The Territory Government is moving to have the asbestos registers and procedures for each public building in the Territory reviewed, Acting Chief Minister Syd Stirling said today.

Mr Stirling said the decision followed concerns that a wall panel at Leanyer Primary School not included on the school’s asbestos register has been found to contain asbestos.

“Asbestos is always a concern and we take this sort of incident very seriously,” Mr Stirling said.

“That’s why Leanyer School and NT WorkSafe have taken the precautionary measure of shutting down affected classrooms and testing air quality. I have also asked for an immediate review of what occurred at the school and why.

“We need to do everything we can to protect our children and Territory workers.

“As such, we are taking the step of re-examining the asbestos register for schools and other public buildings to ensure they are up-to-date and accurate.

“That means that when work is carried out on any of these buildings, it will be with greater confidence that all asbestos has been correctly identified.

“All procedures related to asbestos handling will also be reviewed to ensure they are world’s best practice.

“This is being done so we can be sure that, as our public buildings age, we have appropriate mechanisms in place to deal with asbestos.

“The review will be conducted as quickly as possible by all agencies involved in asbestos handling.”