

# Dubbo North Public School

## Works notification | 12 December 2022

### Asbestos containing material has been disturbed at your school

Dear school community,

During works to install air conditioning at Dubbo North Public School as part of the Cooler Classrooms Program, a subcontractor has disturbed bonded asbestos containing material.

School Infrastructure NSW became aware of this on the afternoon of Friday 9 December and immediately engaged an independent occupational hygienist and an accredited asbestos removal contractor to plan for and undertake remediation work. We have also notified SafeWork NSW and we are following the advice and protocols of the hygienists.

The subcontractor who installed the air conditioning has cut into the eaves of several buildings to run cables, conduits and pipes through buildings. The bonded asbestos containing material that has been disturbed is outdoors and also included window putty.

### Remediation and air monitoring has been completed – the areas are safe to occupy

Air monitoring has been put in place to test whether there are any asbestos fibres in the air. The air monitoring has returned results below the minimum detection limit (i.e. <0.01 fibres/ml). The results undertaken by a suitably qualified occupational hygienist indicate the areas that have been disturbed are safe for normal use.

Remediation work completed by the accredited asbestos contractor and supervised by the hygienist involved:

- HEPA vacuuming and wet wiping
- Removal of garden mulch, dirt and other material surrounding the works areas
- Removal of 2 sections of synthetic turf to the rear of block D (this will be replaced)
- And upon completion of above processes applying a PVA solution as a precaution to all areas affected. This was not required by the hygienist, but completed as an additional measure for the abundance of caution.

The area has been inspected by a suitably qualified occupational hygienist to ensure it has been fully remediated and a clearance certificate has now been issued. This confirms the areas are safe for reoccupation and normal use.

### School Infrastructure NSW acted immediately

The Department takes immediate action in line with relevant statutory guidelines. The remediation work was undertaken to ensure no risk to students, staff or the community.

The health, safety, and wellbeing of the school and the local community is our highest priority. We apologise for the impact this has caused.

We acknowledge that hazardous materials are an unsettling experience for our school communities. Our role is to be vigilant across all our schools and to understand how these events can affect people, while providing information to help make informed decisions.

If you have questions about this incident, please contact School Infrastructure NSW on the details below.

## What can you do if you are concerned about exposure?

Concerned individuals can record their details on the National Asbestos Exposure Register. The register is managed by the Australian Government's Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency, which was created so that members of the community who think that they may have been exposed to asbestos can record the details of their exposure for their future reference. There is no minimum level of exposure required to add your details to the register.

If you have any questions regarding the register or would like to speak to someone at the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency, please call 1300 326 148.

Advice concerning the health risks of asbestos can also be obtained from your local Public Health Unit on 1300 066 055.

