

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE — PUBLIC SCHOOL MAINTENANCE WORK

158. Hon Tjorn Sibma to the minister representing the Minister for Finance:

- (1) Is the Department of Finance responsible for the maintenance works of public schools?
- (2) If yes to (1), is there a program of maintenance responsible for high level issues relating to maintenance?
- (3) Has the department played a role in issues concerning fires in evaporative air-conditioning units?
- (4) If yes to (3), what role did the department play?

**Hon Stephen Dawson replied:**

The Department of Finance advises:

- (1) No. The responsibility for maintenance works rests with the Department of Education and individual schools. The Department of Finance's Building Management and Works provides advice and manages the delivery of these works on behalf of the Department of Education and schools, where requested.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The Department of Finance rectified each site and has also been collaborating with the Department of Education to investigate the circumstances that led to the fires, and to determine further actions required to mitigate the recurrence of such incidents.