



STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING
Mr Johnathan Davis MLA (Chair), Mr James Milligan MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021
QUESTION ON NOTICE

[Mark Parton]: To ask the [Minister for Housing and Suburban Development]

[Ref: Constituent Feedback]

In relation to: the process that occurs when a Housing ACT tenant calls up to report suspected loose-fill asbestos in their home

1. What is the exact process that occurs when a constituent calls up to report suspected loose-fill asbestos in their Housing ACT Home;

Programmed FM will send an Asbestos Assessor, who specialises in hazardous material, to test the suspected asbestos. If testing identifies loose fill asbestos, then the matter is reported to the Asbestos Response Taskforce who will arrange for a full asbestos assessment to be undertaken. If the Asbestos Response Taskforce confirms that the property is loose fill asbestos affected, participation into the Loose Fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme will be offered. Housing ACT will transfer the tenant. Under the Scheme the tenant can access personal support and is entitled to a relocation assistance grant. Tenant Experience (TE) will also provide linkages of support as required.

2. How long does it take action;

A work order is raised to Programmed to inspect and test the asbestos. The results of this are generally available within a week and if confirmed as loose fill asbestos, the concern is referred to the Asbestos Taskforce. Remediation works are carried out accordingly and as soon as possible. As mentioned, TE, alongside the asbestos taskforce, will support the tenant and will relocate if required.

3. Are tenants informed immediately of the outcome of the asbestos test whether negative or positive;

As with any maintenance, if there is a concern for health and safety, it is escalated to Housing ACT to make alternate arrangements for alternative accommodation as necessary. As soon as asbestos has been confirmed, the tenant is notified.

4. What safety measures are put in place and/or discussions with tenants around safety occurring when asbestos has potentially been found;

See response to question three.

5. How many public houses have been found to have loose-fill asbestos contamination;

There have been 5 instances where loose fill asbestos has been found in a Housing ACT property.

6. What action was taken in relation to each property;

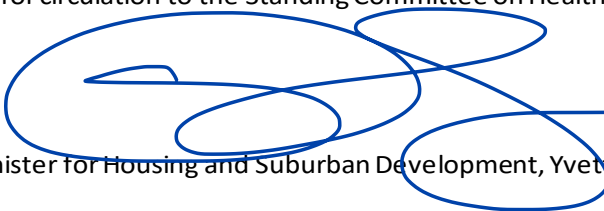
The tenants were relocated and the properties were handed over to the Asbestos Response Taskforce for removal as part of the Loose Fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme. All five properties were demolished, remediated and removed from the Affected Residential Premises Register. The remediated blocks were handed back to Housing ACT following deregistration.

a. How many properties were rebuilt or sold;

2 remediated blocks were sold
2 were rebuilt
1 is in the process of being rebuilt

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Signature:



Date: 04/04/22

By the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, Yvette Berry MLA