further testing could be undertaken. Following this, the Education Directorate commissioned a licensed assessor to conduct background testing for lead levels in all areas of the school.

Upon receiving this report, on 3 August the Directorate has determined to close a further three classrooms in the school for cleaning and further testing. Advanced environmental cleaning is now being conducted.

The safety of Yarralumla Primary School students, staff and the community is our highest priority.

Classes have been relocated to alternative spaces in the school to make sure students' learning can continue with minimum disruption.

Why was the lead paint recently detected in these spaces not discovered and remediated following the assessments conducted by Robson Environmental into lead paint and asbestos in April 2019?

The assessments conducted by Robson Environmental in April 2019 specifically targeted areas of the school in which works were proposed and testing was carried out on surfaces likely to be disturbed. Analysis of the recent test results indicated the elevated levels are more likely to have resulted from recent events.

Why was this work not carried out during the remote learning period or completed during the recent school holidays to minimise disruption to classes? I understand the work only commenced at the end of the July holidays.

Works were undertaken during the recent holidays and started on the 6th July. The report identifying lead levels was commissioned towards the completion of the works and not received by the Directorate until the end of the recent school holiday period. Action to clean the affected areas was taken as soon as it could be arranged.

When is the environmental cleaning work expected to be complete?

Environmental cleaning is currently occurring. It is expected the impacted rooms will be available for students, staff and the after school care providers to reoccupy from late next week.

What was the cost of the remediation work and cleaning?

As this remediation work is ongoing, it is not yet possible to provide information on the cost of this project.

What does the environmental cleaning entail?

Surfaces are first vacuumed with a HEPA filtered vacuum, the area is left for one hour to allow any dust to settle, all surfaces are then scrubbed vigorously with a sugar soap solution, a microfiber cloth and a three-bucket solution (one for detergent solution, one for dirty water and one for clean water), the surface is rinsed with clean water and wiped dry with clean cloths. Cleaning items are then disposed of in sealed plastic bags.

Upon drying, a second HEPA filter vacuum is undertaken. A copy of the procedure is attached.

What company has been contracted to conduct the cleaning work?

The cleaning work is being completed by [REDACTED]

Do you think it is acceptable that preschool children and their teachers are spending extended periods of time outside during winter because they cannot access their classrooms due to environmental cleaning?

Do you think it is acceptable that preschool teachers and students don't have access to their usual kitchen and bathroom facilities during a pandemic?

Do you think it is acceptable that teachers and students are being forced to work in alternate spaces in the school for an extended period of time?

I understand this is not an ideal situation, but the safety of students and staff is the top priority and so the impacted areas will not reopen until they are cleared as being safe to occupy.

Classes have been temporarily relocated to alternative spaces in the school to make sure students' learning can continue with minimum disruption.

As mentioned above, it is expected the impacted rooms will be available for students, staff and the after school care providers to reoccupy from late next week.

Are you advising parents and teachers to get health testing as a result of lead paint exposure?

Staff and families have been advised that if they have any health concerns, they should consult their doctor. We have also provided them with a link to further information about lead and health on the [ACT Health website](#) (see the "Environmental Health" heading).

Lead paint was common in Australian buildings constructed before 1970, including homes and schools. The lead paint at Yarralumla Primary School has been managed over time and where areas are deteriorating, remediation works are undertaken.

White, Kelly

From: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Wednesday, 5 August 2020 2:07 PM
To: Parkinson, Andrew
Cc: EDU Media; Larkin, Lyn; Jaques, Alison; Mulligan, Jo; Nakkan, John; Hunter, Stuart; Young, Megan; ICW EBM Office; EDU, EDBSD
Subject: FW: MEDIA QUERY - ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS Yarralumla lead paint
Attachments: Forrest PS ASMP.pdf; Forrest PS HMR.pdf; Yarralumla PS ASMP.pdf; Yarralumla PS HMSMP.pdf; Yarralumla PS LPMP.pdf; Yarralumla - Forrest hazardous materials enquiry 05082020 - MO included.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

OFFICIAL

Hello Andrew,

Please find attached a word document containing:

- 1) the suggested response to a media enquiry to the Directorate about Yarralumla PS and Forrest PS
- 2) the suggested response to a media enquiry to the Minister about Yarralumla PS

Also attached are the relevant hazardous material reports and plans for both Yarralumla Primary School and Forrest Primary School, which was part of the enquiry. These documents are all currently available to be seen at their associated schools.

Suggested media approach is to provide the attached PDFs, as well as the responses in the attached word document, before COB today. This approach and wording has been approved by ICW and John Nakkan.

Please advise if you approve of this approach, as well as the wording of the responses. If you approve, this will be provided to the MO for final clearance.

Journalist deadline is 4pm to MO, 5pm to us.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Assistant Director
Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government
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From: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Wednesday, 5 August 2020 1:55 PM
To: Nakkan, John <John.Nakkan@act.gov.au>; Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Mulligan, Jo <Jo.Mulligan@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>; Young, Megan <Megan.Young@act.gov.au>; ICW EBM Office <ICWEBMOffice@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: MEDIA QUERY - ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS Yarralumla lead paint

OFFICIAL

Hello all,

Thanks for this.

Be advised the attached documents are now to be sent up to Andrew Parkinson for clearance.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Assistant Director

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From: Nakkan, John <John.Nakkan@act.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 5 August 2020 1:44 PM

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

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Subject: RE: MEDIA QUERY - ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS Yarralumla lead paint

OFFICIAL

Hi all,

Cleared without change from ICW.

Regards,

John Nakkan | Acting Executive Branch Manager

Phone: +61 2 6205 1289 | Mobile: 0466 015 922 | Email: john.nakkan@act.gov.au

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Subject: RE: MEDIA QUERY - ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS Yarralumla lead paint

OFFICIAL

Hi All,

My comments / answers attached and highlighted yellow. I've also attached a copy of the full cleaning process being used and have done my best to summarise in the response.

I will be leaving home at around 2:10 to assist the school with any on site queries. If there are any questions after this time, please contact me on the mobile.

Regards,

Stuart Hunter | A/Senior Director, School Infrastructure Management
Phone: +61 2 6207 8831 | Mobile: 0478 488 885 | Email: stuart.hunter@act.gov.au
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Sent: Tuesday, 4 August 2020 11:19 AM

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

Subject: Media request

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,

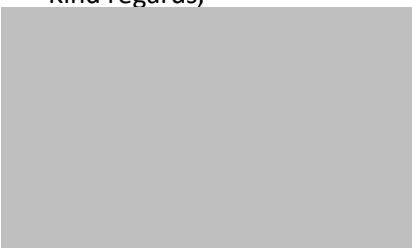
I would like to request a copy of the Hazardous Material Survey and Management Plan for both Yarralumla Primary School and Forrest Primary School.

I would also like some information about the work that has been undertaken at these two sites this year, including:

- What remediation work has been undertaken this year?
- When was it completed or when is it expected to be completed?
- What, if any, disruption has this caused to students and teachers? (For example, classrooms closed, parts of playgrounds closed)
- What was the cost of this remediation work?

I would appreciate an answer on the four questions above for each site by close of business on Wednesday. Please call me if you require any further details or clarification about this request.

Kind regards,



Media Enquiry

Hazardous Materials at Yarralumla Primary School and Forrest Primary School

5 August 2020

Enquiry:

I would like to request a copy of the Hazardous Material Survey and Management Plan for both Yarralumla Primary School and Forrest Primary School.

I would also like some information about the work that has been undertaken at these two sites this year, including:

- What remediation work has been undertaken this year?
- When was it completed or when is it expected to be completed?
- What, if any, disruption has this caused to students and teachers? (For example, classrooms closed, parts of playground closed)
- What was the cost of this remediation work?

Response from Directorate:

Hello [REDACTED],

Thank you for contacting us about this matter. Please find attached the relevant hazardous material reports and plans for both Yarralumla Primary School and Forrest Primary School, as requested.

Please attribute the following responses, separated out by school, to an ACT Education Directorate spokesperson:

Yarralumla Primary School:

What remediation work has been undertaken this year?

