

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Lambley to the Minister for Health:

Asbestos in Alice Springs Pathology Building

Positive asbestos levels were found in the Pathology Building of the Alice Springs Hospital (ASH) on 13th September 2017.

1. Why was the pathology building tested for asbestos levels?
2. Please provide the full background and circumstances in which a positive asbestos reading was found in the pathology building of the ASH?
3. Was this a routine test or was this test triggered by a particular concern?
4. Were other ASH buildings tested at the same time? If so, which buildings and what were the results?
5. Who conducted the asbestos test at the ASH?
6. How was the asbestos test conducted?
7. What help and support have been provided to staff, patients and visitors that may be effected by the positive asbestos reading was found in the pathology building of the ASH?
8. How will the health of these people effected by the positive asbestos reading was found in the pathology building of the ASH be monitored into the future?
9. Please provide details as to how and where pathology services at the ASH are currently being provided?
10. How often are asbestos tests conducted at the ASH?
11. How many building within the ASH complex contain asbestos?
12. Please provide detail as to where asbestos is contained within the ASH buildings?
13. How much will it cost to remove the asbestos from the Pathology Building? Provide details of quotes and estimates of this work?
14. When will this work be undertaken?
15. How will this work be done? How long will it take to remove the asbestos from the pathology building?

16. How is the Hospital managing people who have been effected by or potentially effected by the positive asbestos levels found in the Pathology Building?
17. Has a positive asbestos reading ever been found in within the ASH before? If so, please provide all details?
18. Has asbestos been removed from the ASH before?
19. How many times has the ASH been tested for asbestos levels since it was opened in 1976?
20. When was the Pathology Building built?
21. It has been reported to me by former ASH staff that the roof of the ASH Pathology Building collapsed in the early 1990's. What measures were taken at that time to:
 - a) Test for asbestos
 - b) Ensure people affected by the roof collapsing were tested for possible asbestos contamination or effect
 - c) Was there an attempt to remove the asbestos from the pathology building at that time
22. What other buildings in the ASH precinct were built at this time? Are these building also being tested for asbestos levels?
23. Is it reasonable to assume that all buildings built at the same time and before the pathology building was built, could have asbestos contained in them?
24. Please list all the ASH buildings built at the same time or before the Pathology Building was built.
25. What buildings or parts of the Hospital definitely do not have asbestos in them?
26. Has a full assessment been done of the whole hospital as to exactly where there is asbestos in the buildings?
27. What percentage of the ASH Hospitals are "asbestos free" and "not asbestos free"?
28. What is the estimated cost of fixing the ASH asbestos problem over the next 10 years and 20 years?
29. How is the ASH asbestos problem being dealt with internally in terms of the health and wellbeing of staff, patients and visitors? What is your risk management plan?
30. What is the ASH media and public information strategy for managing this serious asbestos problem?
31. What are the legal issues around the positive asbestos reading was found in the pathology building of the ASH – in terms of public safety, liability etc?

32. If it is known that asbestos is contained in other ASH buildings, what is the strategy for dealing with the potential health and safety risks?
