

OFFICIAL

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 11 August 2020 1:46 PM
To: Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>
Cc: Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>; Nakkam, John <John.Nakkam@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>
Subject: FW: Questions regarding Yarralumla Primary School

OFFICIAL

Hello Andrew,

As flagged, please see below suggested responses to questions asked of the MO re: Yarralumla Primary School. This has been drafted based on previous responses, as well as advice from Stuart Hunter and ACTPG.

Please advise if you approve. If so, I will provide to MO to progress with:

Do you still believe that lead contamination at Yarralumla Primary School is not a major health concern?

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

The advice from the licenced assessor is that this situation does not pose a major health concern.

Do you believe that all safety procedures were followed when the windows in eight classrooms were replaced in the July school holidays?

All safety protocols recommended by the environmental assessor were followed.

How long are children expected to be out of their usual classrooms?

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.

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 concerned that the lead dust was present in the rooms for many years as it was found in areas that are not often cleaned, such as high up on shelving units, and also in three rooms which did not have windows replaced?

The advice from the licenced assessor is that lead dust found in difficult to access areas poses a low risk as it is unlikely to be disturbed. This has been supported through ongoing air monitoring results.

Should the remediation work have been completed sooner after the Lead Management Plan was created in November 2019?

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.

Between receipt of this plan in November 2019 and the window replacement works being conducted in July 2020, remediation work of lead paint within the school continued in line with the advice found in the Lead Paint Management Plan, including through methods like encapsulation.

Will the heating and cooling system in the affected building be cleaned to ensure there is no lead contamination within the system?

The cleaning process being conducted at Yarralumla Primary School includes the cleaning or replacement, if required, of filters within any air-based heating and cooling system. This cleaning process is being conducted to the satisfaction of the industry expert responsible for issuing a clearance for the space.

Is the directorate still not considering demountable buildings for lessons to continue while work is being done on the building?

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.

Does the directorate still have no plans to demolish any buildings at the school?

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

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From: Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 11 August 2020 1:04 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>; Nakkan, John <John.Nakkan@act.gov.au>; Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Mulligan, Jo <Jo.Mulligan@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Questions regarding Yarralumla Primary School

OFFICIAL

Suggested responses in red. These are supported by ACT PG.

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 11 August 2020 11:33 AM
To: Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>; Nakkan, John <John.Nakkan@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; Mulligan, Jo <Jo.Mulligan@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Questions regarding Yarralumla Primary School

OFFICIAL

Hello Stuart,

The Minister's Office have received another media enquiry from [REDACTED] re: Yarralumla Primary.

Some of them are easy to resolve, and I have put suggested answers in already. But a few of them require input from you / ICW.

This is what we have so far. Most of what is there is repeating previous answers, with the exception of Q6, which I need you to fact check (but it should be right).

The highlighted Q4, Q5 and Q7 I need information from you to answer, and I'm leaving Q1 to the MO to fill.

Please advise on the below:

Do you still believe that lead contamination at Yarralumla Primary School is not a major health concern?

MO response.

Do you believe that all safety procedures were followed when the windows in eight classrooms were replaced in the July school holidays?

All safety protocols recommended by the environmental assessor were followed.

How long are children expected to be out of their usual classrooms?

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.

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 concerned that the lead dust was present in the rooms for many years as it was found in areas that are not often cleaned, such as high up on shelving units, and also in three rooms which did not have windows replaced?

The lead dust found in difficult to access areas poses a low risk as it is unlikely to be disturbed. This has been supported through ongoing air monitoring results.

Should the remediation work have been completed sooner after the Lead Management Plan was created in November 2019?

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.

Between receipt of this plan in November 2019 and the window replacement works being conducted in July 2020, remediation work of lead paint within the school continued in line with the advice found in the Lead Paint Management Plan, including through methods like encapsulation.

Will the heating and cooling system in the affected building be cleaned to ensure there is no lead contamination within the system?

The cleaning process includes the cleaning or replacement, if required, of filters within any air based heating and cooling system. This cleaning process is to the satisfaction of the industry expert responsible for issuing a clearance for the space.

Is the directorate still not considering demountable buildings for lessons to continue while work is being done on the building?

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.

Does the directorate still have no plans to demolish any buildings at the school?

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

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

Sent: Tuesday, 11 August 2020 10:44 AM

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

Subject: FW: Questions regarding Yarralumla Primary School

From [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 11 August 2020 9:27 AM

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


Subject: 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,

I hope you are well. I understand that Ms Berry will be visiting Yarralumla Primary School this morning to get some more information on the lead contamination issues there. I would like to put these questions to her so she can respond to them after her visit.

1. Do you still believe that lead contamination at Yarralumla Primary School is not a major health concern?
2. Do you believe that all safety procedures were followed when the windows in eight classrooms were replaced in the July school holidays?
3. How long are children expected to be out of their usual classrooms?

4. Are you concerned that the lead dust was present in the rooms for many years as it was found in areas that are not often cleaned, such as high up on shelving units, and also in three rooms which did not have windows replaced?
5. 
6. Should the remediation work have been completed sooner after the Lead Management Plan was created in November 2019?
7. Will the heating and cooling system in the affected building be cleaned to ensure there is no lead contamination within the system?
8. Is the directorate still not considering demountable buildings for lessons to continue while work is being done on the building?
9. Does the directorate still have no plans to demolish any buildings at the school?

I would appreciate a response to these questions before 4pm today.

Kind regards,



OFFICIAL

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 11 August 2020 5:00 PM
To: Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>; Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>
Cc: Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>; Mulligan, Jo <Jo.Mulligan@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Questions regarding Yarralumla Primary School

OFFICIAL

Thanks Stuart.

I will discuss this matter with the MO.

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: Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 11 August 2020 4:59 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>; Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>
Cc: Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>; Mulligan, Jo <Jo.Mulligan@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Questions regarding Yarralumla Primary School

OFFICIAL

Hi Brenton,

As discussed, the lead paint management plan requires regular inspection of lead paint surfaces with a nominated period of 12 months. We have adopted this as part of our management process for this site but cannot demonstrate a history as the plan is only 9 months old.

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

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 11 August 2020 4:52 PM
To: Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>; Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>
Cc: Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>; Mulligan, Jo <Jo.Mulligan@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Questions regarding Yarralumla Primary School

OFFICIAL

Thanks Stuart. The MO have taken that advice.

Can you look at this one and confirm that this is accurate?:

Are you concerned that the lead dust was present in the rooms for many years as it was found in areas that are not often cleaned, such as high up on shelving units, and also in three rooms which did not have windows replaced?

A licensed assessor checks the condition of lead paint at Yarralumla Primary School and conducts air testing every year.

Specific testing of the accessible areas of the impacted rooms showed there was no detectable traces of lead in those areas. The advice from the licenced assessor is that lead dust found in difficult to access areas posed a low risk as it was unlikely to be disturbed.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Assistant Director
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From: Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 11 August 2020 4:33 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>; Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>
Cc: Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>; Mulligan, Jo <Jo.Mulligan@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Questions regarding Yarralumla Primary School

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I would consider dropping the word immediate. If I recall correctly, some of the response last year dealt with a perceived slow reaction time. The reality was we were doing our planning and procurement etc but there wasn't necessarily an immediate site presence.

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 11 August 2020 4:17 PM
To: Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>
Cc: Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>; Mulligan, Jo <Jo.Mulligan@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Questions regarding Yarralumla Primary School

OFFICIAL

Hello Andrew,

Can you advise if the below response in red is 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
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From: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 11 August 2020 4:10 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Questions regarding Yarralumla Primary School

Should the remediation work have been completed sooner after the Lead Management Plan was created in November 2019?

Immediate remediation work occurred following the April 2019 report, including painting of surfaces to seal the lead paint from flaking. The November 2019 plan sets out longer term management and larger scale remediation work. Due to the painting of the surfaces the lead paint was not deteriorating, and the windows were replaced in line with the longer term management plan.

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 11 August 2020 3:00 PM
To: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Cc: Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>; Nakkan, John <John.Nakkan@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>; Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>; Matthews, David <David.Matthews@act.gov.au>; Haire, Katy <Katy.Haire@act.gov.au>; DGEDUoffice <DGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>; DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Questions regarding Yarralumla Primary School

OFFICIAL

Hello Megan,

Please be advised that the following response has been drafted for use by the MO. It has been cleared by Andrew Parkinson:

Do you still believe that lead contamination at Yarralumla Primary School is not a major health concern?

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

The advice from the licenced assessor is that this situation does not pose a major health concern.

Do you believe that all safety procedures were followed when the windows in eight classrooms were replaced in the July school holidays?

All safety protocols recommended by the environmental assessor were followed.

How long are children expected to be out of their usual classrooms?

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.

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 concerned that the lead dust was present in the rooms for many years as it was found in areas that are not often cleaned, such as high up on shelving units, and also in three rooms which did not have windows replaced?

Testing of the accessible areas of the impacted rooms showed there was no detectable traces of lead in those areas. The advice from the licenced assessor is that lead dust found in difficult to access areas posed a low risk as it was unlikely to be disturbed.

Should the remediation work have been completed sooner after the Lead Management Plan was created in November 2019?

The Lead Paint Management Plan, received by the Education Directorate in November 2019, included recommendations for longer-term remediation works including the replacement of some external windows, as well as other future works.

Between receipt of this plan in November 2019 and the window replacement works being conducted in July 2020, remediation work of lead paint within the school continued in line with the advice found in the Lead Paint Management Plan, including through methods like encapsulation.

Will the heating and cooling system in the affected building be cleaned to ensure there is no lead contamination within the system?

The cleaning process being conducted at Yarralumla Primary School includes the cleaning or replacement, if required, of filters within any air-based heating and cooling system. This cleaning process is being conducted to the satisfaction of the industry expert responsible for issuing a clearance for the space.

Is the directorate still not considering demountable buildings for lessons to continue while work is being done on the building?

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.