Work commenced on 6 July to replace windows in eight classrooms at Yarralumla Primary School, during school holidays, and associated support spaces because the old lead-based paint on them was deteriorating.

Following this work, a licensed assessor tested nearby surfaces in these classrooms and on 17 July advised they had found above threshold lead levels in the affected classrooms. Initial remediation works commenced on 18 July.

As soon as these elevated levels were identified, the school closed the affected rooms so deep cleaning and further testing could be undertaken. Following this, the Education Directorate commissioned a licensed assessor to conduct background testing for lead levels in all areas of the school.

Upon receiving this report, on 3 August the Directorate has determined to close a further three classrooms in the school for cleaning and further testing. Advanced environmental cleaning is now being conducted.

The safety of Yarralumla Primary School students, staff and the community is our highest priority. Classes have been relocated to alternative spaces in the school to make sure students' learning can continue with minimum disruption.

The school is keeping families and staff informed of this matter while the remediation work is carried out.

Lead paint was common in Australian buildings constructed before 1970, including homes and schools. The lead paint at Yarralumla Primary School has been managed over time and where areas are deteriorating, remediation works are undertaken.

When was it completed or when is it expected to be completed?

Environmental cleaning is currently occurring. It is expected the impacted rooms will be available for students, staff and the after school care providers to reoccupy from later this month.

What, if any, disruption has this caused to students and teachers? (For example, classrooms closed, parts of playground closed)

We understand this is not an ideal situation. However, the safety of our students and staff is our absolute priority and so the impacted areas will not reopen until we are sure they are safe to occupy.

Classes have been temporarily relocated to alternative spaces in the school to make sure students' learning can continue with minimum disruption.

Provision is being for the two after school programs that operate at the school to relocate to alternate rooms while cleaning is being carried out.

As mentioned above, it is expected the impacted rooms will be available for students, staff and the after school care providers to reoccupy from later this month.

What was the cost of this remediation work?

As this remediation work is ongoing, it is not yet possible to provide information on the cost of this project.

Forrest Primary School:

What remediation work has been undertaken this year?

On 2 July, a small amount of bonded asbestos material was found underground in a playground area at Forrest Primary School. Following detection, the area was immediately isolated and the material was sent for testing.

On 7 July, the results of the independent testing of this material were returned to the Directorate and school, confirming it contained bonded asbestos.

The term 'bonded' means that if left undisturbed, the material is unlikely to release asbestos fibres into the air and is considered a low risk for people who are in contact with it.

Remediation works were conducted on the weekend of 11 and 12 July. No students or staff were present at school during the remediation works. The remediated site was handled in compliance with all legislative and WorkSafe ACT requirements.

The Directorate worked closely with the school, after school care service providers and the contractor to ensure the works were completed as quickly as possible with minimal disruption.

When was it completed or when is it expected to be completed?

Remediation works were conducted on the weekend of 11 and 12 July.

What, if any, disruption has this caused to students and teachers? (For example, classrooms closed, parts of playground closed)

Other than the isolation of the area where the bonded asbestos material was found until the remediation works were completed, there was no disruption to students or teachers as a result of this remediation works. No students or staff were present at school during the remediation works.

What was the cost of this remediation work?

The costs for the remediation works are still being finalised but are expected to be under \$10,000.

Response from MO:

Can you confirm that eight classrooms plus the music room, one kindergarten room and the YWCA after school care room were found to have unacceptable levels of lead?

Work commenced on 6 July to replace windows in eight classrooms at Yarralumla Primary School, during school holidays, and associated support spaces because the old lead-based paint on them was deteriorating.

Following this work, a licensed assessor tested nearby surfaces in these classrooms and on 17 July advised they had found above threshold lead levels in the affected classrooms. Initial remediation works commenced on 18 July.

As soon as these elevated levels were identified, the school closed the affected rooms so deep cleaning and further testing could be undertaken. Following this, the Education Directorate commissioned a licensed assessor to conduct background testing for lead levels in all areas of the school.

Upon receiving this report, on 3 August the Directorate has determined to close a further three classrooms in the school for cleaning and further testing. Advanced environmental cleaning is now being conducted.

The safety of Yarralumla Primary School students, staff and the community is our highest priority. Classes have been relocated to alternative spaces in the school to make sure students' learning can continue with minimum disruption.

Why was the lead paint recently detected in these spaces not discovered and remediated following the assessments conducted by Robson Environmental into lead paint and asbestos in April 2019?

The assessments conducted by Robson Environmental in April 2019 specifically targeted areas of the school in which works were proposed and testing was carried out on surfaces likely to be disturbed. Analysis of the recent test results indicated the elevated levels are more likely to have resulted from recent events.

Why was this work not carried out during the remote learning period or completed during the recent school holidays to minimise disruption to classes? I understand the work only commenced at the end of the July holidays.

The report identifying lead levels was not received by the Directorate until the end of the recent school holiday period. Action to clean the affected areas was taken as soon as it could be arranged.

When is the environmental cleaning work expected to be complete?

Environmental cleaning is currently occurring. It is expected the impacted rooms will be available for students, staff and the after school care providers to reoccupy from later this month.

What was the cost of the remediation work and cleaning?

As this remediation work is ongoing, it is not yet possible to provide information on the cost of this project.

What does the environmental cleaning entail?

Surfaces are first vacuumed with a HEPA filtered vacuum, the area is left for one hour to allow any dust to settle, all surfaces are then scrubbed vigorously with a sugar soap solution, a microfiber cloth and a three-bucket solution (one for detergent solution, one for dirty water and one for clean water), the surface is rinsed with clean water and wiped dry with clean cloths. Cleaning items are then disposed of in sealed plastic bags. Upon drying, a second HEPA filter vacuum is undertaken.

What company has been contracted to conduct the cleaning work?

The cleaning work is being completed by [REDACTED]

Do you think it is acceptable that preschool children and their teachers are spending extended periods of time outside during winter because they cannot access their classrooms due to environmental cleaning?

Do you think it is acceptable that preschool teachers and students don't have access to their usual kitchen and bathroom facilities during a pandemic?

Do you think it is acceptable that teachers and students are being forced to work in alternate spaces in the school for an extended period of time?

I understand this is not an ideal situation, but the safety of students and staff is the top priority and so the impacted areas will not reopen until they are cleared as being safe to occupy.

Classes have been temporarily relocated to alternative spaces in the school to make sure students' learning can continue with minimum disruption.

As mentioned above, it is expected the impacted rooms will be available for students, staff and the after school care providers to reoccupy from later this month.

Are you advising parents and teachers to get health testing as a result of lead paint exposure?

Staff and families have been advised that if they have any health concerns, they should consult their doctor. We have also provided them with a link to further information about lead and health on the [ACT Health website](#) (see the “Environmental Health” heading).

Lead paint was common in Australian buildings constructed before 1970, including homes and schools. The lead paint at Yarralumla Primary School has been managed over time and where areas are deteriorating, remediation works are undertaken.

White, Kelly

From: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Wednesday, 5 August 2020 4:09 PM
To: Cursley, Megan
Cc: Parkinson, Andrew; EDU Media; Larkin, Lyn; Jaques, Alison; Mulligan, Jo; Nakkan, John; Haire, Katy; DGEDUoffice
Subject: RE: MEDIA QUERY - ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS Yarralumla lead paint
Attachments: Yarralumla - Forrest hazardous materials enquiry 05082020 - MO included.docx

OFFICIAL

Hello Megan,

Further to our earlier conversation, I am proposing the newly-updated version of this response. This update is based on advice from ICW.

For ease of reference, the update is the highlighted sentence:

Why was the lead paint recently detected in these spaces not discovered and remediated following the assessments conducted by Robson Environmental into lead paint and asbestos in April 2019?

The assessments conducted by Robson Environmental in April 2019 specifically targeted areas of the school in which works were proposed and testing was carried out on surfaces likely to be disturbed. The information received in this report informed the Directorate's approach to safely managing the proposed works both at the time, as well as for future works.

Analysis of the recent test results indicated the elevated levels are more likely to have resulted from recent events.

