

**INQUIRY INTO PLANNING AND DELIVERY OF SCHOOL
INFRASTRUCTURE IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 2 September 2022

Partially
Confidential

I am writing in regards to the asbestos at Castle Hill High School. I am currently employed at the school and has been there since the beginning of 2020. Though that time and leading up to the first lockdown of Covid, there were times that small parts of the ceiling would break away and fall onto teachers tables particularly in the corner and door way between staffrooms. Prior to my arrive at the school it looked as if there had been some work completed (they were unsure of whom had completed them) to the ceiling however there were still gaps to the roof cavity. There was a meeting held that Asbestos had been found in the Top of A block. During this meeting it was discussed about a sample that teachers had asked to be sent away to be sampled from approximately 2015/2016, that it had actually been lost and that there had been no follow up to this testing. It was also discussed that some staff members had been told that the sample had come back negative. There was a high level of anxiety at the admission that the sample had been lost and that no follow action had been taken.

During several more meetings with NSW officials Michelle Johns and Elhassan Haysam the staff of Social Science and History were involved that there needed to be repairs to the ceiling to encapsulate the asbestos into the ceiling. During this meeting it was asked about the prior sample and why there was no follow up action to the prior testing, the response was that they were unaware of any prior testing that had been conducted in this space. More importantly, what was the danger of exposure to staff who had were at times covered by white dust from the ceiling. During this meeting which they had stated that prior testing had not been carried out in the affected areas. They were not able to give what many staff members thought was not a satisfactory response to these questions about the right to their health.

At the beginning of the 2022 school year the Social Science and History staffrooms were told that any object that had been in the book room between A12 and A13 had to be collected, placed in asbestos bags and would be professionally removed by an outside company even if the item had only been in there for a short time. There was a meeting that took place on this day. They stated that asbestos had been detected in the book room but could not actually say from what. This came about as there capital works that took place during the holidays. They stated that because of the rooms intended use that any exposure to the area would my minimal. However before these works took place there were some staff that spent two days removing all the material out of the room in preparation for the renovations. Since this day were have had air monitors within the top of A block with no actual clarification as to why 9 months later that they are still monitored and changed every day.

At the beginning of Term 2 of 2022 a whole school meeting was held with Department Personal coming out to the school to explain the issue of asbestos in the school. However during this time sever members of the social science faculty were asked to be in a separate meeting away from this meeting with the people from the Department. It seemed that they were being isolated from this meeting as they are the most outspoken about the issue of asbestos in the school to prevent questions being asked about this issue in front of the entire staff. It was later revealed to staff that in fact the testing of the first sample that was sent to test for asbestos had actually returned a positive result with the report being sent to the school. It was two days later that all staff members received a copy of this report with no reason as to why that no action had been taken since the positive response six years ago.