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**Journalist: Di Martin, ABC Radio National, Background Briefing**

**Contact:** [martin.diane@abc.net.au](mailto:martin.diane@abc.net.au)

Questions:

I have recently read of two schools that were insulated with loose fill asbestos.  Is that the total number of schools insulated with this product?

One of those schools has been identified as the old Watson High School.  Was it part of the remediation program of the late 80’s/early 90s?

Which is the other school?  Also was it also part of the remediation program?  If not, has a clean up taken place and when?

Also are those properties still owned by ACT govt?  If so, what ongoing management is provided?

Di,

Answers to your questions are:

ACT public schools which have identified asbestos containing material have asbestos management plans which are updated annually. Removal work is undertaken on a priority basis.

Watson High School closed in 1988, prior to ACT self-government in 1989. The site is now managed by Canberra Institute of Technology.

Narrabundah College had identified crocidolite asbestos in the ceiling cavity which was remediated as part of the Commonwealth program. The asbestos management plan and ongoing annual and periodic inspections and assessments take account of this history.

Asbestos was frequently used in building materials in Australia until the mid- to late-1980s. The predominance of the use of asbestos containing material lessened after this time until it was banned in 2004.

Thank you for your enquiry.

Best regards, Stephen Gilfedder