Does the directorate still have no plans to demolish any buildings at the school?

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

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From: [REDACTED]


Sent: Tuesday, 11 August 2020 9:27 AM

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

I hope you are well. I understand that Ms Berry will be visiting Yarralumla Primary School this morning to get some more information on the lead contamination issues there. I would like to put these questions to her so she can respond to them after her visit.

1. Do you still believe that lead contamination at Yarralumla Primary School is not a major health concern?
2. Do you believe that all safety procedures were followed when the windows in eight classrooms were replaced in the July school holidays?
3. How long are children expected to be out of their usual classrooms?
4. Are you concerned that the lead dust was present in the rooms for many years as it was found in areas that are not often cleaned, such as high up on shelving units, and also in three rooms which did not have windows replaced?
5. 
6. Should the remediation work have been completed sooner after the Lead Management Plan was created in November 2019?
7. Will the heating and cooling system in the affected building be cleaned to ensure there is no lead contamination within the system?
8. Is the directorate still not considering demountable buildings for lessons to continue while work is being done on the building?
9. Does the directorate still have no plans to demolish any buildings at the school?

I would appreciate a response to these questions before 4pm today.

Kind regards,





White, Kelly

From: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Wednesday, 12 August 2020 5:09 PM
To: Cursley, Megan
Cc: EDU Media; Larkin, Lyn; Jaques, Alison; Mulligan, Jo
Subject: RE: Clarification on Yarralumla Primary School lead paint management

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

OFFICIAL

Hello Megan,

Please see below suggested responses from the Directorate to these new questions from the [redacted] re: Yarralumla. These have been cleared by Andrew Parkinson:

This would mean the surfaces were left in a deteriorated state for about nine-and-a-half months before the windows were removed in the July 2020 school holidays. Is this correct?

Was there any further action between November 2019 and July 2020?

Yesterday Ms Berry said in a statement the overpainted surfaces were not deteriorating and so the windows were replaced in line with a longer term management plan. Why does the environmental report say these surfaces had deteriorated while Ms Berry said they were not deteriorating?

Between November 2019 and the removal of the windows in July 2020, encapsulation works on these windows continued to ensure the lead paint was managed in accordance with the Lead Paint Management Plan. The impacted surfaces were not 'left in a deteriorated state' and they were not deteriorating due to the encapsulation works being conducted up until the window removal.

Is the Education Directorate satisfied that the contractor followed the expert advice from the Robson Environmental lead management plan in:

- 1. Minimising dust produced when the windows were being removed and replaced and,**
- 2. In cleaning up any waste materials from these classrooms during and after the work was being completed?**

If the Education Directorate is satisfied that these measures were followed properly, how did the elevated levels of lead get onto nearby surfaces?

The advice to the Directorate from the licenced assessor is that there were three factors that contributed to the increase in lead levels within the eight rooms affected by the window removal. These factors were the removal of the windows, changes to the airflow in the rooms due to the removal of the windows and painting work being done by a different contractor at the same time as the window removal.

Worksafe have today advised the Education Directorate they do not believe the work undertaken by the painting contractor complied with the hazardous material management plans for the school.

How did lead contamination get to the three extra rooms as detected on August 3?

Above threshold levels of lead paint were found high up on the tops of cupboards in three rooms of the school when the licensed assessor was asked to test for background lead levels across the remainder of the school. These were in difficult to access areas that have not been routinely cleaned and could have been there for many years. As they were undisturbed and not in accessible areas, they posed minimal risk.

Can the Directorate provide reports showing the lead levels detected in the school on July 17 and August 3?

These reports will be made available to the Yarralumla Primary School community via the front office, alongside the existing hazardous material reports and plans, later this week.

I will call to discuss.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Assistant Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 12 August 2020 11:55 AM

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

Subject: Clarification on Yarralumla Primary School lead paint management

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,

Thank you for your assistance with my inquiries over the past week regarding Yarralumla Primary School. There are still a few things that I would like to clarify with the Education Directorate as there seems to be some conflicting information. I would still like to have an interview with somebody at the Education Directorate about how this project was managed. My key questions are in bold below.

I have confirmed with WorkSafe that removal of the windows during the July school holidays was not considered to be a lead process according to Work Health and Safety regulations.

Ms Berry has previously stated that the situation was appropriately managed in line with expert advice provided by Robson Environmental.

In the Yarralumla Primary School Lead Paint Management Plan dated November 2019, it documents on pages 11 and 12 the risk rating of various locations in the school and the known management history. There are ten locations that are rated as high risk as at 16/9/2019 with the paint condition described as "poor, non-stabilised". Three areas (exteriors of Gambarri and Pre-school, After School Care and Primary School main building) are noted to have been stabilised by over-painting on various dates in July 2019. The report states the over-painted surfaces had deteriorated on 16/9/2019. The recommendation in this report from Robson Environmental is abatement of these high risk areas, according to the methods listed in appendix five.

This would mean the surfaces were left in a deteriorated state for about nine-and-a-half months before the windows were removed in the July 2020 school holidays. Is this correct? Was there any further action between November 2019 and July 2020?

Yesterday Ms Berry said in a statement the overpainted surfaces were not deteriorating and so the windows were replaced in line with a longer term management plan. Why does the environmental report say these surfaces had deteriorated while Ms Berry said they were not deteriorating?

Removal and replacement is recommended on page 20 of the lead management plan as the most effective way of reducing the risk presented by lead paint. The management plan says: "Removing lead painted items or surfaces may produce lead dust. Controls as given in Appendix 3 may be required."

In Appendix 3, page 16 and 18, details control measures for minor disturbance of lead paint. It states the following: "Renovation and maintenance of buildings often involves some disturbance of paint. Under such circumstances, even low levels of lead in paint can be made hazardous by unsafe practices. Dust should be controlled during all maintenance and renovation work, even if the lead content of the paint is relatively low.

"If not contained and managed appropriately, dust emissions generated during minor disturbance of lead paint can be difficult to remove from the environment and may pose an exposure risk to current and future building occupants. Lead dust has been shown to remain in carpets for many years and can be inadvertently transferred to other areas of buildings."

Appendix 7 on Containment and waste management, page 26, states the following:

"During activities which will liberate lead from the paint matrix (including lead paint removal, removal and replacement of lead painted items, and preparation of surfaces for stabilisation) measures are required to ensure that lead dust, fumes and waste will be contained within the work area.

The extent of the containment will depend on the activities taking place. Lead paint removal will require more robust containment than removal and replacement of lead painted items or surface preparation, but the potential for lead dust generation should not be underestimated."

Is the Education Directorate satisfied that the contractor followed the expert advice from the Robson Environmental lead management plan in:

- 1. Minimising dust produced when the windows were being removed and replaced and,**
- 2. In cleaning up any waste materials from these classrooms during and after the work was being completed?**

If the Education Directorate is satisfied that these measures were followed properly, how did the elevated levels of lead get onto nearby surfaces?

How did lead contamination get to the three extra rooms as detected on August 3?

Can the Directorate provide reports showing the lead levels detected in the school on July 17 and August 3?

My preference would be to have an interview with somebody with knowledge of this situation. I would be available for a phone interview on Thursday, August 13 any time before 12.30pm. Alternatively, early next week would suit. I could also meet in person at a convenient location if that would be easier than explaining things over the phone.

Please let me know what is possible.

Kind regards,



White, Kelly

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 13 August 2020 5:30 PM
To: Larkin, Lyn
Cc: EDU Media
Subject: Re: FW: Clarification on Yarralumla Primary School lead paint management

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 Lyn,

Thanks for your message. That time and place sounds good to me. Thank you for arranging this.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

On Thu, Aug 13, 2020 at 5:17 PM Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Hi [REDACTED], can we lock in 11.30-1pm on Tuesday 18 August for an background briefing on lead paint management at Yarralumla Primary School. The briefing will be with Andrew Parkinson who is our Executive Group Manager of Business Services at the Education Directorate.

We are happy to meet in person at our offices at 220 Northbourne Ave in Braddon.

I can meet you at the front entrance at 11.30am.

My mobile is [REDACTED]

Warm regards

Lyn Larkin | Senior Director Media and Communications

Phone: +61 2 6205 0837 | Email: lyn.larkin@act.gov.au

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

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

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 12 August 2020 11:55 AM
To: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>; Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Subject: Clarification on Yarralumla Primary School lead paint management

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,

Thank you for your assistance with my inquiries over the past week regarding Yarralumla Primary School. There are still a few things that I would like to clarify with the Education Directorate as there seems to be some conflicting information. I would still like to have an interview with somebody at the Education Directorate about how this project was managed. My key questions are in bold below.

I have confirmed with WorkSafe that removal of the windows during the July school holidays was not considered to be a lead process according to Work Health and Safety regulations.

Ms Berry has previously stated that the situation was appropriately managed in line with expert advice provided by Robson Environmental.

In the Yarralumla Primary School Lead Paint Management Plan dated November 2019, it documents on pages 11 and 12 the risk rating of various locations in the school and the known management history. There are ten locations that are rated as high risk as at 16/9/2019 with the paint condition described as "poor, non-stabilised". Three areas (exteriors of Gambarri and Pre-school, After School Care and Primary School main building) are noted to have been stabilised by over-painting on various dates in July 2019. The report states the over-painted surfaces had deteriorated on 16/9/2019. The recommendation in this report from Robson Environmental is abatement of these high risk areas, according to the methods listed in appendix five.

This would mean the surfaces were left in a deteriorated state for about nine-and-a-half months before the windows were removed in the July 2020 school holidays. Is this correct? Was there any further action between November 2019 and July 2020?

Yesterday Ms Berry said in a statement the overpainted surfaces were not deteriorating and so the windows were replaced in line with a longer term management plan. Why does the environmental report say these surfaces had deteriorated while Ms Berry said they were not deteriorating?

