



Campaign Opposing Unflued Gas Heating  
[www.cough.org.au](http://www.cough.org.au)

### **Media Release**

9 June 2011

## **Where's the timeline for the removal of unflued gas heaters?**

Fed up parents around the state continue to wait for the timeline for the removal of the tens of thousands of unflued gas heaters still operating in NSW schools.

Last year's Woolcock report found the heaters increased nitrogen dioxide and formaldehyde levels in classrooms when they were operating.

The report urged that replacing unflued gas heating with 'alternative, effective and efficient sources of domestic and public space heating that doesn't have adverse effects on health is important'.

"We are tired of waiting for bureaucrats and politicians to resolve this issue. This is about student health. The stalling has got to stop and the government needs to act on its duty of care to NSW children," says Ms Jo Keown, COUGH campaign spokeswoman.

The removal of unflued gas heaters has been a controversial issue since the 1980s (see link below). COUGH believes the Department of Education has spent too long stalling on replacing this toxic infrastructure.

"It was controversial then and now conclusively linked to increasing wheeze in children. How many decades can children and schools wait?" asked Ms Keown.

In many places around NSW recent temperatures have been below 7 degrees consistently. Other states do not use unflued gas heating in schools.

"When in opposition the then Shadow Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli said 'the heater replacement program should have started months ago'. We agree. It's time for the NSW government to prove their commitment to its children, school staff and parent volunteers in schools." Says Ms Keown.

<http://www.adrianpiccoli.com.au/media/media-releases/nsw-labor-s-legacy-dangerous-fumes-in-our-classrooms.html> - 1989 news story: <http://bit.ly/97Z7tR> ; 1991 news story <http://bit.ly/90QubK>

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|<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Say-NO-to-unflued-gas-heaters-in-NSW-schools/310390162265>

