

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**WRITTEN QUESTION**

Mr Higgins to the Minister for Education:

**Asbestos in School Buildings**

Please provide the following details about the presence of asbestos in Northern Territory schools:

1. List the schools that have buildings containing asbestos.
2. Of the listed schools, please detail which contain asbestos in permanent buildings, and which contain asbestos in demountable buildings.
3. Please indicate what timeframe has been identified for the replacement of each of these buildings.
4. Please indicate what timeframe has been identified for the replacement of buildings that contain asbestos covered by another layer of wall.
5. Please advise what the current program is for replacement of demountable buildings in schools.
6. Please advise the life expectancy of demountable buildings that are currently being used as temporary classrooms in schools.

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Response

1. Attachment A provides a list of schools that have buildings containing asbestos.
2. The Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) register utilised by the department does not record the building construction type (i.e. permanent or transportable) and as such this information is unable to be compiled without the undue diversion of resources from service delivery.

According to the government Building Asset Management System (BAMS), there are approximately 315 buildings that were transported to school sites. Some of these buildings were transported in sections to site, while others were fully pre-fabricated and transported to sites, allowing them to be relocated to other sites.

Of those 315 buildings, there are approximately 366 general learning areas (classrooms) utilised by schools that are classified as transportable infrastructure according to construction type, and are Department of Education assets.

It should be noted that a significant number of transportable classrooms were constructed after 31 December 2003 and would not contain ACM.

3. The long term objective is for all government controlled buildings to be free of ACMs and this will be managed in line with the Northern Territory (NT) Government's 10 Year Infrastructure Plan 2017-2026 Education and Training sector which has included \$255 million Territory Wide upgrades of school infrastructure to enable the continued delivery of quality education. The upgrades will include ACM removal as required.
4. Generally, asbestos covered by another layer of wall does not present a higher risk to an exposed ACM wall where the building has a regular maintenance schedule like that of government school buildings. In addition to the upgrades described in Question 3, the department undertakes a risk management approach consistent with, and supports the requirements of, the legislation and National Codes of Practice in relation to the management, control and removal of ACMs.
5. Transportable buildings can offer a dynamic and flexible learning environment in our schools. Transportable buildings are replaced at the end of their useful life cycle or earlier if identified to be beyond economical repair and or when no longer required to support enrolment numbers.

- Transportable and demountable buildings vary in their construction technology and therefore age at different rates according to these factors and their location.
  - Transportable buildings constructed after 31 December 2003 do not contain asbestos.
6. The Department of Education does not maintain a centralised register for the life expectancy for all demountable buildings. This information will not be provided by the department as administrative effort required to respond is excessive and would result in undue diversion of resources from service delivery.

**ATTACHMENT A**

**List of schools that have buildings containing asbestos**

School name	School name	School name
Acacia Hill School	Humpty Doo Preschool	Palmerston Senior College
Adelaide River School	Humpty Doo Primary School	Papunya School
Alawa Preschool	Ida Stanley Preschool	Parap Preschool
Alawa Primary School	Jabiru Area School	Parap Primary School
Alekarenge School	Jingili Primary School	Peppimenarti School
Alice Springs School of The Air	Kalkaringi School	Pine Creek School
Alyangula Area School	Karama Preschool	Pularumpi School
Alyangula Preschool	Karama Primary School	Ramingining School
Amanbidji School	Katherine High School	Rona Glynn Preschool
Amoonguna School	Katherine South Preschool	Ross Park Primary School
Ampilatwatja School	Katherine South Primary School	Sadadeen Primary
Angurugu School	Katherine Training Centre	Sanderson Middle School
Anula Preschool	Kintore Special School	Shepherdson College
Anula Primary School	Lajamanu School	Stuart Park Preschool
Areyonga School	Larrakeyah Primary School	Stuart Park Primary School
Barunga School	Leanyer Primary School	Taminmin High School
Batchelor Outdoor Education	Ludmilla Preschool	Tennant Creek High School
Belyuen School	Ludmilla Primary School	Tennant Creek Preschool
Bradshaw Preschool	Malak Preschool	Tennant Creek Primary School
Bradshaw Primary School	Malak Primary School	Tennant Creek Training Centre
Braitling Primary School	Mamaruni School	Ti Tree School
Bulla Camp School	Maningrida School	Titjikala School
Canteen Creek Primary School	Manunda Terrace Preschool	Umbakumba School
Casuarina Senior College	Manunda Terrace Primary School	Wagaman School
Centralian Middle School	Mataranka Primary School	Wallace Rockhole School
Centralian Senior College	Middle Point School	Walungurru School
Clyde Fenton Preschool	Milikapiti Preschool	Wanguri Preschool
Clyde Fenton Primary School	Milikapiti Primary School	Wanguri Primary School
Darwin High School	Milingimbi School	Warruwi School
Darwin Language Centre	Millner Primary School	Willowra School
Douglas Daly School	Milner Preschool	Woolaning School
Dripstone Child Care Centre	Mimik-Ga Centre	Woolianna School
Dripstone Middle School	Minyerri School	Wulagi Preschool
Elliott School	Moil Preschool	Wulagi Primary School
Epenarra School (Wutunugurra)	Moil Primary School	Yirrkala Homeland School
Finke School	Nakara Preschool	Yirrkala School
Gapuwiyak School	Nakara Primary School	Youth Hub Anzac Hill
Gillen Preschool	Newcastle Waters School	Yuendumu School
Gillen Primary School	Nhulunbuy High School	Yulara School
Gray Primary School	Nhulunbuy Preschool	
Gray Child Care Centre	Nhulunbuy Primary School	
Gunbalanya School	Nightcliff Middle School	
Gunbalanya Preschool / Transition	Nightcliff Preschool	
Haasts Bluff School	Nightcliff Primary School	
Harts Range School	Numbulwar School	
Howard Springs Preschool	Nyirripi School	
Howard Springs Primary School	Ntaria School	