

From: [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au

To: dianne [REDACTED]

Date: Fri, 21 Feb 2014 16:27:40 +1000

Subject: Warwick State High School - Health Concerns - Complaint regarding inadequate drinking water provisions

Good Afternoon Ms Mead (Dianne),

I refer to your email of complaint to the Southern Downs Regional Council regarding inadequate drinking water provisions at Warwick State High School. Your complaint had been forwarded by the Southern Downs Regional Council to the Darling Downs Public Health Unit for follow up.

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention.

In the course of following up the matter I have been in contact with Education QLD, who had arranged for inspections by the QLD Govt Department of Housing and Public Works of each of the 40 water bubblers at the school. As a result of the inspections it has been identified that 16 out of the 40 water bubblers were able to be utilised (although they were leaking).

I have been advised that replacement parts have been ordered for all of the 40 water bubblers at the school and repairs will be undertaken as soon as possible after receipt of the replacement parts. It is expected that maintenance will be completed on 18 of the water bubblers on the 24/02/14, with work completed on the remaining 22 water bubblers on 27/02/14.

There was no identifiable odour of chemical/paint or otherwise emitting from any of the water bubblers during the inspections. Upon being asked what could have caused such an odour, Dept. of Housing and Public Works staff explained that on past occasions they had found water bubblers to have had foreign objects forced into them (normally lead pencils) and these can emit an odour.

Regarding the number of water bubblers in relation to student population at the school, the Building Act 1975 and the Building Code of Australia do not specify any requirements for drinking water other than for workplaces.

I have been advised that building inspection processes will be reviewed to ensure that defects in services such as water bubblers and taps are identified appropriately.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]
Environmental Health Officer
Darling Downs Public Health Unit

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