Removal and replacement is recommended on page 20 of the lead management plan as the most effective way of reducing the risk presented by lead paint. The management plan says: "Removing lead painted items or surfaces may produce lead dust. Controls as given in Appendix 3 may be required."

In Appendix 3, page 16 and 18, details control measures for minor disturbance of lead paint. It states the following:

"Renovation and maintenance of buildings often involves some disturbance of paint. Under such circumstances, even low levels of lead in paint can be made hazardous by unsafe practices. Dust should be controlled during all maintenance and renovation work, even if the lead content of the paint is relatively low.

"If not contained and managed appropriately, dust emissions generated during minor disturbance of lead paint can be difficult to remove from the environment and may pose an exposure risk to current and future building occupants. Lead dust has been shown to remain in carpets for many years and can be inadvertently transferred to other areas of buildings."

Appendix 7 on Containment and waste management, page 26, states the following:

"During activities which will liberate lead from the paint matrix (including lead paint removal, removal and replacement of lead painted items, and preparation of surfaces for stabilisation) measures are required to ensure that lead dust, fumes and waste will be contained within the work area. The extent of the containment will depend on the activities taking place. Lead paint removal will require more robust containment than removal and replacement of lead painted items or surface preparation, but the potential for lead dust generation should not be underestimated."

Is the Education Directorate satisfied that the contractor followed the expert advice from the Robson Environmental lead management plan in:

1. Minimising dust produced when the windows were being removed and replaced and,

2. In cleaning up any waste materials from these classrooms during and after the work was being completed?

If the Education Directorate is satisfied that these measures were followed properly, how did the elevated levels of lead get onto nearby surfaces?

How did lead contamination get to the three extra rooms as detected on August 3?

Can the Directorate provide reports showing the lead levels detected in the school on July 17 and August 3?

My preference would be to have an interview with somebody with knowledge of this situation. I would be available for a phone interview on Thursday, August 13 any time before 12.30pm. Alternatively, early next week would suit. I could also meet in person at a convenient location if that would be easier than explaining things over the phone.

Please let me know what is possible.

Kind regards,



--









White, Kelly

From: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Monday, 17 August 2020 3:40 PM
To: Hunter, Stuart; Parkinson, Andrew; Nakkan, John
Cc: EDU Media; Larkin, Lyn; Jaques, Alison
Subject: RE: Response to lead contamination release

OFFICIAL

No worries. With that in mind, propose only proceeding with the text in blue.

From: Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 17 August 2020 3:38 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>; Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>; Nakkan, John <John.Nakkan@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: Response to lead contamination release

Happy with the content. Note that only 3 rooms would be available from tomorrow and the school have decided not to utilise until more of the building is cleared.

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:21:52 PM
To: Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@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>
Subject: FW: Response to lead contamination release

OFFICIAL

Hello Andrew and co,

Please see below proposed media statement from the Minister in response to a statement from the Shadow Minister.

Can we please confirm if the Minister's statement is factually accurate?:

I understand that this is not an ideal situation for students and staff. Early last week I visited the school to speak with school leaders and staff to better understand the impact this is having, and to be assured that the situation does not pose a major health concern.

The safety of staff and students is the priority so the classrooms will not be available until confirmation that they are safe to occupy. With cleaning continuing, the Education Directorate expects the classrooms to be reopened by the end of the month.

Students are continuing their learning throughout the school, including in the library and hall. While this is inconvenient, teachers and school staff are again proving their ability to adjust and continue to support student learning and wellbeing.

As Ms Lee knows because the Education Directorate briefed her last week, in addition to advice from my office early on as the issue emerged, actions identified in the April 2019 report were completed by mid-2019. The Directorate have continued to engage expert advice to manage the issue, which has led to a further report dated November 2019 with recommendations that are being completed methodically.

Portable toilets are in place with running water and soap to ensure good student hygiene.

Lead is present in many buildings built prior to the 1970s. Where this is the case for ACT public schools there are management plans in place, informed by expert advice.

Over the four years since 2016, the ACT Government has put \$115 million towards infrastructure upgrades at public schools, including at Yarralumla Primary School.

Lyn also suggested that we may want to advise that another four classrooms will be reopened tomorrow, meaning that only four will remain closed at that point.

Please advise on that suggestion. I will call to discuss.

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: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Monday, 17 August 2020 3:11 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: RE: Response to lead contamination release

OFFICIAL

OK – will progress to Andrew and make this suggestion.

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: Monday, 17 August 2020 3:09 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: Response to lead contamination release

OFFICIAL

Yes it is on message. You may want to add in the good news that we will be reopening four classrooms tomorrow. That means only four more to go before they are all open. Test that idea with Andrew. We are planning to write to parents on Wednesday telling them this as the students won't be in their classrooms tomorrow as they are all on an excursion.

Regards
Lyn

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 17 August 2020 3:07 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: FW: Response to lead contamination release

OFFICIAL

Hello Lyn,

Please see below the proposed statement from the MO in blue.

I think this reads OK, based on my knowledge of the subject matter. Do you think it is OK?

If so, I will progress to Andrew / John / Stuart for clearance.

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: Monday, 17 August 2020 2:56 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Response to lead contamination release

Hey Brenton,

Could you please get this statement from Yvette fact checked? It will be given to [REDACTED] in response to Lee's statement below.

I understand that this is not an ideal situation for students and staff. Early last week I visited the school to speak with school leaders and staff to better understand the impact this is having, and to be assured that the situation does not pose a major health concern.

The safety of staff and students is the priority so the classrooms will not be available until confirmation that they are safe to occupy. With cleaning continuing, the Education Directorate expects the classrooms to be reopened by the end of the month.

Students are continuing their learning throughout the school, including in the library and hall. While this is inconvenient, teachers and school staff are again proving their ability to adjust and continue to support student learning and wellbeing.

As Ms Lee knows because the Education Directorate briefed her last week, in addition to advice from my office early on as the issue emerged, actions identified in the April 2019 report were completed by mid-2019. The Directorate have continued to engage expert advice to manage the issue, which has led to a further report dated November 2019 with recommendations that are being completed methodically.

Portable toilets are in place with running water and soap to ensure good student hygiene.

Lead is present in many buildings built prior to the 1970s. Where this is the case for ACT public schools there are management plans in place, informed by expert advice.

Over the four years since 2016, the ACT Government has put \$115 million towards infrastructure upgrades at public schools, including at Yarralumla Primary School.

Thanks!
Megan

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 August 2020 12:02 PM
To: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Subject: Response to lead contamination release

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,

Elizabeth Lee has issued a media release about the lead contamination situation at Yarralumla Primary School. I would like to know if Ms Berry has a response to this statement. I've copied it below for your reference.

In addition, I understand some of the parents have the view that the affected buildings should be demolished and replaced with new buildings. Does the Education Directorate still have no plans to demolish any part of the school?

I would appreciate a response before 5pm.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday August 17, 2020

Parents angry at Education Minister’s inaction on lead contamination

After speaking with numerous disaffected parents from the Yarralumla Primary School community, it is evidently clear that the ACT Education Minister has failed to provide practical solutions to satisfy safety concerns following lead contamination at the school.

The Education Minister has shown a complete lack of respect and leadership. She continues to be in denial over the significant risk and disruption the contamination has caused to student safety and education.

“Parents agree that the leadership demonstrated by school teachers has been exemplary. The school leaders have gone above and beyond to try make this stressful ordeal less painful for students,” Shadow Minister for Education Elizabeth Lee said.

“The same cannot be said for the ACT Government. Parents are dismayed that the Minister has failed to put forward a suitable contingency plan, and as a result, their children have been shut out of their classrooms and forced to use portaloos in the middle of winter.

“This is a totally unacceptable outcome, particularly when we are already living through a public health emergency with some students struggling with underlying health conditions. Our school community deserves better,” Ms Lee said.

The Education Minister knew about the presence of hazardous material at Yarralumla Primary School for at least 15 months before she “urgently” acted. Parents say they have been raising concerns about dangerous and failing infrastructure at Yarralumla Primary School for years.

--



White, Kelly

From: Larkin, Lyn
Sent: Tuesday, 18 August 2020 4:57 PM
To: Cursley, Megan
Cc: DGEDUoffice; EDU Media; Short, Paul; Sloane, Brenton; Jaques, Alison
Subject: FOR YOUR URGENT CLEARANCE: [REDACTED] MEDIA QUERY Yarralumla lead issues 5pm deadline

Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Megan, as discussed [REDACTED] has asked if we can provide attributed quotes to the following questions on the back of our background briefing for her earlier today. Andrew has cleared the following. Do you want us to attribute to a Directorate spokesperson, or name Andrew?

Sorry about the tight timeline.

Regards

Lyn

Which rooms have been reopened and which ones are still closed as of today?

All rooms in the main school building and YWCA are now open. Rooms in Gambarri and the Montessori preschool are still closed. Three are cleared to open this week with a further two expected to be open by the end of the week.

When is the updated lead management plan due?

Following the handing back of all the classrooms to the school in the coming week, the Directorate will work with Robson Environmental to review the current Lead Management, including the implementation timetable for works that still need to be done. We anticipate an updated plan to be in place in September 2020.

What are the remediation works still to complete?

Remediation works still to be completed include replacement of additional windows in the Gambarri Centre, work in non-student areas of the school, including storerooms, offices and staff toilets. This work covers the spectrum from cleaning existing rooms, encapsulation work on painted surfaces and abatement work in accordance with the Lead Paint Management plan.

Can you confirm that Robson's Environmental advised that the removal of the windows was building removal work rather than lead remediation work?

Based on the advice of Robson Environmental, the removal of these windows was not classified as a 'lead process' but was to be treated as building works.

Can you confirm that Robson's Environmental visited the site during the July school holidays to monitor the progress of the work?

Robson Environmental was present on site during the school holidays and oversaw the window removal work being undertaken.

Were parents notified last year about the April and November reports by Robson’s Environmental?

