**LEAD-BASED PAINT**

**INFORMATION SHEET**

Schools that were constructed before 1970 may have lead-based paint in various internal and external areas consistent with the painting standards that applied at this time.

**When is lead-based paint harmful?**

Lead in paint can be a problem if it is damaged or disturbed. Paint in good condition (not flaking or chalking), or paint covered by well-maintained, lead-free paint is not a hazard.

Lead-based paint may be a hazard when it is on surfaces subject to friction or impact such as windows and doors, or on railings where children can chew it.

Lead-based paint is potentially harmful if ingested or inhaled.

High concentrations of lead found in garden soils in older residential areas can be due to residue from lead-based paint.

**Managing lead-based paint in schools**

Schools must develop risk controls and management plans for dealing with potentially hazardous building materials, including lead-based paint.

The management plan for lead-based paint should include processes for lead testing of painted surfaces prior to painting and processes for lead remediation, which often include the repainting of surfaces with lead-free, waterproof paint.

All building permit requirements have a quality control mechanism to ensure painting that occurs during capital works programs comply with standards.

The health-based risks of lead-based paint are managed through Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) protocols established through the Department’s Employee Safety and Wellbeing Branch and are communicated to school principals and school OHS representatives through training course and website information.

**OHS Advisory Service**

For information about asbestos or general OHS enquiries contact the DEECD OHS Advisory service on 1300 074 715.