I will call to discuss.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane

Public Information Coordination Centre (COVID-19 response)

E: covid-19media@act.gov.au

ACT Health Directorate – Level 2, 2 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

health.act.gov.au

From: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Wednesday, 5 August 2020 3:31 PM
To: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Cc: Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>; EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>; Mulligan, Jo <Jo.Mulligan@act.gov.au>; Nakkan, John <John.Nakkan@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: MEDIA QUERY - ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS Yarralumla lead paint

OFFICIAL

Hello Megan,

Please find attached a word document containing:

- 1) the suggested response to a media enquiry to the Directorate about Yarralumla PS and Forrest PS
- 2) the suggested response to a media enquiry to the Minister about Yarralumla PS

Also attached are the relevant hazardous material reports and plans for both Yarralumla Primary School and Forrest Primary School, which was part of the enquiry. These documents are all currently available to be seen at their associated schools.

Suggested media approach is to provide the attached PDFs, as well as the responses in the attached word document, before COB today. This approach and wording has been approved by Andrew Parkinson and ICW.

Please advise if you approve of this approach, as well as the wording of the responses. If you approve, we will provide the Directorate response to the journalist.

As you know, the journalist deadline is 4pm for the MO response, 5pm for Directorate.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Assistant Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

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

Level 6, 220 Northbourne Avenue | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

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

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 4 August 2020 11:19 AM

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

Subject: Media request

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 would like to request a copy of the Hazardous Material Survey and Management Plan for both Yarralumla Primary School and Forrest Primary School.

I would also like some information about the work that has been undertaken at these two sites this year, including:

- What remediation work has been undertaken this year?
- When was it completed or when is it expected to be completed?
- What, if any, disruption has this caused to students and teachers? (For example, classrooms closed, parts of playgrounds closed)
- What was the cost of this remediation work?

I would appreciate an answer on the four questions above for each site by close of business on Wednesday. Please call me if you require any further details or clarification about this request.

Kind regards,



Media Enquiry

Hazardous Materials at Yarralumla Primary School and Forrest Primary School

5 August 2020

Enquiry:

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- What, if any, disruption has this caused to students and teachers? (For example, classrooms closed, parts of playground closed)
- What was the cost of this remediation work?

Response from Directorate:

Hello [REDACTED]

Thank you for contacting us about this matter. Please find attached the relevant hazardous material reports and plans for both Yarralumla Primary School and Forrest Primary School, as requested.

Please attribute the following responses, separated out by school, to an ACT Education Directorate spokesperson:

Yarralumla Primary School:

What remediation work has been undertaken this year?

Work commenced on 6 July to replace windows in eight classrooms at Yarralumla Primary School, during school holidays, and associated support spaces because the old lead-based paint on them was deteriorating.

Following this work, a licensed assessor tested nearby surfaces in these classrooms and on 17 July advised they had found above threshold lead levels in the affected classrooms. Initial remediation works commenced on 18 July.

As soon as these elevated levels were identified, the school closed the affected rooms so deep cleaning and further testing could be undertaken. Following this, the Education Directorate commissioned a licensed assessor to conduct background testing for lead levels in all areas of the school.

Upon receiving this report, on 3 August the Directorate has determined to close a further three classrooms in the school for cleaning and further testing. Specialist environmental cleaning is now being conducted.

The safety of Yarralumla Primary School students, staff and the community is our highest priority. Classes have been relocated to alternative spaces in the school to make sure students' learning can continue with minimum disruption.

The school is keeping families and staff informed of this matter while the remediation work is carried out.

Lead paint was common in Australian buildings constructed before 1970, including homes and schools. The lead paint at Yarralumla Primary School has been managed over time and where areas are deteriorating, remediation works are undertaken.

When was it completed or when is it expected to be completed?

Environmental cleaning is currently occurring. It is expected the impacted rooms will be available for students, staff and the after school care providers to reoccupy from later this month.

What, if any, disruption has this caused to students and teachers? (For example, classrooms closed, parts of playground closed)

We understand this is not an ideal situation. However, the safety of our students and staff is our absolute priority and so the impacted areas will not reopen until we are sure they are safe to occupy.

Classes have been temporarily relocated to alternative spaces in the school to make sure students' learning can continue with minimum disruption.

Provision is being for the two after school programs that operate at the school to relocate to alternate rooms while cleaning is being carried out.

As mentioned above, it is expected the impacted rooms will be available for students, staff and the after school care providers to reoccupy from later this month.

What was the cost of this remediation work?

As this remediation work is ongoing, it is not yet possible to provide information on the cost of this project.

Forrest Primary School:

What remediation work has been undertaken this year?

On 2 July, a small amount of bonded asbestos material was found underground in a playground area at Forrest Primary School. Following detection, the area was immediately isolated and the material was sent for testing.

On 7 July, the results of the independent testing of this material were returned to the Directorate and school, confirming it contained bonded asbestos.

The term 'bonded' means that if left undisturbed, the material is unlikely to release asbestos fibres into the air and is considered a low risk for people who are in contact with it.

Remediation works were conducted on the weekend of 11 and 12 July. No students or staff were present at school during the remediation works. The remediated site was handled in compliance with all legislative and WorkSafe ACT requirements.

The Directorate worked closely with the school, after school care service providers and the contractor to ensure the works were completed as quickly as possible with minimal disruption.

When was it completed or when is it expected to be completed?

Remediation works were conducted on the weekend of 11 and 12 July.

What, if any, disruption has this caused to students and teachers? (For example, classrooms closed, parts of playground closed)

Other than the isolation of the area where the bonded asbestos material was found until the remediation works were completed, there was no disruption to students or teachers as a result of this remediation works. No students or staff were present at school during the remediation works.

What was the cost of this remediation work?

The costs for the remediation works are still being finalised but are expected to be under \$10,000.

Response from MO:

Can you confirm that eight classrooms plus the music room, one kindergarten room and the YWCA after school care room were found to have unacceptable levels of lead?

Work commenced on 6 July to replace windows in eight classrooms at Yarralumla Primary School, during school holidays, and associated support spaces because the old lead-based paint on them was deteriorating.

Following this work, a licensed assessor tested nearby surfaces in these classrooms and on 17 July advised they had found above threshold lead levels in the affected classrooms. Initial remediation works commenced on 18 July.

As soon as these elevated levels were identified, the school closed the affected rooms so deep cleaning and further testing could be undertaken. Following this, the Education Directorate commissioned a licensed assessor to conduct background testing for lead levels in all areas of the school.

Upon receiving this report, on 3 August the Directorate has determined to close a further three classrooms in the school for cleaning and further testing. Specialist environmental cleaning is now being conducted.

The safety of Yarralumla Primary School students, staff and the community is our highest priority. Classes have been relocated to alternative spaces in the school to make sure students' learning can continue with minimum disruption.

Why was the lead paint recently detected in these spaces not discovered and remediated following the assessments conducted by Robson Environmental into lead paint and asbestos in April 2019?

The assessments conducted by Robson Environmental in April 2019 specifically targeted areas of the school in which works were proposed and testing was carried out on surfaces likely to be disturbed. The information received in this report informed the Directorate's approach to safely managing the proposed works both at the time, as well as for future works.

Analysis of the recent test results indicated the elevated levels are more likely to have resulted from recent events.

Why was this work not carried out during the remote learning period or completed during the recent school holidays to minimise disruption to classes? I understand the work only commenced at the end of the July holidays.

The report identifying lead levels was not received by the Directorate until the end of the recent school holiday period. Action to clean the affected areas was taken as soon as it could be arranged.

When is the environmental cleaning work expected to be complete?

Environmental cleaning is currently occurring. It is expected the impacted rooms will be available for students, staff and the after school care providers to reoccupy from later this month.

What was the cost of the remediation work and cleaning?

As this remediation work is ongoing, it is not yet possible to provide information on the cost of this project.

What does the environmental cleaning entail?

Surfaces are first vacuumed with a HEPA filtered vacuum, the area is left for one hour to allow any dust to settle, all surfaces are then scrubbed vigorously with a sugar soap solution, a microfiber cloth and a three-bucket solution (one for detergent solution, one for dirty water and one for clean water), the surface is rinsed with clean water and wiped dry with clean cloths. Cleaning items are then disposed of in sealed plastic bags. Upon drying, a second HEPA filter vacuum is undertaken.