Yarralumla Primary School parents and carers received updates from the school on 22 July 2019 updating them on lead paint building works completed over school holidays. On 1 August 2019 there was an item in Yarralumla Primary School Newsletter advising that remediation works following the July building works will continue throughout Term 3. On 6 September 2019 a letter was sent to parents and carers about remediation works following discovery of lead paint in shelving of pantry room in after-school care kitchen used by Aeon Academy.

Why do parents need to go to the office to view these reports?

It is standard practice for hazardous materials management plans to be made available to school communities through the front office. This is because the reports need to be seen as part of a broad continuum of hazardous material management on a site and alongside the works carried out to remediate issues identified in them. The offer is being made to the Yarralumla school community for experts in the Directorate to walk them through these reports so they can understand them in context and the work being done to respond to them.

Will the actual lead readings that were taken after the window replacement be provided to parents?

Yes, lead readings are incorporated in the series of reports from Robson Environmental that will be available at the School’s front office. We will be providing an overview to assist parents navigate these reports.

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 August 2020 2:44 PM
To: Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>
Subject: Yarralumla lead issues

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 Lyn,

Thanks for making the time for the briefing today. I'd like to get a statement from you on some of the points that were discussed so I can be clear about what is on the record:

- Which rooms have been reopened and which ones are still closed as of today?
- When is the updated lead management plan due?
- What are the remediation works still to complete?
- Can you confirm that Robson's Environmental advised that the removal of the windows was building removal work rather than lead remediation work?
- Can you confirm that Robson's Environmental visited the site during the July school holidays to monitor the progress of the work?
- [Redacted]
- Were parents notified last year about the April and November reports by Robson's Environmental?
- Why do parents need to go to the office to view these reports?
- Will the actual lead readings that were taken after the window replacement be provided to parents?

Thanks again for your time. I'd appreciate a response by 5pm today. I realise most of these were covered in our discussion but I just want to be certain about what I can write in the story.

Kind regards,
[Redacted]



White, Kelly

From: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Tuesday, 18 August 2020 5:56 PM
To: Cursley, Megan
Cc: Larkin, Lyn; EDU Media
Subject: RE: FOR YOUR URGENT CLEARANCE: [REDACTED] MEDIA QUERY Yarralumla lead issues 5pm deadline

OFFICIAL

All good Megan,

This will go very shortly.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Assistant Director
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From: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 18 August 2020 5:51 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Subject: Fwd: FOR YOUR URGENT CLEARANCE: [REDACTED] MEDIA QUERY Yarralumla lead issues 5pm deadline

Hey Brenton, see below With changes, then good to go

Which rooms have been reopened and which ones are still closed as of today?

All rooms in the main school building and YWCA are now open. Rooms in Gambarri and the Montessori preschool are still closed. Three are cleared to open this week with a further two expected to be open by the end of the week.

When is the updated lead management plan due?

Following the handing back of all the classrooms to the school in the coming week, the Directorate will work with Robson Environmental to review the current Lead Management **plan**, including the implementation timetable for works that still need to be done. We anticipate an updated plan to be in place in September 2020.

What are the remediation works still to complete?

Remediation works still to be completed include replacement of additional windows in the Gambarri Centre, work in non-student areas of the school, including storerooms, offices and staff toilets. This work covers the spectrum from cleaning existing rooms, encapsulation work on painted surfaces and abatement work in accordance with the Lead Paint Management plan.

Can you confirm that Robson's Environmental advised that the removal of the windows was building removal work rather than lead remediation work?

Based on the advice of Robson Environmental, the removal of these windows was not classified as a 'lead process' but was to be treated as building works.

Can you confirm that Robson's Environmental visited the site during the July school holidays to monitor the progress of the work?

Robson Environmental was present on site during the school holidays and oversaw the window removal work being undertaken.



Were parents notified last year about the April and November reports by Robson's Environmental?

Yarralumla Primary School parents and carers received information from the school on 22 July 2019 updating them on lead paint building works completed over school holidays. On 1 August 2019 there was an item in Yarralumla Primary School Newsletter advising that remediation works following the July building works will continue throughout Term 3. On 6 September 2019 a letter was sent to parents and

carers about remediation works following discovery of lead paint in shelving of the pantry room in the after-school care kitchen used by Aeon Academy.

Why do parents need to go to the office to view these reports?

It is standard practice for hazardous materials management plans to be made available to school communities through the front office. This is because the reports are complex and need to be viewed in context, alongside works being carried out. seen as part of a broad continuum of hazardous material management on a site and alongside the works carried out to remediate issues identified in them.

An offer is being made to the Yarralumla school community for senior executive staff in the Directorate to walk them through these reports so they can understand them in context and the work being done to respond to them.

Will the actual lead readings that were taken after the window replacement be provided to parents?

Yes, lead readings are incorporated in the series of reports from Robson Environmental that will be available at the School's front office. We will be providing an overview to assist parents navigate these reports and will confirm that lead levels are below threshold in affected classrooms in updated advice to the school community once cleaning has been completed.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 August 2020 2:44 PM
To: Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>
Subject: Yarralumla lead issues

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 Lyn,

Thanks for making the time for the briefing today. I'd like to get a statement from you on some of the points that were discussed so I can be clear about what is on the record:

- Which rooms have been reopened and which ones are still closed as of today?
- When is the updated lead management plan due?
- What are the remediation works still to complete?
- Can you confirm that Robson's Environmental advised that the removal of the windows was building removal work rather than lead remediation work?
- Can you confirm that Robson's Environmental visited the site during the July school holidays to monitor the progress of the work?



- Were parents notified last year about the April and November reports by Robson's Environmental?
- Why do parents need to go to the office to view these reports?
- Will the actual lead readings that were taken after the window replacement be provided to parents?

Thanks again for your time. I'd appreciate a response by 5pm today. I realise most of these were covered in our discussion but I just want to be certain about what I can write in the story.

Kind regards,





White, Kelly

From: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Tuesday, 18 August 2020 5:57 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Larkin, Lyn; EDU Media
Subject: RE: Yarralumla lead issues

OFFICIAL

Hello Sarah,

Apologies for the delay in responding to you. Thank you for sending these questions through.

As you know, the information provided to you in today's briefing regarding this matter was given off-the-record, and this was expressly agreed to by all parties. We expect that this agreement will be honoured in good faith.

The only information that is agreed to be on the record are the following responses, which can be attributed to an Education Directorate spokesperson:

Which rooms have been reopened and which ones are still closed as of today?

All rooms in the main school building and YWCA are now open. Rooms in Gambarri Centre and the Montessori preschool are still closed. Three are cleared to open this week with a further two expected to be open by the end of the week.

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Why do parents need to go to the office to view these reports?

It is standard practice for hazardous materials management plans to be made available to school communities through the front office. This is because the reports are complex and need to be viewed in context, alongside works being carried out.

An offer is being made to the Yarralumla school community for senior executive staff in the Directorate to walk them through these reports so they can understand them in context and the work being done to respond to them.

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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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OFFICIAL

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 18 August 2020 2:44 PM

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

Subject: Yarralumla lead issues

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 Lyn,

Thanks for making the time for the briefing today. I'd like to get a statement from you on some of the points that were discussed so I can be clear about what is on the record:

- Which rooms have been reopened and which ones are still closed as of today?
- When is the updated lead management plan due?
- What are the remediation works still to complete?
- Can you confirm that Robson's Environmental advised that the removal of the windows was building removal work rather than lead remediation work?
- Can you confirm that Robson's Environmental visited the site during the July school holidays to monitor the progress of the work?
- [REDACTED]
- Were parents notified last year about the April and November reports by Robson's Environmental?
- Why do parents need to go to the office to view these reports?
- Will the actual lead readings that were taken after the window replacement be provided to parents?

Thanks again for your time. I'd appreciate a response by 5pm today. I realise most of these were covered in our discussion but I just want to be certain about what I can write in the story.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]



White, Kelly

From: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Wednesday, 19 August 2020 1:48 PM
To: Hunter, Stuart; Nakkan, John; Parkinson, Andrew
Cc: EDU Media; Short, Paul; Jaques, Alison
Subject: RE: Yarralumla

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

OFFICIAL

Yep. I will amend to refer to classrooms before proceeding.

Thanks Stuart.

From: Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 19 August 2020 1:46 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>; Nakkan, John <John.Nakkan@act.gov.au>; Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Yarralumla

OFFICIAL

I believe there is still one resource room in the main building that is not clear. We have also restricted access to the BSO room. Can we just say all classrooms in the main school building and YMCA building are open?

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: Wednesday, 19 August 2020 1:45 PM
To: Nakkan, John <John.Nakkan@act.gov.au>; Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>; Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Yarralumla

OFFICIAL

Hello all,

Following a phone discussion with Andrew, the below is the version we will be proceeding to the MO with shortly for clearance. Thanks all:

When was the concern about hazardous material at Yarralumla Primary School raised with the Education Directorate?

Lead is a naturally occurring metal and lead-containing paint was commonly used in many Australian buildings, including schools, before 1970. Where this is the case for ACT public schools there are management plans in place, informed by expert advice.

The Education Directorate has always been aware that Yarralumla Primary School contains lead paint and has been managing this lead paint in line with expert advice. Work has been done on the school over decades to manage any deterioration in the lead paint.

What are the steps being done/ need to be done to address this issue?

Work commenced on 6 July 2020 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.

Have concerns been made apparent to the Education Directorate by parents of students at Yarralumla Primary school?

The Education Directorate and Yarralumla Primary School have been in regular contact with the school community about the situation at Yarralumla Primary School. Communication about this matter has been open and two-way, including through well-attended forums open to families at the school to attend and ask questions. The Education Directorate has also regularly made staff available at the school to discuss this matter in detail.

Is there a timeframe in mind of when this issue will be resolved?

All classrooms in the main school building and YWCA are now open. Rooms in the Gambarri Centre and the Montessori preschool are still closed, and cleaning is continuing in these spaces. It is expected a number of these impacted rooms will be available to reoccupy from the end of this week, with the remainder to be available by the end of the month.

