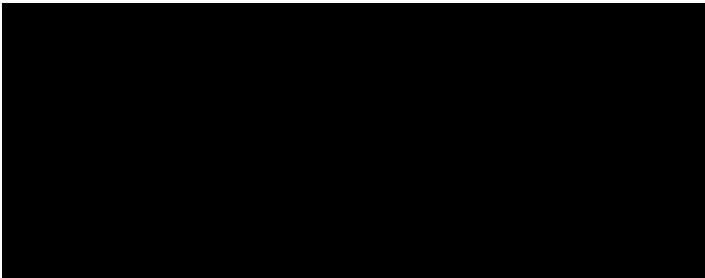


27 September 2018



Re Official Information Request about asbestos in ADHB buildings

I refer to your request under the Official Information Act dated 28 August 2018 for the following information:

- 1. Which ADHB buildings have asbestos? And at what level?**
- 2. What management plan is in place?**
- 3. Are the buildings that have asbestos in them being upgraded?**
- 4. When was it detected?**

In response to your specific questions

- 1. Which ADHB buildings have asbestos? And at what level?**

The majority of the older buildings in the Auckland DHB portfolio have asbestos as did many buildings constructed in New Zealand in the 1970s and 1980s. Asbestos is not present in the main Auckland City Hospital building (the 'new hospital'), the Starship Hospital building, or the Acute Mental Health Unit.

In buildings where asbestos is present, it is either encapsulated in building products or is located in ceiling voids. Auckland DHB has conducted extensive testing in all its buildings and has an asbestos register detailing where asbestos is located.

- 2. What management plan is in place?**

A comprehensive Auckland District Health Board Asbestos Management Plan is in place and sets out an active management plan for asbestos. The plan has been externally validated and is aligned with the Health and Safety (Asbestos) Regulations 2016 and the Auckland DHB's Asbestos Management Policy. Management of asbestos is taken very seriously.

Although Auckland DHB has identified asbestos in many of its buildings, to date, there has not been a positive air sample reported above the allowable limits. Air monitoring is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Asbestos Regulations.

- 3. Are the buildings that have asbestos in them being upgraded?**

Some yes, others no, and some will be demolished.

4. *When was it detected?*

It was originally detected in the Support Building in 1999 and areas that were to be refurbished under the Building Programme had the asbestos removed. It was found to be widespread in other buildings in 2017 when extensive testing was undertaken.

Part of the information you have requested has already been supplied to you in the form of a response to your recent media inquiry (23 August 2018). That disclosure noted, *“any asbestos that has been located and which has not already been removed, is isolated or encapsulated (contained, and is carefully managed in accordance with the Auckland DHB Asbestos Management Plan, Policy and related Regulations.”*

“Any asbestos identified is dealt with according to the Health & Safety At Work Asbestos Regulations 2016 and related Codes of Practice. <https://worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/asbestos/management-and-removal-of-asbestos/>

The air quality on all of our sites is also closely monitored as part of our commitment to protecting the environment and ensuring the safety of our staff and the public.

You are entitled under the Official Information Act section 28 to seek a review of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Auckland DHB website.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive