



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Health

Redirected to: Minister for the Public Service

In relation to: Health and Asbestos Register

Hearing: 29 July 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 109-110

Transcript provided: 03 August 2026

Answer Due: 10 August 2026

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA took on notice the following question(s):

MR EMERSON: Okay. Can I just really quickly ask, is there an asbestos register for government assets?

Ms Stephen-Smith: I mean, I thought I was searching my memory banks for the Digital Health Record report, but this one is going way back. So I think this is probably a question better directed to whoever has administrative arrangement responsibility for the asbestos taskforce or whatever it is called now, probably Sustainable Building. Maybe Minister Steel.

MS VASSAROTTI: That is where it is.

Ms Stephen-Smith: Minister Vassarotti, former minister Vassarotti, who probably had responsibility for it at some point. Yes, Sustainable Development would be—so I have a vague recollection that we do, but I cannot answer definitively. So we are happy to take it on notice. And the reality is, though, that, I mean, a lot of our older buildings are going to contain asbestos. That is, you know, understood, managed in situ and only becomes a problem when things deteriorate and it becomes airborne. So by and large, it is contained.

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Infrastructure Canberra maintains hazardous materials reports, asbestos registers and asbestos management plans for the 243 government-owned buildings it is custodian of where hazardous materials, including asbestos-containing materials, are known or suspected to be present.

Hazardous materials reports and asbestos management documentation are maintained on site and made available to contractors undertaking maintenance, refurbishment or construction activities. Contractors are required to review the relevant hazardous materials information prior to commencing works and manage identified risks in accordance with applicable legislative requirements and workplace health and safety obligations.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026-2027

Signature:



Date:

6/8/26

By the Minister for the Public Service, Rachel Stephen-Smith