We understand this is not an ideal situation, but we appreciate the patience of the school community while this issue is being resolved.

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: Nakkan, John <John.Nakkan@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 19 August 2020 1:14 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>; Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>; Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Yarralumla

OFFICIAL

Thanks Brenton,

Stick with end of month for now and if we get an update before you respond we'll let you know.

Regards,

John Nakkan | Acting Executive Branch Manager
Phone: +61 2 6205 1289 | Mobile: 0466 015 922 | Email: john.nakkan@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: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 19 August 2020 12:59 PM
To: Nakkan, John <John.Nakkan@act.gov.au>; Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>; Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Yarralumla

Thanks John.

Can revert to our 'end of the month' messaging, if preferred?

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From: Nakkan, John <John.Nakkan@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 12:54:41 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>; Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>; Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison

<Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Yarralumla

OFFICIAL

Hi Brenton,

It all reads pretty well, we will just have to hold off for a while on the final question about returning classrooms to use.

Regards,

John Nakkan | Acting Executive Branch Manager
Phone: +61 2 6205 1289 | Mobile: 0466 015 922 | Email: john.nakkan@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: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 19 August 2020 12:26 PM

To: Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@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>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Yarralumla

OFFICIAL

Hello all,

We have received another media enquiry on Yarralumla Primary School, this one from the [REDACTED]

I'm suggesting we respond in the following fashion. Please advise if you approve:

When was the concern about hazardous material at Yarralumla Primary School raised with the Education Directorate?

Lead is a naturally occurring metal and lead-containing paint was commonly used in many Australian buildings, including schools, before 1970. Where this is the case for ACT public schools there are management plans in place, informed by expert advice.

The Education Directorate has always been aware that Yarralumla Primary School contains lead paint and has been managing this lead paint in line with expert advice. Work has been done on the school over decades to manage any deterioration in the lead paint.

What are the steps being done/ need to be done to address this issue?

Work commenced on 6 July 2020 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.

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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.

Have concerns been made apparent to the Education Directorate by parents of students at Yarralumla Primary school?

The Education Directorate and Yarralumla Primary School have been in regular contact with the school community about the situation at Yarralumla Primary School. Communication about this matter has been open and two-way, including through well-attended forums open to families at the school to attend and ask questions. The Education Directorate has also regularly made staff available at the school to discuss this matter in detail.

Is there a timeframe in mind of when this issue will be resolved?

All rooms in the main school building and YWCA are now open. Rooms in the Gambarri Centre and the Montessori preschool are still closed, and cleaning is continuing in these spaces. Three are cleared to open this week with a further two expected to be open by the end of the week.

We understand this is not an ideal situation, but we appreciate the patience of the school community while this issue is being resolved.

Let me know what you think.

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: Wednesday, 19 August 2020 11:50 AM

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

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

Subject: RE: Yarralumla

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,

Thank you for getting back to me so promptly!

I am looking to do a story on the Lead Contamination at Yarralumla Primary school the Canberra Liberals held a media about yesterday, but looking to get a balanced view on the topic.

I was hoping to submit the following questions to the Education Directorate:

- When was the concern about hazardous material at Yarralumla Primary School raised with the Education Directorate?
- What are the steps being done/ need to be done to address this issue?
- Have concerns been made apparent to the Education Directorate by parents of students at Yarralumla Primary school?
- Is there a timeframe in mind of when this issue will be resolved?

Would this be possible? I am hoping to put something together on this later today, but could you please let me know what an appropriate deadline would be for you?

With thanks,

[Redacted]



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

Sent: Wednesday, 19 August 2020 11:31 AM

To: [Redacted]

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

Subject: Yarralumla

OFFICIAL

Hello [Redacted]

I understand you have contacted Access Canberra seeking media contact regarding lead paint management at Yarralumla Primary School.

They have referred your enquiry on to me. Can I be of assistance?

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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White, Kelly

From: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Wednesday, 19 August 2020 5:01 PM
To: Nakkan, John; Parkinson, Andrew; Hunter, Stuart
Cc: EDU Media; Short, Paul; Jaques, Alison
Subject: RE: Questions regarding school maintenance

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

OFFICIAL

Thanks John!

From: Nakkan, John <John.Nakkan@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 19 August 2020 5:00 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>; Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>; Hunter, Stuart <Stuart.Hunter@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Questions regarding school maintenance

OFFICIAL

Hi all,

Please see question 1 response below

Regards,

John Nakkan | Acting Executive Branch Manager
Phone: +61 2 6205 1289 | Mobile: 0466 015 922 | Email: john.nakkan@act.gov.au
Infrastructure and 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, 19 August 2020 11:40 AM
To: Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@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>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Questions regarding school maintenance

OFFICIAL

Hello all,

Please find below another media enquiry about Yarralumla Primary School, this one received by the MO.

The questions they need help responding to are as follows:

What is the overall maintenance budget for ACT public schools? (This is in the context of the Canberra Liberals commitment today to commit \$15 million towards school maintenance. Is it 'completely separate to the upgrades and capital works?')

In 2019-20 the maintenance budget for schools was \$24.7 million this includes \$18.7 million for Repairs and Maintenance managed by ICW and \$6.0 million for school-funded maintenance.

Both maintenance funding types are separate to capital works and upgrades.

The education union says they have secured a deal to replace lost teaching resources at Yarralumla Primary School due to the lead contamination issues. What types of resources were lost and what was the estimated value of the resources?

The education union says all teachers affected by the lead contamination situation at Yarralumla Primary School will receive an additional five days of leave to compensate for the extra stress this has caused. How many teachers will be eligible for this extra leave and what is the additional cost of this measure?

I realise the last two questions are a bit different from the sorts of questions we've received thus far on this topic. Unsure if ICW can assist?

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: Wednesday, 19 August 2020 11:29 AM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>; EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Questions regarding school maintenance

Hey Brenton

Could you please see if you can find out the costs of the lost resources and the extra 5 days of leave as highlighted below.

The other two we will answer but could you see if you can find out what our maintenance budget is? I assume it's completely separate to the upgrades and capital works.

Thanks!
Megan

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 19 August 2020 11:14 AM

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

Subject: Questions regarding school maintenance

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 have some questions for Ms Berry following from a stand up held by the Canberra Liberals and an interview with Glenn Fowler at the education union.

- Will the Labor government match the Liberal's pledge of \$15 million to go towards maintenance in ACT public schools?
- Do you believe there is a problem with ageing infrastructure in ACT public schools?
- The education union says they have secured a deal to replace lost teaching resources at Yarralumla Primary School due to the lead contamination issues. What types of resources were lost and what was the estimated value of the resources?
- The education union says all teachers affected by the lead contamination situation at Yarralumla Primary School will receive an additional five days of leave to compensate for the extra stress this has caused. How many teachers will be eligible for this extra leave and what is the additional cost of this measure?

I would appreciate a response by 4pm.

Kind regards,



From: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Thursday, 20 August 2020 12:56 PM
To: Cursley, Megan
Cc: EDU Media; Short, Paul; Larkin, Lyn; Jaques, Alison
Subject: RE: Yarralumla

OFFICIAL

Hello Megan,

Please see below a new version of this, which has been confirmed as factually accurate by Andrew Parkinson and ICW:

When was the concern about hazardous material at Yarralumla Primary School raised with the Education Directorate?

The Education Directorate has been aware that Yarralumla Primary School contains lead based paint for many years and has continued to manage the paint over decades. Management plans are in place at the school, informed by expert advice, to ensure instances of lead based paint remain safe or removed where required.

Lead based paint was commonly used in many Australian buildings, including schools, before the 1970s.

What are the steps being done/ need to be done to address this issue?

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

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. On 18 July work commenced to remediate the areas.

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 test all areas of the school for lead dust.

This additional testing found above threshold lead levels in out of reach areas (such as on top of tall cupboards) in three other classrooms. Those classrooms were closed for cleaning and further testing.

Specialist environmental cleaning is being conducted across the impacted areas of the school. 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.

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

Have concerns been made apparent to the Education Directorate by parents of students at Yarralumla Primary school?

Yes. The Education Directorate and Yarralumla Primary School have been in regular contact with the school community, including parents who have raised concerns, about the situation at Yarralumla Primary School.

Communication about this matter has been open and two-way, including through well-attended forums open to families at the school to attend and ask questions. The Education Directorate has also regularly made staff available at the school to discuss this matter in detail.

We understand this is not an ideal situation, but we appreciate the patience of the school community while this issue is being resolved.

Is there a timeframe in mind of when this issue will be resolved?

All three of the classrooms closed on 3 August have been reopened. A further three classrooms have been reopened in the Gambarri Centre today. Five classrooms across the school campus remain closed. It is expected these remaining impacted classrooms will be available to reoccupy by the end of the month.

Please advise if you approve. If so, we will provide to the journo.

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, 20 August 2020 10:16 AM

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

Subject: FW: Yarralumla

Hey Brenton,

I've made changes below that hopefully addresses most of Josh's comment but could you please go through it again and check that it's factual? Also Josh has asked when the additional testing was commissioned (I can't find reference to it in my emails)

Regarding the long yellow highlight – as discussed these few sentences assume an understanding that this was the background testing with dust on top of cupboards but the answer needs to stand alone and make that clear. At best it suggests a two week period during which there was lead in contact with students, which I don't think is the case? Can you ask the team to clarify this in the answer and perhaps include the date they commissioned the additional testing.

Thanks!

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

Sent: Wednesday, 19 August 2020 1:50 PM

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

Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; Jaques, Alison <Alison.Jaques@act.gov.au>; Matthews, David <David.Matthews@act.gov.au>; DDGEDUoffice <DDGEDUoffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Yarralumla

OFFICIAL

Hello Megan,

Please find below a media enquiry from [REDACTED] re: Yarralumla Primary School lead paint. This has been approved by Andrew Parkinson (CC David as FYI):

When was the concern about hazardous material at Yarralumla Primary School raised with the Education Directorate?

