



Friday, February 27 2009

ASBESTOS AT WESTMEAD CORONER'S COURT

Asbestos fibres have been detected in a secure file storage area of Westmead Coroner's Court. The fibres were also present in an isolated component of the air conditioning system that serves the storage area.

The Attorney General's Department is in the process of notifying past and present employees who may have worked in the affected section of the building.

The storage area and the associated air conditioning system were added to Westmead Coroner's Court in 1997.

Any person who has worked at Westmead Coroner's Court between 1997 and 2009 is encouraged to contact the Department on (02) 8688 7571 or (02) 8688 8438.

The Attorney General's Department will arrange free medical health examinations for people potentially exposed.

The Department has notified WorkCover, NSW Department of Health and is consulting with the Dust Diseases Board.

Westmead Coroner's Court has been closed until the issue has been investigated and addressed.

The Department has appointed retired public sector CEO Mr Vernon Dalton AM to conduct an independent investigation into the history of asbestos on the site, the extent of any potential exposure and the effectiveness of asbestos auditing, monitoring and response programs.