What company has been contracted to conduct the cleaning work?

The cleaning work is being completed by [REDACTED].

Do you think it is acceptable that preschool children and their teachers are spending extended periods of time outside during winter because they cannot access their classrooms due to environmental cleaning?

Do you think it is acceptable that preschool teachers and students don't have access to their usual kitchen and bathroom facilities during a pandemic?

Do you think it is acceptable that teachers and students are being forced to work in alternate spaces in the school for an extended period of time?

I understand this is not an ideal situation, but the safety of students and staff is the top priority and so the impacted areas will not reopen until they are cleared as being safe to occupy.

Classes have been temporarily relocated to alternative spaces in the school to make sure students' learning can continue with minimum disruption.

As mentioned above, it is expected the impacted rooms will be available for students, staff and the after school care providers to reoccupy from later this month.

Are you advising parents and teachers to get health testing as a result of lead paint exposure?

Staff and families have been advised that if they have any health concerns, they should consult their doctor. We have also provided them with a link to further information about lead and health on the [ACT Health website](#) (see the "Environmental Health" heading).

Lead paint was common in Australian buildings constructed before 1970, including homes and schools. The lead paint at Yarralumla Primary School has been managed over time and where areas are deteriorating, remediation works are undertaken.

White, Kelly

From: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Wednesday, 5 August 2020 5:30 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: EDU Media
Subject: Media request - Yarralumla PS and Forrest PS
Attachments: Forrest PS ASMP.pdf; Forrest PS HMR.pdf; Yarralumla PS ASMP.pdf; Yarralumla PS HMSMP.pdf; Yarralumla PS LPMP.pdf

OFFICIAL

Hello [REDACTED]

Thank you for contacting us about this matter. Apologies for the delay in responding to you.

Please find attached the relevant hazardous material reports and plans for both Yarralumla Primary School and Forrest Primary School, as requested.

Please attribute the following responses, separated out by school, to an ACT Education Directorate spokesperson:

Yarralumla Primary School:

What remediation work has been undertaken this year?

Work commenced on 6 July to replace windows in eight classrooms at Yarralumla Primary School, during school holidays.

Following this work, a licensed assessor tested nearby surfaces in these classrooms and on 17 July advised they had found above threshold lead levels in the affected classrooms. Initial remediation works commenced on 18 July.

As soon as these elevated levels were identified, the school closed the affected rooms so deep cleaning and further testing could be undertaken. Following this, the Education Directorate commissioned a licensed assessor to conduct background testing for lead levels in all areas of the school.

This additional testing found above threshold lead levels in other areas of the school and on 3 August the Directorate closed a further three classrooms for cleaning and further testing. Specialist environmental cleaning is now being conducted.

The safety of Yarralumla Primary School students, staff and the community is our highest priority.

Classes have been relocated to alternative spaces in the school to make sure students can continue learning with minimal disruption.

The school is keeping families and staff informed while the remediation work is carried out.

Lead paint was common in Australian buildings constructed before 1970, including homes and schools. The lead paint at Yarralumla Primary School has been managed over time and where areas are deteriorating, remediation works are undertaken.

When was it completed or when is it expected to be completed?

Environmental cleaning is currently occurring. It is expected the impacted rooms will be available for students, staff and the after school care providers to reoccupy from later this month.

What, if any, disruption has this caused to students and teachers? (For example, classrooms closed, parts of playground closed)

We understand this is not an ideal situation. However, the safety of our students and staff is our priority and so the impacted areas will not reopen until we are sure they are safe to occupy.

Classes have been temporarily relocated to alternative spaces in the school to make sure students' learning can continue with minimal disruption.

The two after school programs that operate at the school are relocating to alternative rooms while cleaning is being carried out.

It is expected the impacted rooms will be available for students, staff and the after school care providers to reoccupy from later this month.

What was the cost of this remediation work?

As this remediation work is ongoing, it is not yet possible to provide information on the cost of this project.

Forrest Primary School:

What remediation work has been undertaken this year?

On 2 July, a small amount of bonded asbestos material was found underground in a playground area at Forrest Primary School. The asbestos was buried about 30cm underground and was noticed by staff from the Outside School Hours Care service while supervising children digging in the playground. Following detection, the area was immediately isolated and the material was sent for testing.

On 7 July, the results of the independent testing of this material were returned to the Directorate and school, confirming it contained bonded asbestos.

The term 'bonded' means that if left undisturbed, the material will not release asbestos fibres into the air and is considered a low risk for people who are in contact with it.

Remediation works were conducted on the weekend of 11 and 12 July. No students or staff were present at school during the remediation works. The remediated site was handled in compliance with all legislative and WorkSafe ACT requirements.

The Directorate worked closely with the school, after school care service providers and the contractor to ensure the works were completed as quickly as possible with minimal disruption.

When was it completed or when is it expected to be completed?

Remediation works were conducted on the weekend of 11 and 12 July.

What, if any, disruption has this caused to students and teachers? (For example, classrooms closed, parts of playground closed)

Other than the isolation of the area where the bonded asbestos material was found until the remediation works were completed, there was no disruption to students or teachers as a result of the remediation works. No students or staff were present at school during the remediation works.

What was the cost of this remediation work?

The costs for the remediation works are still being finalised but are expected to be under \$10,000.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Assistant Director
Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government
P: (02) 6205 4196 | M: 0431 252 698 | E: brenton.sloane@act.gov.au
Level 6, 220 Northbourne Avenue | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
www.education.act.gov.au | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

From [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 August 2020 11:19 AM
To: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>
Subject: Media request

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Good morning,

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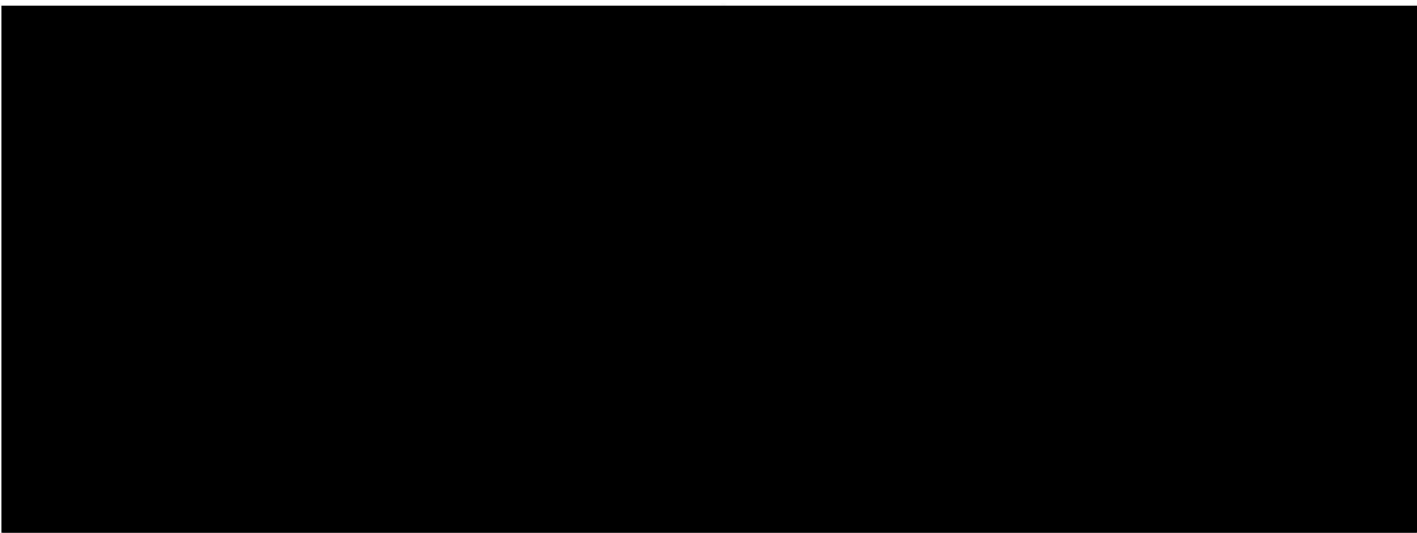
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I would appreciate an answer on the four questions above for each site by close of business on Wednesday. Please call me if you require any further details or clarification about this request.

Kind regards,





White, Kelly

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 6 August 2020 3:25 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton
Cc: Jaques, Alison; EDU Media
Subject: RE: Yarralumla Primary 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 Brenton

Thanks so much for all the below.

Our story looks likely to go up tomorrow morning.

Thank you again.



From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 6 August 2020 2:20 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>; EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>
Subject: Yarralumla Primary School

OFFICIAL

Hello [REDACTED]

I understand you contacted my colleague Ali Jaques earlier today seeking information on Yarralumla Primary School that we had provided to [REDACTED] yesterday.

I am emailing you to provide you with that information.

Please find attached hazardous material reports and plans for Yarralumla Primary School.

Also find below responses to questions asked of both the Education Directorate and Minister Berry's office yesterday. They have been separated by attribution:

Attributable to an ACT Education Directorate spokesperson:

What remediation work has been undertaken this year?

Work commenced on 6 July to replace windows in eight classrooms at Yarralumla Primary School, during school holidays.

Following this work, a licensed assessor tested nearby surfaces in these classrooms and on 17 July advised they had found above threshold lead levels in the affected classrooms. Initial remediation works commenced on 18 July.

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We understand this is not an ideal situation. However, the safety of our students and staff is our priority and so the impacted areas will not reopen until we are sure they are safe to occupy.

Classes have been temporarily relocated to alternative spaces in the school to make sure students' learning can continue with minimal disruption.

The two after school programs that operate at the school are relocating to alternative rooms while cleaning is being carried out.

It is expected the impacted rooms will be available for students, staff and the after school care providers to reoccupy from later this month.

What was the cost of this remediation work?

As this remediation work is ongoing, it is not yet possible to provide information on the cost of this project.

Attributable to a spokesperson for Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development Yvette Berry:

Can you confirm that eight classrooms plus the music room, one kindergarten room and the YWCA after school care room were found to have unacceptable levels of lead?

The Education Directorate is currently undergoing cleaning and testing to eliminate traces of lead in parts of Yarralumla Primary school following the replacement of windows in eight classrooms at Yarralumla Primary School during school holidays.

The safety of Yarralumla Primary School students, staff and the community is the highest priority.

Classes have been relocated to alternative spaces in the school to make sure students' learning can continue with minimal disruption.

Why was the lead paint recently detected in these spaces not discovered and remediated following the assessments conducted by Robson Environmental into lead paint and asbestos in April 2019?

As part of the regular review of the school's asbestos management plan, an assessment of the painted surfaces at Yarralumla Primary School was undertaken.

Specialist environmental consultants Robson confirmed at the time that Yarralumla Primary School had been and remained safe to occupy.

The information received in this report informed the Directorate's approach to safely managing the proposed works both at the time, as well as for future works.

Lead in Yarralumla has been managed appropriately with expert advice.

Why was this work not carried out during the remote learning period or completed during the recent school holidays to minimise disruption to classes? I understand the work only commenced at the end of the July holidays.

At the recent school holidays windows in eight classrooms were being replaced as part of remediating lead paint. Cleaning at the end of this work involved testing for lead contamination.

The report identifying lead levels was provided to the Directorate at the end of the recent school holiday period. Action to clean the affected areas was taken as soon as it could be arranged.

When is the environmental cleaning work expected to be complete?

Environmental cleaning is currently occurring and it is expected that students and staff will be able to return to their classrooms later this month.

What was the cost of the remediation work and cleaning?

As this remediation work is ongoing, it is not yet possible to provide information on the cost of this project.

What does the environmental cleaning entail?

Surfaces are first vacuumed with a HEPA filtered vacuum, the area is left for one hour to allow any dust to settle, all surfaces are then scrubbed vigorously with a sugar soap solution, a microfiber cloth and a three-bucket solution (one for detergent solution, one for dirty water and one for clean water), the surface is rinsed with clean water and

wiped dry with clean cloths. Cleaning items are then disposed of in sealed plastic bags. Upon drying, a second HEPA filter vacuum is undertaken.

What company has been contracted to conduct the cleaning work?

The cleaning work is being completed by [REDACTED]

Are you advising parents and teachers to get health testing as a result of lead paint exposure?

Staff and families have been advised that if they have any health concerns, they should consult their doctor. The Education Directorate has also provided them with a link to further information about lead and health on the [ACT Health website](#) (see the “Environmental Health” heading).

Lead paint was common in Australian buildings constructed before 1970, including homes and schools. The lead paint at Yarralumla Primary School has been managed with expert advice over time and where areas are deteriorating, remediation works are undertaken.

Attributable to Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development Yvette Berry:

Do you think it is acceptable that preschool children and their teachers are spending extended periods of time outside during winter because they cannot access their classrooms due to environmental cleaning?

Do you think it is acceptable that preschool teachers and students don’t have access to their usual kitchen and bathroom facilities during a pandemic?

Do you think it is acceptable that teachers and students are being forced to work in alternate spaces in the school for an extended period of time?

I understand this is not an ideal situation, but of course the safety of students and staff is the priority and so the impacted areas will not reopen until they are cleared as being safe to occupy.

Classes have been temporarily relocated to alternative spaces in the school to make sure students’ learning can continue with minimal disruption.

I understand the Directorate expects that students and staff will be able to return to their classrooms later this month.

Cheers,

**Brenton Sloane | Assistant Director
Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government**
P: (02) 6205 4196 | M: 0431 252 698 | E: brenton.sloane@act.gov.au
Level 6, 220 Northbourne Avenue | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
www.education.act.gov.au | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

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White, Kelly

From: Hunter, Stuart
Sent: Thursday, 6 August 2020 4:30 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton; Nakkan, John
Cc: EDU Media; Larkin, Lyn; Jaques, Alison; Mulligan, Jo; Parkinson, Andrew
Subject: RE: Response to opposition comments

OFFICIAL

Hi Brenton,

I have no issues.

Regards,

Stuart Hunter | A/Senior Director, School Infrastructure Management
Phone: +61 2 6207 8831 | Mobile: 0478 488 885 | Email: stuart.hunter@act.gov.au
Infrastructure & Capital Works | Education | ACT Government
Level 1 220 Northbourne Avenue | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 |
www.education.act.gov.au | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Google+](#)

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 6 August 2020 4:27 PM
To: Nakkan, John <John.Nakkan@act.gov.au>; Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>; Mulligan, Jo <Jo.Mulligan@act.gov.au>; Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Response to opposition comments

OFFICIAL

Hello John and Stuart,

Related to the Yarralumla enquiry, the MO have also received a question from the 

Can you please do a check on the red text below and confirm if this is factually accurate?

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Assistant Director
Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government
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Level 6, 220 Northbourne Avenue | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
www.education.act.gov.au | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

From: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 6 August 2020 4:21 PM

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

Subject: Fwd: Response to opposition comments

Could you please fact check the statement in purple below? Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Ceramidas, Joshua" <Joshua.Ceramidas@act.gov.au>
Date: 6 August 2020 at 4:14:56 pm AEST
To: "Berry, Yvette" <Yvette.Berry@act.gov.au>
Cc: "Cursley, Megan" <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>, "Hobbs, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Hobbs@act.gov.au>
Subject: **Re: Response to opposition comments**

Yvette is ok with this. Can you please fact check with EDU.

The priority for the Education Directorate is that learning spaces are safe for students and staff.

This situation does not pose a "major health risk" as Ms Lee alleges because it is being managed appropriate in line with expert advice. There is lead based paint in many older buildings. The Education Directorate has responded to this situation in line with expert advice and responded to the recommendations in the April 2019 report by mid 2019.

The ACT Government has spent more than \$115 million over the last four years on school upgrades and improvements, including removal of hazardous materials, alongside several hundred million dollars in new and expanded schools.

The government provides high quality public schools with some of the best facilities in Australia.