The Education Directorate has always been aware that Yarralumla Primary School contains lead based paint for many years and has continued to manage the paint over decades. Management plans are in place at the school, informed by expert advice, to ensure instances of lead based paint remain safe or removed where required.

~~manages and has been managing this lead paint in line with expert advice. Work has been done on the school over decades to manage any deterioration in the lead paint.~~

~~Lead is a naturally occurring metal and. Where this is the case for ACT public schools there are management plans in place, informed by expert advice.~~

Lead based paint was commonly used in many Australian buildings, including schools, before the 1970s.

What are the steps being done/ need to be done to address this issue?

On 6 July, during school holidays, work commenced 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.~~ On 18 July work commenced to remediate the areas.

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 test all areas of the school for lead dust. ~~conduct background testing for lead levels in all areas of the school.~~

This additional testing found above threshold lead levels in out of reach areas (such as on top of tall cupboards) in three other classrooms. Those classrooms were closed for on 3 August the Directorate closed a further three classrooms for cleaning and further testing. Specialist environmental cleaning is now being conducted.

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.

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.

Have concerns been made apparent to the Education Directorate by parents of students at Yarralumla Primary school?

Yes. The Education Directorate and Yarralumla Primary School have been in regular contact with the school community, including parents who have raised concerns, about the situation at Yarralumla Primary School.

Communication about this matter has been open and two-way, including through well-attended forums open to families at the school to attend and ask questions. The Education Directorate has also regularly made staff available at the school to discuss this matter in detail.

We understand this is not an ideal situation, but we appreciate the patience of the school community while this issue is being resolved.

Is there a timeframe in mind of when this issue will be resolved?

All classrooms in the main school building and YWCA are now open. Classrooms in the Gambarri Centre and the Montessori preschool are still closed, and cleaning is continuing in these spaces. It is expected a number of these impacted classrooms will be available to reoccupy from the end of this week, with the remainder to be available by the end of the month.

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

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

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 19 August 2020 11:50 AM

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

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

Subject: RE: Yarralumla

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,

Thank you for getting back to me so promptly!

I am looking to do a story on the Lead Contamination at Yarralumla Primary school the Canberra Liberals held a media about yesterday, but looking to get a balanced view on the topic.

I was hoping to submit the following questions to the Education Directorate:

- When was the concern about hazardous material at Yarralumla Primary School raised with the Education Directorate?
- What are the steps being done/ need to be done to address this issue?
- Have concerns been made apparent to the Education Directorate by parents of students at Yarralumla Primary school?
- Is there a timeframe in mind of when this issue will be resolved?

Would this be possible? I am hoping to put something together on this later today, but could you please let me know what an appropriate deadline would be for you?

With thanks,

[Redacted]



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

Sent: Wednesday, 19 August 2020 11:31 AM

To: [Redacted]

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

Subject: Yarralumla

OFFICIAL

Hello [Redacted]

I understand you have contacted Access Canberra seeking media contact regarding lead paint management at Yarralumla Primary School.

They have referred your enquiry on to me. Can I be of assistance?

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: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Thursday, 20 August 2020 8:35 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: EDU Media
Subject: RE: Yarralumla

OFFICIAL

Hello [REDACTED]

Apologies for the delay in sending this through. Please attribute the following response to an Education Directorate spokesperson:

When was the concern about hazardous material at Yarralumla Primary School raised with the Education Directorate?

The Education Directorate has been aware that Yarralumla Primary School contains lead based paint for many years and has continued to manage the paint over decades. Management plans are in place at the school, informed by expert advice, to ensure instances of lead based paint remain safe or removed where required.

Lead based paint was commonly used in many Australian buildings, including schools, before the 1970s.

What are the steps being done/ need to be done to address this issue?

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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. On 18 July work commenced to remediate the areas.

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This additional testing found above threshold lead levels in out of reach areas (such as on top of tall cupboards) in three other classrooms. Those classrooms were closed for cleaning and further testing.

Specialist environmental cleaning is being conducted across the impacted areas of the school. 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.

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

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

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We understand this is not an ideal situation, but we appreciate the patience of the school community while this issue is being resolved.

Is there a timeframe in mind of when this issue will be resolved?

Three classrooms reopened last week. A further three classrooms have been reopened in the Gambarri Centre today. Five classrooms across the school campus remain closed. It is expected these remaining impacted classrooms will be available to reoccupy by the end of the 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](#)

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 20 August 2020 9:14 AM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Yarralumla

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,

No worries at all, just wanted to check in before chatting to my editor!

Thanks for that,
[Redacted]



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

Sent: Thursday, 20 August 2020 9:13 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Yarralumla

OFFICIAL

Hello [REDACTED]

Sorry – I meant to get back to you last night but time got away from me.

Very much expecting to be able to provide you with a response today.

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, 20 August 2020 9:11 AM

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

Subject: FW: Yarralumla

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 [REDACTED]

Just checking in on this one to see if I can be expecting answers back today?

With thanks,

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 19 August 2020 11:50 AM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Yarralumla

Hi Brenton,

Thank you for getting back to me so promptly!

I am looking to do a story on the Lead Contamination at Yarralumla Primary school the Canberra Liberals held a media about yesterday, but looking to get a balanced view on the topic.

I was hoping to submit the following questions to the Education Directorate:

- When was the concern about hazardous material at Yarralumla Primary School raised with the Education Directorate?
- What are the steps being done/ need to be done to address this issue?
- Have concerns been made apparent to the Education Directorate by parents of students at Yarralumla Primary school?
- Is there a timeframe in mind of when this issue will be resolved?

Would this be possible? I am hoping to put something together on this later today, but could you please let me know what an appropriate deadline would be for you?

With thanks,
[REDACTED]

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 19 August 2020 11:31 AM
To: [REDACTED]

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

Subject: Yarralumla

OFFICIAL

Hello [REDACTED]

I understand you have contacted Access Canberra seeking media contact regarding lead paint management at Yarralumla Primary School.

They have referred your enquiry on to me. Can I be of assistance?

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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White, Kelly

From: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Monday, 31 August 2020 4:55 PM
To: Parkinson, Andrew
Cc: Larkin, Lyn; EDU Media
Subject: RE: Follow up questions

OFFICIAL

Thanks Andrew.

We'll look to go to the MO for approval on this one now.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

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

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

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From: Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 31 August 2020 4:52 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Cc: Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Follow up questions

OFFICIAL

Total cost unknown at this stage but as of 2 weeks ago the estimated expenditure on cleaner to that point was \$350K.

The window replacement package was approx. \$250K

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: Monday, 31 August 2020 4:37 PM
To: Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>
Cc: Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>; EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Follow up questions

OFFICIAL

Hello Andrew,

In line with our chat earlier, are we able to get answers to the below questions:

Total cost for environmental cleaning at Yarralumla Primary School following July works?

Total cost of replacing the windows in eight classrooms in July?

The journo has requested this information by 12 noon tomorrow.

Please note – if we can't get a figure for the first question, we could either:

- provide an estimated total figure
- provide a older figure from a point in time we do have
- provide a line saying the figure is not yet finalised

Some hybridised version of the above could work as well.

Please let me know how you would like to proceed.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

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

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

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 31 August 2020 4:07 PM

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

Subject: Follow up questions

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

Good afternoon,

Following my conversation with David today, I wanted to get an exact figure for the following:

- Total cost for environmental cleaning at Yarralumla Primary School following July works
- Total cost of replacing the windows in eight classrooms in July

My hard deadline is 12 noon tomorrow.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]



White, Kelly

From: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Thursday, 3 September 2020 4:36 PM
To: Parkinson, Andrew
Cc: Short, Paul; EDU Media
Subject: RE: North Ainslie lead contamination

Categories: Gareth - FOR ACTION

OFFICIAL

I can remove 'dedicated'.

Is it approved to go with that removal?

From: Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 3 September 2020 4:35 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Cc: Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: North Ainslie lead contamination

OFFICIAL

I don't like "dedicated" classroom spaces - do we have undedicated ones?

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

Gulanyin dhuniang, ngalawirinyin, dhunayinyin, Ngunnawal dhawra

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 3 September 2020 4:25 PM
To: Parkinson, Andrew <Andrew.Parkinson@act.gov.au>
Cc: Short, Paul <Paul.Short@act.gov.au>; EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: North Ainslie lead contamination

OFFICIAL

Hello Andrew,

Here's another quick one:

How many people, including staff, could have been exposed to the dust?

The safety of our students, staff and the community remains our highest priority as we manage this situation.

Five locations at the school have been identified as being impacted lead paint dust – these are a storeroom, toilet, art storeroom, a breakout room (the ‘sensory room’) and staff office. No dedicated classroom spaces have been impacted and students will not need to be relocated while cleaning occurs.

Only one of these locations – the sensory room – is accessible by students. In 2020, this sensory space was being used as a ‘breakout room’, where small groups of four or five students could go with a teacher to study or discuss. These breakout sessions would commonly last less than an hour.

This space has been used intermittently throughout the year.

When was the Directorate first alerted to a potential problem?

Following recent Directorate communications to all schools regarding lead paint management, North Ainslie Primary School identified to the Directorate paint management work carried out across the school over a period of time that could have created lead paint dust at the school. This included recent work in non-teaching areas of the school.

The Education Directorate visited the school on Friday 21 August to undertake an inspection and rooms were closed off pending testing by a licensed assessor which took place last week.

The storeroom, toilet and art storeroom near the Building Service Officer’s room were tested and results were received late on Friday 28 August that showed above threshold levels of lead dust were present.

Following receipt of these results, the Education Directorate commissioned further testing of an additional seven rooms where paint work has taken place. These results were received on Monday and a further two areas— a breakout room (the ‘sensory room’) and a staff office—were closed. In these rooms, lead dust was discovered on top of cupboards and a windowsill.

