

Mr Neil Laurie  
Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

**Petition received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly No.436 – 05**

I refer to your letter received on the 28<sup>th</sup> February and the petition lodged with the Queensland Legislative Assembly on the 24<sup>th</sup> February by the Member for Moggill Dr Bruce Flegg, concerning Moggill State School and the request by the petitioners for the removal of all asbestos material and the provision of insulation.

I will be writing individually to petitioners providing them with the following response:

“I can well understand a general level of concern when asbestos issues are raised, particularly in schools, and it is important therefore, that discussion occur in an informed environment.

In keeping with my advice to the Clerk of the Parliament that I would respond to each petitioner, I provide you with the following information:

- Asbestos product is common government buildings and homes of similar age to the buildings at Moggill State School.
- The National Health and Safety Commission Guidelines advise that complete removal of asbestos is unnecessary, unless fibres could become airborne and therefore deemed to be a potential health risk.
- The Department of Public Works is the Government’s Asbestos Management Authority and has audited all schools..
- Each school maintains an asbestos register as part of their building management plan which is to be accessed by contractors before maintenance, renovation or other construction work is performed.
- Where there is deemed to be a potential health risk in a school, the matter is dealt with immediately.
- “A” Block, the subject of recent parent concern, has been assessed by Q Build, a Government expert from the Environmental Remediation and Heritage, Built Environment Research Unit and Parsons Brinckerhoff Pty Ltd, an independent company with expertise in asbestos risk assessment.

- Testing included both internal and external sampling of air quality, in and around “A” Block. Parsons Brinckerhoff advised that “there was no greater risk to persons in “A” Block as there was to persons in the library courtyard. Similar background levels could be expected in other areas eg. down the road, in a park or in another building.”
- Advice from the government and independent experts confirms that there is no health issue for the occupants of “A” Block.
- Advice by the Government expert and supported by Parsons Brinckerhoff is that the roof is in fair condition and barring extreme weather conditions, could be expected to remain serviceable for up to five years with regular monitoring.
- There is no impediment to the school taking a decision to insulate the ceiling in “A” Block provided normal practices are observed when undertaking renovations in the presence of asbestos product.
- Moggill State School had budget of \$26,000 for minor works and maintenance in 2004/05. It is expected that a similar amount will be provided to the school in 2005/06. I understand that the school has been provided with a quote of approximately \$10,000 for the insulation of the ceiling.

The Principal of Moggill State School has ensured parents of students have been kept informed of this matter. A full copy of the Parsons Brinckerhoff report is available and may be viewed at the school.

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to respond to your concerns.”

Yours sincerely

**Anna Bligh MP**  
**Minister for Education and**  
**Minister for the Arts**