Joshua Ceramidas
Chief of Staff
Office of Yvette Berry MLA | Deputy Chief Minister
Phone: 02 6205 3465 | Mobile: 0422 668 243

On 6 Aug 2020, at 16:12, Ceramidas, Joshua <Joshua.Ceramidas@act.gov.au> wrote:

With Bec's edit.

Joshua Ceramidas
Chief of Staff
Office of Yvette Berry MLA | Deputy Chief Minister
Phone: 02 6205 3465 | Mobile: 0422 668 243

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Joshua Ceramidas
Chief of Staff
Office of Yvette Berry MLA | Deputy Chief Minister
Phone: 02 6205 3465 | Mobile: 0422 668 243

On 6 Aug 2020, at 15:56, Berry, Yvette
<Yvette.Berry@act.gov.au> wrote:

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This situation is not ideal however education directorate has managed the lead paint with expert advice and have responded to the April 19 report within the required timeframe.

All parents teachers and students have been advised of work to this end at every stage (might need to either leave this our or fat check)

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Cursley, Megan
<Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 3:45:20 PM
To: Ceramidas, Joshua
<Joshua.Ceramidas@act.gov.au>; Hobbs, Rebecca
<Rebecca.Hobbs@act.gov.au>; Berry, Yvette
<Yvette.Berry@act.gov.au>
Subject: Fwd: Response to opposition comments

Thoughts on responding?

Could be something like:

The Education Directorate has managed the lead at Yarralumla with expert advice.

All actions from the April 2019 report were completed within the required timeframe.

(Just might need a fact check)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Date: 6 August 2020 at 3:40:25 pm AEST
To: "Cursley, Megan"
<Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Subject: **Response to opposition comments**

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'd like to give Yvette Berry a chance to respond to some comments made by opposition spokesperson for education Elizabeth Lee regarding the lead paint issues.

It is completely unacceptable that it took this government 15 months to take "urgent action" on a major health risk to students and the school community. After the challenges of COVID and disruptions to children's education, to be left without a classroom in the middle of winter because of this government's failure shows a complete lack of care and respect for our school communities.

Canberra should have the best schools in Australia; instead results are lagging behind and this government can't even be trusted to deal with an

avoidable major health risk
to our students.

Please let me know if Ms
Berry would like to respond
to these criticism.

Kind regards



White, Kelly

From: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Thursday, 6 August 2020 4:33 PM
To: Parkinson, Andrew; Nakkan, John; Hunter, Stuart
Cc: EDU Media; Larkin, Lyn; Jaques, Alison; Mulligan, Jo
Subject: RE: Response to opposition comments

OFFICIAL

Excellent.

Based on the advice from Andrew and Stuart, I will get back to Megan and confirm that the facts contained within the statement are accurate.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Assistant Director
Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government
P: (02) 6205 4196 | M: 0431 252 698 | E: brenton.sloane@act.gov.au
Level 6, 220 Northbourne Avenue | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
www.education.act.gov.au | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

From: Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 6 August 2020 4:31 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>; Nakkan, John <John.Nakkan@act.gov.au>; Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>; Mulligan, Jo <Jo.Mulligan@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Response to opposition comments

OFFICIAL

The 2nd para is words crafted by Bec & I this afternoon.

The \$ in 3rd para look consistent with previous comms

Andrew Parkinson | a/g Executive Group Manager
Business Services | Education Directorate | ACT Government
Phone 02 6205 4593 | **Mobile 0478 301 085**
Level 6 | 220 Northbourne Ave, Braddon | www.act.gov.au

Gulanyin dhuniang, ngalawirinyin, dhunayinyin, Ngunnawal dhawra

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 6 August 2020 4:27 PM
To: Nakkan, John <John.Nakkan@act.gov.au>; Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>; Mulligan, Jo <Jo.Mulligan@act.gov.au>; Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>
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OFFICIAL

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Related to the Yarralumla enquiry, the MO have also received a question from the [REDACTED]

Can you please do a check on the red text below and confirm if this is factually accurate?

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Assistant Director

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

Sent: Thursday, 6 August 2020 4:21 PM

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

Subject: Fwd: Response to opposition comments

Could you please fact check the statement in purple below? Thanks

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Begin forwarded message:

From: "Ceramidas, Joshua" <Joshua.Ceramidas@act.gov.au>

Date: 6 August 2020 at 4:14:56 pm AEST

To: "Berry, Yvette" <Yvette.Berry@act.gov.au>

Cc: "Cursley, Megan" <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>, "Hobbs, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Hobbs@act.gov.au>

Subject: Re: Response to opposition comments

Yvette is ok with this. Can you please fact check with EDU.

The priority for the Education Directorate is that learning spaces are safe for students and staff.

This situation does not pose a "major health risk" as Ms Lee alleges because it is being managed appropriate in line with expert advice. There is lead based paint in many older buildings. The Education Directorate has responded to this situation in line with expert advice and responded to the recommendations in the April 2019 report by mid 2019.

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Joshua Ceramidas

Chief of Staff

Office of Yvette Berry MLA | Deputy Chief Minister

Phone: 02 6205 3465 | Mobile: 0422 668 243

On 6 Aug 2020, at 16:12, Ceramidas, Joshua <Joshua.Ceramidas@act.gov.au> wrote:

With Bec's edit.

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Phone: 02 6205 3465 | Mobile: 0422 668 243

On 6 Aug 2020, at 15:56, Berry, Yvette
<Yvette.Berry@act.gov.au> wrote:

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From: Cursley, Megan
<Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 3:45:20 PM
To: Ceramidas, Joshua
<Joshua.Ceramidas@act.gov.au>; Hobbs, Rebecca
<Rebecca.Hobbs@act.gov.au>; Berry, Yvette
<Yvette.Berry@act.gov.au>
Subject: Fwd: Response to opposition comments

Thoughts on responding?

Could be something like:

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(Just might need a fact check)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

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[REDACTED]
Date: 6 August 2020 at 3:40:25 pm AEST
To: "Cursley, Megan"
<Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Subject: Response to opposition comments

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Please let me know if Ms Berry would like to respond to these criticism.

Kind regards



White, Kelly

From: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Thursday, 6 August 2020 4:35 PM
To: Cursley, Megan
Cc: EDU Media; Larkin, Lyn; Jaques, Alison
Subject: RE: Response to opposition comments

OFFICIAL

Hello Megan,

The advice to me from ICW is that the facts contained within the proposed statement are accurate.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Assistant Director
Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government
P: (02) 6205 4196 | M: 0431 252 698 | E: brenton.sloane@act.gov.au
Level 6, 220 Northbourne Avenue | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
www.education.act.gov.au | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

From: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 6 August 2020 4:21 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Response to opposition comments

Yep I've just sent you another one that the directorate will respond with, with my suggested changes

Sent from my iPhone

On 6 Aug 2020, at 4:20 pm, Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au> wrote:

Could you please fact check the statement in purple below? Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Ceramidas, Joshua" <Joshua.Ceramidas@act.gov.au>
Date: 6 August 2020 at 4:14:56 pm AEST
To: "Berry, Yvette" <Yvette.Berry@act.gov.au>
Cc: "Cursley, Megan" <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>, "Hobbs, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Hobbs@act.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Response to opposition comments

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Chief of Staff
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Phone: 02 6205 3465 | Mobile: 0422 668 243

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With Bec’s edit.

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Joshua Ceramidas
Chief of Staff

On 6 Aug 2020, at 15:56, Berry,
Yvette <Yvette.Berry@act.gov.au>
wrote:

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report within the required
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All parents teachers and students
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end at every stage (might need to
either leave this our or fat check)

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From: Cursley, Megan
<Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020
3:45:20 PM
To: Ceramidas, Joshua
<Joshua.Ceramidas@act.gov.au>;
Hobbs, Rebecca
<Rebecca.Hobbs@act.gov.au>;
Berry, Yvette
<Yvette.Berry@act.gov.au>
Subject: Fwd: Response to
opposition comments

Thoughts on responding?

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The Education Directorate has
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with expert advice.