Further testing is being conducted across the school to determine if the issue is more widespread.

Is it safe for kids to continue to go to school there?

Yes. No dedicated classroom spaces have been impacted and students will not need to be relocated while cleaning occurs.

How come a letter was only sent to parents today if tests were being conducted last week? Were parents alerted before the tests took place?

As outlined above, most of the impacted spaces were not accessible by students. The only one of these locations – the sensory room – accessible by students was closed on Monday when lead dust was discovered on a windowsill. Other readings taken in this room did not detect lead paint dust on any other surface.

What will the department do to ensure this doesn't happen - or isn't happening - at other schools considering this is the second school in a month.

All ACT public schools that contain hazardous materials have hazardous materials management plans. These plans are located on site at each school and provide information on location and management of the hazardous materials found on each site.

The Directorate has also recently communicated to all schools regarding lead paint management specifically.

Let me know if you approve.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

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

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

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

Sent: Thursday, 3 September 2020 3:44 PM

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

Subject: FW: North Ainslie lead contamination

Hey Brenton

Are you able to draft a response to the below from [REDACTED]

Thanks

Megan

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, 3 September 2020 3:37 PM

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

Subject: North Ainslie lead contamination

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.

Hey Megan,

Regarding the closure of rooms at the North Ainslie Primary school, does the ED or Yvette have any comments on this?

How many people, including staff, could have been exposed to the dust?

When was the Directorate first alerted to a potential problem?

Is it safe for kids to continue to go to school there?

How come a letter was only sent to parents today if tests were being conducted last week? Were parents alerted before the tests took place?

What will the department do to ensure this doesn't happen - or isn't happening - at other schools considering this is the second school in a month.

Thanks so much,

--

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]



White, Kelly

From: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Thursday, 3 September 2020 4:43 PM
To: Cursley, Megan
Cc: EDU Media; Short, Paul; Parkinson, Andrew
Subject: FW: North Ainslie lead contamination

Categories: Gareth - FOR ACTION

OFFICIAL

Hello Megan,

Here is our suggested response to this for you to use. This has been approved by Andrew Parkinson:

How many people, including staff, could have been exposed to the dust?

The safety of our students, staff and the community remains our highest priority as we manage this situation.

Five locations at the school have been identified as being impacted lead paint dust – these are a storeroom, toilet, art storeroom, a breakout room (the ‘sensory room’) and staff office. No dedicated classroom spaces have been impacted and students will not need to be relocated while cleaning occurs.

Only one of these locations – the sensory room – is accessible by students. In 2020, this sensory space was being used as a ‘breakout room’, where small groups of four or five students could go with a teacher to study or discuss. These breakout sessions would commonly last less than an hour.

This space has been used intermittently throughout the year.

When was the Directorate first alerted to a potential problem?

Following recent Directorate communications to all schools regarding lead paint management, North Ainslie Primary School identified to the Directorate that painting work carried out across the school over a period of time could have created lead paint dust at the school. This included recent work in non-teaching areas of the school.

Education Directorate technical officers visited the school on Friday 21 August to undertake an inspection and rooms were closed off pending testing by a licensed assessor which took place last week.

The storeroom, toilet and art storeroom near the Building Service Officer’s room were tested and results were received late on Friday 28 August that showed above threshold levels of lead dust were present.

Following receipt of these results, the Education Directorate commissioned further testing of an additional seven rooms where paint work has taken place. These results were received on Monday and a further two areas— a breakout room (the ‘sensory room’) and a staff office—were closed. In these rooms, lead dust was discovered on top of cupboards and a windowsill.

Further testing is being conducted across the school to determine if the issue is more widespread.

Is it safe for kids to continue to go to school there?

Yes. No classroom spaces have been impacted and students will not need to be relocated while cleaning occurs.

How come a letter was only sent to parents today if tests were being conducted last week? Were parents alerted before the tests took place?

As outlined above, most of the impacted spaces were not accessible by students. The only one of these locations – the sensory room – accessible by students was closed on Monday when the assessor advised that it be closed. Other readings taken in this room did not detect lead paint dust on any other surface.

What will the department do to ensure this doesn't happen - or isn't happening - at other schools considering this is the second school in a month.

All ACT public schools that contain hazardous materials have hazardous materials management plans. These plans are located on site at each school and provide information on location and management of the hazardous materials found on each site.

The Directorate has also recently updated procedures around building works in schools and communicated these updates to all schools.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

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

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

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

Sent: Thursday, 3 September 2020 3:44 PM

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

Subject: FW: North Ainslie lead contamination

Hey Brenton

Are you able to draft a response to the below from [REDACTED]

Thanks

Megan

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, 3 September 2020 3:37 PM

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

Subject: North Ainslie lead contamination

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.

Hey Megan,

Regarding the closure of rooms at the North Ainslie Primary school, does the ED or Yvette have any comments on this?

How many people, including staff, could have been exposed to the dust?

When was the Directorate first alerted to a potential problem?

Is it safe for kids to continue to go to school there?

How come a letter was only sent to parents today if tests were being conducted last week? Were parents alerted before the tests took place?

What will the department do to ensure this doesn't happen - or isn't happening - at other schools considering this is the second school in a month.

Thanks so much,

--

Kind Regards,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

White, Kelly

From: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 3:33 PM
To: Larkin, Lyn; Short, Paul
Cc: EDU Media
Subject: FW: [REDACTED] Statement Request

Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hey Lyn,

This would be my suggested response, noting it may need approval from the CHO as well.

Are the levels found dangerous?

The management of lead paint at North Ainslie Primary School is covered by that school's hazardous materials management plan.

The five locations at the school where lead paint dust has been identified have been closed off and as such present no risk of exposure to the students or staff at the school.

What's being done?

All affected rooms will undergo an environmental clean this weekend. Testing will be conducted after each clean to ensure that it has been effective. The rooms will remain closed until testing by the licenced assessor confirms they are safe to occupy.

Are school students and staff safe?

The school is safe for students and staff to attend. The situation is being managed at North Ainslie Primary School in accordance with expert advice.

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

From: Southwell, Hoami (Health) <Hoami.Southwell@act.gov.au> On Behalf Of Health Media
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 11:36 AM
To: Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>
Cc: Health Media <HealthMedia@act.gov.au>; Benson, Andrew <Andrew.Benson@act.gov.au>; Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: [REDACTED] Statement Request
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Lyn,

This morning we've received a media request from [REDACTED]. Can EDU please take the lead this one with input from ACTHD as required?

We're happy to discuss coordination and what you'll need from us - that EDU will take lead on lead media enquiries relating to ACT Public Schools. ACTHD will need to see this response before it's finalised - to clear through the Chief Health Officer.

Happy to have a chat and discuss in more detail.

Kind regards,

Hoami Southwell

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 10:44 AM
To: Health Media <HealthMedia@act.gov.au>
Subject: [REDACTED] Statement 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,

Hoping for a written statement regarding the lead contamination at North Ainslie Primary School.

Are the levels found, dangerous?

What's being done?

Are school students and staff safe?

Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

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White, Kelly

From: Southwell, Hoami (Health) on behalf of Health Media
Sent: Monday, 7 September 2020 10:02 AM
To: Sloane, Brenton; EDU Media; Larkin, Lyn
Cc: Health Media; Jelbart, Merryn (Health)
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: [REDACTED] Statement Request

Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Lyn and Brenton,

Hope you had a lovely weekend. Just touching base to ensure you received the email I sent through on Friday evening re: lead. Did it cover off everything you need, is there anything still needed from Health on this one?

Can we suggest a meeting for next week to discuss some proactive media planning and processes – particularly if lead will likely be an ongoing issue? [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Is there a day that works best for you w/k commencing 14 September?

Thank you!

Kind regards,

Hoami Southwell

From: Southwell, Hoami (Health) **On Behalf Of** Health Media
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 6:30 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>; Caines, Justine <Justine.Caines@act.gov.au>; EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>
Cc: Health Media <HealthMedia@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: [REDACTED] Statement Request
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Brenton,

Some minor changes below – reviewed by CHO:

The highlighted area I think may have been a typo?

Kind regards,

Hoami Southwell
.....

Are the levels found dangerous?

The management of lead paint at North Ainslie Primary School is covered by that school's hazardous materials management plan.

The five locations at the school where lead paint dust has been identified have been closed off and as such presents no risk of ongoing exposure to the students or staff at the school.

What's being done?

The affected rooms will undergo an environmental clean this weekend. Testing will be conducted after the clean to ensure that it has been effective. The rooms will remain closed until testing by the licenced assessor confirms they are safe to occupy.

Are school students and staff safe?

The school has taken immediate steps to prevent access to areas where lead paint dust has been identified - there is no risk of ongoing exposure to the students or staff at the school. The situation is being managed at North Ainslie Primary School in accordance with expert advice.

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

Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 4:12 PM

To: Southwell, Hoami (Health) <Hoami.Southwell@act.gov.au>

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

Subject: FW: FOR APPROVAL: [REDACTED] Statement Request

OFFICIAL

Hello Hoami,

Please see below suggested response to [REDACTED] enquiry. This requires approval from the CHO as well:

Are the levels found dangerous?

The management of lead paint at North Ainslie Primary School is covered by that school's hazardous materials management plan.

The five locations at the school where lead paint dust has been identified have been closed off and as such present no risk of exposure to the students or staff at the school.

What's being done?

The affected rooms will undergo an environmental clean this weekend. Testing will be conducted after the clean to ensure that it has been effective. The rooms will remain closed until testing by the licenced assessor confirms they are safe to occupy.

Are school students and staff safe?

The school is safe for students and staff to attend. The situation is being managed at North Ainslie Primary School in accordance with expert advice.

