

Submission
No 139

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 7 September 2022

Partially
Confidential

I am very concerned that the asbestos issue at Castle Hill High School has been mismanaged by the school putting both staff and students at risk. I understand asbestos exists in a school of this age/construction but I feel the school executive, with or without the support of the Department of Education, have been more interested in hiding the issue rather than focusing on staff and student welfare.

The school has been aware of the asbestos issue since 2016 with reports of complaints from teachers since this time. Reports suggest that no action was taken until 2020 with the teachers incorrectly advised in 2016 that the tests were negative for asbestos. That is 4 years where staff and students were knowingly placed at risk!

Further reports from the school advise that all remediation was completed in 2020 however we are still being advised in 2022 of remediation work carried out due to the presence of asbestos in the ceiling cavities and floor tiles. Obviously the work in 2020 was not completed correctly if we are still seeing issues in 2022.

The school has been aware of asbestos contamination for a number of years but has not put sufficient remediation into place to resolve the issue and, more importantly, has continued to allow staff and students to use affected areas while assuring the school community that there is no reason for concern. My children have been asked to move furniture from rooms that I have subsequently been advised were targeted for asbestos remediation. Why were school children placed in this situation? Are we going to find out 30 years from now that our children have been affected because the school lied about the exposure risk?

I have lost all trust in the schools ability to handle this situation and have significant concerns for the health of my children, the other children at the school and staff who have been lied to. I would like to see this matter investigated impartially and thoroughly to ensure that the school is now safe and that changes are made to prevent a situation such as this ever happening again in another school community.