
Gas heaters risking school children's safety

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The approach of winter, and the impending installation of 3,000 unflued gas heaters in NSW classrooms, concerns the Australian Lawyers Alliance, which fears the Department of Education may potentially be exposing students to toxic chemicals.

"The Department of Education owes a duty of care to all school students to take reasonable care for their safety," Alliance NSW president, Jnana Gumbert, said today.

"In a situation where studies have shown that unflued gas heaters emit a range of poisonous gases, which have been linked to adverse health conditions, the Department of Education would be breaching its duty of care, owed to students, in installing those heaters in schools," she said.

Ms Gumbert said the installing of unflued gas heaters is particularly unforgivable in circumstances where other, safer, options are readily available.

"Students who develop health conditions as a result of being exposed to toxins, emitted by unflued gas heaters, may be entitled to bring claims for compensation against the Department of Education," Ms Gumbert said.

For more details contact: Australian Lawyers Alliance, public affairs manager, Mandy Wyer on 0418 270 656 or Alliance NSW, Jnana Gumbert on (02) 9223 6155.