All actions from the April 2019
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(Just might need a fact check)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Date: 6 August
2020 at 3:40:25 pm
AEST
To: "Cursley,
Megan"
<Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Subject: Response
to opposition
comments

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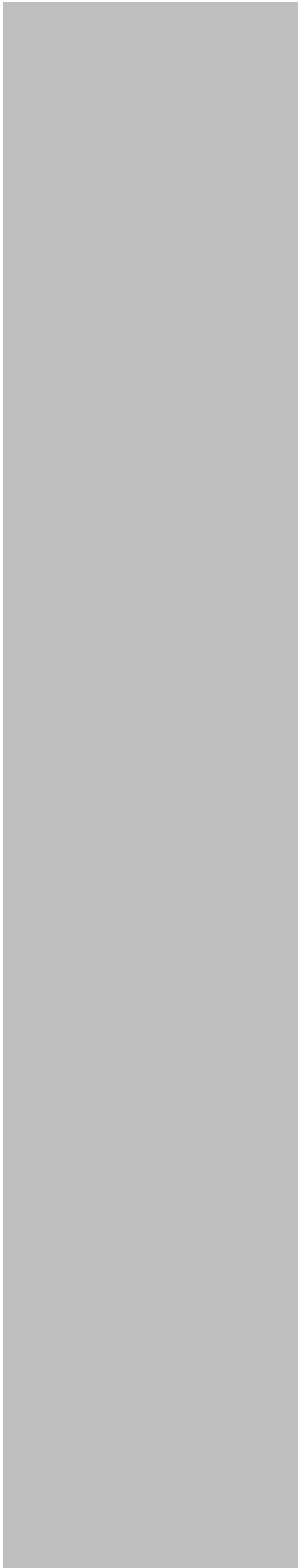
to students
and the
school
community.
After the
challenges
of COVID
and
disruptions
to
children's
education,
to be left
without a
classroom
in the
middle of
winter
because of
this
governmen
t's failure
shows a
complete
lack of care
and respect
for our
school
communiti
es.

Canberra
should
have the
best
schools in
Australia;
instead
results are
lagging
behind and
this
governmen
t can't even
be trusted
to deal with
an
avoidable
major
health risk
to our
students.

Please let
me know if

Ms Berry
would like
to respond
to these
criticism.

Kind
regards,



From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 6 August 2020 5:58 PM
To: Hobbs, Rebecca <Rebecca.Hobbs@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>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>; Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE UPDATED RESPONSE: [REDACTED] MEDIA QUERY
Yarralumla Primary School

OFFICIAL

Thanks Rebecca,

With that amendment, I will proceed.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Assistant Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

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

Level 6, 220 Northbourne Avenue | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

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

From: Hobbs, Rebecca <Rebecca.Hobbs@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 6 August 2020 5:56 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>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>; Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE UPDATED RESPONSE: [REDACTED] MEDIA QUERY
Yarralumla Primary School

Sorry, just replaced the words observed with followed. Approved as below. Sorry!

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 6 August 2020 5:55 PM
To: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>; Hobbs, Rebecca <Rebecca.Hobbs@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>; Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE UPDATED RESPONSE: [REDACTED] MEDIA QUERY
Yarralumla Primary School

OFFICIAL

Hello Megan,

Thanks for your speedy response. Based on this approval, I will be responding to the journalist with the below shortly.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Assistant Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

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

Level 6, 220 Northbourne Avenue | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

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From: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 6 August 2020 5:54 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>; Hobbs, Rebecca <Rebecca.Hobbs@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Benson, Andrew <Andrew.Benson@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE UPDATED RESPONSE: [REDACTED] MEDIA QUERY
Yarralumla Primary School

Approved, thanks Brenton

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 6 August 2020 5:51 PM

To: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Benson, Andrew <Andrew.Benson@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE UPDATED RESPONSE: [REDACTED] MEDIA QUERY
Yarralumla Primary School

OFFICIAL

Hello Megan,

Further to our earlier conversation, please see below our suggested media response to this matter. The revised answers are highlighted.

Please advise if you approve:

What company was contracted to remove the windows of eight classrooms at the school during the July school holidays?

[REDACTED] were engaged to replace the windows. They did so following expert advice.

Were proper safety procedures followed in the removal of these windows considering the presence of lead paint was a known issue?

All safety protocols recommended by the environmental assessor were followed.

Witnesses claim the tradespeople working during the school holidays were not wearing dust masks and hazmat suits while conducting the work. Can you confirm if this was the case?

Based on the advice of Robsons Environmental, there was no requirement for either dust masks or hazmat suits to be used as the removal of these windows was not classified by the expert advice as a 'lead process'. All safety protocols recommended by the environmental assessor were followed.

They also claim that plastic covering was only used on a small portion of the classrooms near the windows that were being worked on rather than across the whole room. Can you confirm if this was the case?

The contractor provided coverings around areas being disturbed.

Did the directorate consider installing demountables in the school while the maintenance and cleaning work was being completed? Why were they not installed?

No. The timeframe of obtaining and installing transportable classrooms would far exceed the timeframe on the current program of works. While not an ideal situation, the existing school facilities also have the capacity to temporarily cater for the current arrangements.

Should the section of the school campus which includes the Gambarri Centre, the Montessori school and the preschool be demolished entirely and rebuilt to ensure the safety of children?

Lead paint was common in Australian buildings constructed before 1970, including homes and schools. The lead paint at Yarralumla Primary School has been managed appropriately over time and remediation works are undertaken as needed.

There are no current plans to demolish any section of Yarralumla Primary School. The safety of staff and students can be maintained through the program of lead management prescribed by the assessor.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Assistant Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

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

Level 6, 220 Northbourne Avenue | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, 6 August 2020 12:21 PM

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

Subject: Further questions regarding Yarralumla Primary 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 Megan and Brenton,

I have some further questions regarding the discovery of lead paint at Yarralumla Primary School. I wasn't sure who was the best person to ask so I have emailed both of you.

1. What company was contracted to remove the windows of eight classrooms at the school during the July school holidays?
2. Were proper safety procedures followed in the removal of these windows considering the presence of lead paint was a known issue?

3. Witnesses claim the tradespeople working during the school holidays were not wearing dust masks and hazmat suits while conducting the work. Can you confirm if this was the case?
4. They also claim that plastic covering was only used on a small portion of the classrooms near the windows that were being worked on rather than across the whole room. Can you confirm if this was the case?
5. Did the directorate consider installing demountables in the school while the maintenance and cleaning work was being completed? Why were they not installed?
6. Should the section of the school campus which includes the Gambarri Centre, the Montessori school and the preschool be demolished entirely and rebuilt to ensure the safety of children?

I would appreciate a response by 5pm today.

Kind regards,



--



OFFICIAL

From: Haire, Katy <Katy.Haire@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 7 August 2020 2:29 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>; Nakkan, John <John.Nakkan@act.gov.au>; Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>; Mulligan, Jo <Jo.Mulligan@act.gov.au>; DGEDUoffice <DGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>; Matthews, David <David.Matthews@act.gov.au>; DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: MEDIA REQUEST: Interview/response

OFFICIAL

Hi all

1. I thought we decided last night to refer to 'expert advice' rather than keep naming Robson?
 2. Can you reference each of the facts in the response back to a source document?
- (Not for publication, of course, but for our own record-keeping.)

Thanks KH

Katy Haire | Director-General **Education Directorate** | ACT Government
T: +61 2 6205 9158 | E: katy.haire@act.gov.au
Level 6, 220 Northbourne Ave Braddon | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT
2601 | www.education.act.gov.au

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 7 August 2020 2:23 PM
To: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>; Nakkan, John <John.Nakkan@act.gov.au>; Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>; Mulligan, Jo <Jo.Mulligan@act.gov.au>; Haire, Katy <Katy.Haire@act.gov.au>; DGEDUoffice <DGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>; Matthews, David <David.Matthews@act.gov.au>; DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: MEDIA REQUEST: Interview/response

OFFICIAL

Hello Megan,

Please see below proposed responses to questions from [REDACTED] about Yarralumla.

As discussed, we are planning to respond in written format rather than via the requested phone interview.

The below has been cleared by Andrew Parkinson – please let me know if you approve:

What remediation work was undertaken following the April 2019 Lead Paint Assessment by Robson Environmental?