Please advise if Health/CHO approves. If so, will progress to EDU MO for final clearance.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

P: (02) 6205 4196 | M: 0431 252 698 | E: brenton.sloane@act.gov.au
Level 6, 220 Northbourne Avenue | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
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-----Original Message-----

From: Southwell, Hoami (Health) <Hoami.Southwell@act.gov.au> On Behalf Of Health Media
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 11:36 AM
To: Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>
Cc: Health Media <HealthMedia@act.gov.au>; Benson, Andrew <Andrew.Benson@act.gov.au>; Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: [REDACTED] Statement Request
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Lyn,

This morning we've received a media request from [REDACTED] Can EDU please take the lead this one with input from ACTHD as required?

We're happy to discuss coordination and what you'll need from us - that EDU will take lead on lead media enquiries relating to ACT Public Schools. ACTHD will need to see this response before it's finalised - to clear through the Chief Health Officer.

Happy to have a chat and discuss in more detail.

Kind regards,

Hoami Southwell

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 10:44 AM
To: Health Media <HealthMedia@act.gov.au>
Subject: [REDACTED] Statement 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,

Hoping for a written statement regarding the lead contamination at North Ainslie Primary School.

Are the levels found, dangerous?

What's being done?

Are school students and staff safe?

Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

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White, Kelly

From: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Monday, 7 September 2020 12:02 PM
To: Parkinson, Andrew
Cc: EDU Media; Larkin, Lyn; Hunter, Stuart
Subject: FW: Alfred Deakin High lead

OFFICIAL

Hello Andrew,

In line with the below, suggesting the following for the Min's Office to use re: this request:

In August, as part of works occurring on the school hall at Alfred Deakin High School, lead dust was discovered in parts of the hall building, including the ceiling and floor cavities. This lead dust was only found in non-accessible areas. The removal of this lead dust is now being undertaken as part of the process to replace the roof of the hall.

The lead dust was discovered and tested on Tuesday 11 August, and the school community was notified soon after. It was discovered in non-accessible areas of the school hall, which was already closed as a result of works that were underway on the roof. No classrooms or other spaces are impacted. The lead dust is now being removed in accordance with the school's hazardous materials management plan.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

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

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

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

Sent: Monday, 7 September 2020 11:49 AM

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

Subject: FW: Alfred Deakin High lead

Hey Brenton

See below

I know Andrew made a slight change to this para in last weeks response, could you update it? And would you mind sending through dates from when the lead dust was identified and tested etc?

In August, as part of roof replacement works occurring on the school hall at Alfred Deakin High School, lead dust was discovered in parts of the hall building, including the ceiling and floor cavities. This lead dust was only found in non-accessible areas. The removal of this lead dust is now being undertaken as part of the process to replace the roof of the hall.

Thanks!
Megan

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 7 September 2020 11:41 AM
To: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Subject: Alfred Deakin High lead

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,

Hope you had a great weekend!

Are you able to provide a statement on reports of lead contamination at Alfred Deakin High?

And as usual, when it was found and if any buildings/classrooms/areas are closed or affected?

Thanks so much! 😊



White, Kelly

From: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Monday, 7 September 2020 2:51 PM
To: Cursley, Megan
Cc: EDU Media; Larkin, Lyn; Parkinson, Andrew; Short, Paul; Matthews, David; Haire, Katy
Subject: FOR APPROVAL: Lead contamination in schools

Categories: Brenton - FOR ACTION

OFFICIAL

Hello Megan,

Please find attached a proposed media response to questions from [REDACTED]

The below has been approved by Andrew Parkinson.

Please advise if you approve. If so, we will respond to the journalist accordingly. (Please note [REDACTED] deadline is 4pm):

Alfred Deakin High School:

At Alfred Deakin High School, what were the readings of lead contamination found in the school hall?

Lead paint was commonly used in buildings, including schools, before 1970. Where this is the case, hazardous materials management plans are in place. The management of lead paint is part of managing older buildings.

In the Alfred Deakin High School hall, four samples with above threshold lead dust levels were found. These levels ranged from 1.33mg/m² to 3.22mg/m². This lead dust was only found in non-accessible areas.

How is this dust being contained and removed from the site?

The lead dust found underwent an environmental cleaning procedure in accordance with the school's hazardous materials management plan.

The safety of our students, staff and the community remains our highest priority.

When is this work expected to be completed?

The work to remove the lead dust found in the hall has been completed.

The general works on the school hall at Alfred Deakin High School are ongoing.

What type of work was being done in the school hall?

In August, as part of works occurring on the school hall at Alfred Deakin High School, lead dust was discovered in parts of the hall building, including the ceiling and floor cavities. This lead dust was only found in non-accessible areas.

Did the discovery of lead dust extend the time planned for the building work?

No.

North Ainslie Primary School:

At North Ainslie Primary School, have the five rooms where lead was found been cleared for occupation?

Cleaning in these five impacted rooms was undertaken over the weekend.

As previously outlined however, the impacted rooms will remain closed until testing by the licenced assessor confirms they are safe to occupy. While they testing has occurred, the results of these tests have not yet been received. As always, the safety of our students, staff and the community remains our highest priority and as such these rooms remain closed until we received confirmation they are safe to open.

Were items in these rooms taken off-site for cleaning? Were items in these rooms destroyed? If so, what type of items were they and was their estimated value?

Some items were taken off site for cleaning. A small number of minor items were destroyed as part of the cleaning process.

Were test results from other parts of the school returned and were any further elevated areas of lead detected? What were the readings?

Further testing will be conducted across the school to determine if the issue is more widespread.

Was the hazardous materials plan followed when painting work was carried out at the school? If so, how did the contamination occur?

As previously outlined, following recent Directorate communications to all schools regarding lead paint management, North Ainslie Primary School identified to the Directorate painting work carried out across the school over a period of time that could have created lead paint dust at the school. This included recent work in non-teaching areas of the school.

Yarralumla Primary School:

At Yarralumla Primary School, what was the cost of environmental cleaning due to lead contamination?

As previously outlined, the total cost of the environmental cleaning is not yet finalised and thus is unknown at this stage.

In line with our commitment to openness and transparency, as well as our previous commitment to you, once the final cost of the environmental cleaning conducted at Yarralumla Primary School is known we will provide that figure to you.

Are all rooms affected by lead contamination open for full use by staff and students, including all toilets, kitchens and both Montessori preschool rooms?

As previously outlined, all classroom spaces at Yarralumla were reopened on Monday August 31. This included the Montessori preschool rooms, which have been available for use since that date. The decision of when and how to use those rooms since they have been reopened is a matter for the staff of the preschool.

Regarding non-classroom spaces at the school, some areas remain closed. These spaces will remain closed until testing by the licenced assessor confirms they are safe to occupy.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director

Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 7 September 2020 9:09 AM

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

Subject: Lead contamination in schools

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

Good morning,

I have some further questions regarding lead contamination at schools.

Alfred Deakin High School:

- At Alfred Deakin High School, what were the readings of lead contamination found in the school hall?
- How is this dust being contained and removed from the site?
- When is this work expected to be completed?
- What type of work was being done in the school hall?
- Did the discovery of lead dust extend the time planned for the building work?

North Ainslie Primary School:

- At North Ainslie Primary School, have the five rooms where lead was found been cleared for occupation?
- Were items in these rooms taken off-site for cleaning?
- Were items in these rooms destroyed? If so, what type of items were they and was their estimated value?
- Were test results from other parts of the school returned and were any further elevated areas of lead detected? What were the readings?
- Was the hazardous materials plan followed when painting work was carried out at the school? If so, how did the contamination occur?

Yarralumla Primary School:

- At Yarralumla Primary School, what was the cost of environmental cleaning due to lead contamination?
- Are all rooms affected by lead contamination open for full use by staff and students, including all toilets, kitchens and both Montessori preschool rooms?

I would appreciate a response by 4pm today.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



White, Kelly

From: Sloane, Brenton
Sent: Monday, 7 September 2020 3:17 PM
To: Cursley, Megan
Cc: EDU Media; Larkin, Lyn
Subject: RE: Alfred Deakin High lead

OFFICIAL

I'm seeking confirmation on the exact date this letter went out.

Will get back to you shortly.

From: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 7 September 2020 3:08 PM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Alfred Deakin High lead

Thanks Brenton

We cleared the letter on August 14, do you know if it went out the same day?

From: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 7 September 2020 2:55 PM
To: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Cc: EDU Media <EDU.Media@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Lyn <Lyn.Larkin@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Alfred Deakin High lead

OFFICIAL

Hello Megan,

In line with the below, suggesting the following for the Min's Office to use re: this request:

In August, as part of works occurring on the school hall at Alfred Deakin High School, lead dust was discovered in parts of the hall building, including the ceiling and floor cavities. This lead dust was only found in non-accessible areas.

The lead dust was discovered and tested on Tuesday 11 August, and the school community was notified soon after. It was discovered in non-accessible areas of the school hall, which was already closed as a result of works that were underway on the roof. No classrooms or other spaces are impacted. The work to remove the lead dust found in the hall has been completed in accordance with the school's hazardous materials management plan.

Cheers,

Brenton Sloane | Director
Media and Communications | Education | ACT Government

From: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 7 September 2020 11:49 AM
To: Sloane, Brenton <Brenton.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Alfred Deakin High lead

Hey Brenton

See below

I know Andrew made a slight change to this para in last weeks response, could you update it? And would you mind sending through dates from when the lead dust was identified and tested etc?

In August, as part of roof replacement works occurring on the school hall at Alfred Deakin High School, lead dust was discovered in parts of the hall building, including the ceiling and floor cavities. This lead dust was only found in non-accessible areas. The removal of this lead dust is now being undertaken as part of the process to replace the roof of the hall.

Thanks!
Megan

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 7 September 2020 11:41 AM
To: Cursley, Megan <Megan.Cursley@act.gov.au>
Subject: Alfred Deakin High lead

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,


Hope you had a great weekend!

Are you able to provide a statement on reports of lead contamination at Alfred Deakin High?

And as usual, when it was found and if any buildings/classrooms/areas are closed or affected?

Thanks so much! 😊





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