

Chris Steel MLA

Minister for Transport and City Services

Minister for Skills

Special Minister of State

Member for Murrumbidgee

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**Questions on Notice Paper No 32****30 June 2023****Question No. 1293**

MS LAWDER: To ask the Minister for Transport and City Services —

- (1) What is the preferred base for playgrounds, that is material used under play equipment, including tanbark, rubber matting, or some other soft fall material.
- (2) How many playgrounds in the ACT have (a) tanbark under them and can the Minister list them by location and (b) some other material under them, including what material is used and a list of each by location.
- (3) Does the ACT Government have a policy on ground covering material for new playgrounds; if so, can the Minister provide a copy.
- (4) Have there been reported instances of needles/syringes found in tanbark in play spaces; if so, can the Minister advise how many, including the location of each instance, for the past five financial years.
- (5) Have there been reported instances of injuries at playgrounds; if so, can the Minister provide, for each instance, the location, type of injury and number of injuries, for the past five financial years.

MR STEEL MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) The preferred base or soft fall material used under play equipment in Canberra is either an organic soft fall (tanbark) or a rubber impact attenuating surface (rubber soft fall).
- (2)
 - a) 478
 - b) 57

There are a small number of playgrounds that use sand, gravel or natural soil in general play areas not used as a soft fall material. A list of playgrounds and their locations is provided at [Attachment A](#).

- (3) The ACT Government utilises Municipal Infrastructure Technical Specifications 08B and 08C which refers to Australian Standard 4685.1 (Playground Equipment and Surfacing) when selecting soft fall for use in new playgrounds. These documents are provided at [Attachment B and C](#).

- (4) Records over the last two financial years have found one reported instance of needles/syringes found in playground tanbark. A report of capped syringes in tanbark was lodged in relation to a playground located on Crofts Crescent in Spence. It is not possible to review data from previous years due to a change in the records system.
- (5) Yes, however, there is no single data source to accurately respond to this question.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Chris Steel MLA
Minister for Transport and City Services

Date: 21/8/23

This response required 345 minutes to complete, at an approximate cost of \$413.45