Following the April 2019 Lead Paint Assessment by Robson Environmental, areas of identified concern were stabilised with paint (encapsulation). This is one of the methods used in the management of lead paint, as outlined in the Lead Paint Management Plan for Yarralumla Primary School, developed by Robson Environmental.

What remediation work was undertaken following the November 2019 Lead Paint Management plan, also by Robson Environmental? What was the reason for replacing the windows in the July 2020 school holidays?

Following the development of the November 2019 Lead Paint Management Plan by Robson Environmental, a program of longer-term remediation works was developed for Yarralumla Primary School. This plan included the replacement of some external windows, as well as other future works.

The replacement of the external windows was prioritised as the previous encapsulation process undertaken prior to 2019 was not a permanent solution.

A variety of lead paint management methods are in place across Yarralumla Primary School, in line with the November 2019 Lead Paint Management Plan.

Why were nearby surfaces not required to be covered while the windows were being replaced?

Based on the advice of Robson Environmental, the removal of these windows was not classified as a 'lead process'. All safety protocols recommended by the environmental assessor were followed.

The contractor provided coverings around areas being disturbed.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Assistant Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

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

Level 6, 220 Northbourne Avenue | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, 7 August 2020 9:52 AM

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

Subject: Request for interview

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 again for your help with providing those environmental reports for Yarralumla Primary School. I was hoping to speak to somebody at the Directorate who could take me through some of the details of the reports and the recent history of lead remediation work at the school.

Some of the points I would like to cover include:

- What remediation work was undertaken following the April 2019 Lead Paint Assessment by Robson Environmental?
- What remediation work was undertaken following the November 2019 Lead Paint Management plan, also by Robson Environmental?
- What was the reason for replacing the windows in the July 2020 school holidays?
- Why were nearby surfaces not required to be covered while the windows were being replaced?

It would be good to line up an interview as soon as possible. I'm happy to speak on the phone or meet in person if that would be easier to explain things (allowing for social distancing of course).

Kind regards,



OFFICIAL

From: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 7 August 2020 4:04 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>; Nakkan, John <John.Nakkan@act.gov.au>; Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>; Mulligan, Jo <Jo.Mulligan@act.gov.au>; Haire, Katy <Katy.Haire@act.gov.au>; DGEDUoffice <DGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>; Matthews, David <David.Matthews@act.gov.au>; DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: Re: MEDIA REQUEST: Interview/response

Approved

Sent from my iPhone

On 7 Aug 2020, at 3:53 pm, Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Hello Megan,

Following conversation with Andrew Parkinson, he has approved the below, with a slight edit to what you sent me in red:

What remediation work was undertaken following the April 2019 Lead Paint Assessment by Robson Environmental?

Following the April 2019 Lead Paint Assessment, areas of identified concern were stabilised with paint (encapsulation). This is one of the methods used in the management of lead paint, as outlined in the Lead Paint Management Plan for Yarralumla Primary School.

What remediation work was undertaken following the November 2019 Lead Paint Management plan, also by Robson Environmental? What was the reason for replacing the windows in the July 2020 school holidays?

Following the April 2019 Lead Paint Assessment, Robson Environmental developed a new Lead Paint Management Plan which was received by the Education Directorate in November 2019.

This plan includes **recommendations for** longer-term remediation works including the replacement of some external windows, as well as other future works.

The replacement of the external windows was prioritised as the previous encapsulation process undertaken prior to 2019 was not a permanent solution.

A variety of lead paint management methods are in place across Yarralumla Primary School, in line with the November 2019 Lead Paint Management Plan.

Why were nearby surfaces not required to be covered while the windows were being replaced?

All safety protocols recommended by the environmental assessor were followed.

The contractor provided coverings around areas being disturbed.

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

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Assistant 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: Friday, 7 August 2020 3:31 PM

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

Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>; Nakkan, John <John.Nakkan@act.gov.au>; Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>; Mulligan, Jo <Jo.Mulligan@act.gov.au>; Haire, Katy <Katy.Haire@act.gov.au>; DGEDUoffice <DGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>; Matthews, David <David.Matthews@act.gov.au>; DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: MEDIA REQUEST: Interview/response

OFFICIAL

Hello Megan,

Following on from your advice, please see the below suggested version. This amendment has been cleared by Andrew Parkinson:

What remediation work was undertaken following the April 2019 Lead Paint Assessment by Robson Environmental?

Following the April 2019 Lead Paint Assessment, areas of identified concern were stabilised with paint (encapsulation). This is one of the methods used in the management of lead paint, as outlined in the Lead Paint Management Plan for Yarralumla Primary School.

What remediation work was undertaken following the November 2019 Lead Paint Management plan, also by Robson Environmental? What was the reason for replacing the windows in the July 2020 school holidays?

Following the April 2019 Lead Paint Assessment, a new Lead Paint Management Plan was developed and received in November 2019.

Following this, a program of longer-term remediation works was developed for Yarralumla Primary School. This plan included the replacement of some external windows, as well as other future works.

The replacement of the external windows was prioritised as the previous encapsulation process undertaken prior to 2019 was not a permanent solution.

A variety of lead paint management methods are in place across Yarralumla Primary School, in line with the November 2019 Lead Paint Management Plan.

Why were nearby surfaces not required to be covered while the windows were being replaced?

All safety protocols recommended by the environmental assessor were followed.

The contractor provided coverings around areas being disturbed.

Let me know if you approve.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Assistant Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

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

Level 6, 220 Northbourne Avenue | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

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

Sent: Friday, 7 August 2020 3:07 PM

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

Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>; Nakkan, John <John.Nakkan@act.gov.au>; Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>; Mulligan, Jo <Jo.Mulligan@act.gov.au>; Haire, Katy <Katy.Haire@act.gov.au>; DGEDUoffice <DGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>; Matthews, David <David.Matthews@act.gov.au>; DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>

Subject: Re: MEDIA REQUEST: Interview/response

Small deletion in the final line. Would like to be able to say something like this in the second answer

following April 2019, xx undertook to develop a longer term plan that was received in November 2019..

Sent from my iPhone

On 7 Aug 2020, at 2:39 pm, Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Hello Megan,

Please see below an updated version of the proposed response to questions from [REDACTED] about Yarralumla:

What remediation work was undertaken following the April 2019 Lead Paint Assessment by Robson Environmental?

Following the April 2019 Lead Paint Assessment, areas of identified concern were stabilised with paint (encapsulation). This is one of the methods used in the management of lead paint, as outlined in the Lead Paint Management Plan for Yarralumla Primary School.

What remediation work was undertaken following the November 2019 Lead Paint Management plan, also by Robson Environmental? What was the reason for replacing the windows in the July 2020 school holidays?

Following the development of the November 2019 Lead Paint Management Plan, a program of longer-term remediation works was developed for Yarralumla Primary School. This plan included the replacement of some external windows, as well as other future works.

The replacement of the external windows was prioritised as the previous encapsulation process undertaken prior to 2019 was not a permanent solution.

A variety of lead paint management methods are in place across Yarralumla Primary School, in line with the November 2019 Lead Paint Management Plan.

Why were nearby surfaces not required to be covered while the windows were being replaced?

~~Based on expert advice, the removal of these windows was not classified as a 'lead process'.~~
All safety protocols recommended by the environmental assessor were followed.

The contractor provided coverings around areas being disturbed.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Assistant Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

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

Level 6, 220 Northbourne Avenue | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, 7 August 2020 9:52 AM

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

Subject: Request for interview

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 again for your help with providing those environmental reports for Yarralumla Primary School. I was hoping to speak to somebody at the Directorate who could take me through some of the details of the reports and the recent history of lead remediation work at the school.

Some of the points I would like to cover include:

- What remediation work was undertaken following the April 2019 Lead Paint Assessment by Robson Environmental?
- What remediation work was undertaken following the November 2019 Lead Paint Management plan, also by Robson Environmental?
- What was the reason for replacing the windows in the July 2020 school holidays?
- Why were nearby surfaces not required to be covered while the windows were being replaced?

It would be good to line up an interview as soon as possible. I'm happy to speak on the phone or meet in person if that would be easier to explain things (allowing for social distancing of course).

Kind regards,

