

Dear staff and parents/carers,

On 14 March 2024, external sheeting panels on 4 buildings were damaged at Westport Public School.

The sheeting was suspected to contain asbestos. As a precautionary measure the area was cordoned off and made inaccessible to staff and students until the damaged material was encapsulated.

We engaged an independent hygienist to inspect the area and take samples for testing.

Testing confirmed that some of the wall sheets and sheeting seal adhesive contained asbestos. The asbestos was bonded which means it is attached to another material such as vinyl or concrete and cannot be crumbled under light pressure.

Work to remediate the area took place during the school holidays on Saturday 20 April 2024.

Additional safety measures, including air monitoring were put in place before the work started.

All work was done in accordance with work, health and safety laws and the NSW Department of Education's Asbestos Management Plan. All work was completed by licensed and accredited asbestos contractors and monitored by independent hygienists in strict accordance with all applicable legislation, regulations, policies, and guidelines.

The area was inspected by an independent hygienist to confirm it had been fully remediated, and the school received a clearance certificate. Work to install the new panels is being organised.

The health, safety, and wellbeing of the school and the local community is our highest priority.

Thank you for your cooperation during this important work.

**NSW Department of Education, School Infrastructure**

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