

Blackett Public School

Works notification | 20 February 2025

Dear staff, parents and carers,

Further to our notification on 10 February 2025, we would like to update you on our investigations into the asbestos dust found in a closet at Blackett Public School.

We advised that maintenance work was conducted as part of the NSW SafeWork Environment Survey. This was an incorrect name of the program. The correct name of the program is The Asbestos Resampling Survey.

We regularly test for hazardous materials at schools. Surveys at Blackett Public School were conducted over 7 different occasions between October 2020 and February 2025.

The Asbestos Resampling Survey seeks to test for asbestos containing materials in spaces or rooms that were previously inaccessible. In this case, the small cleaner's closet at Blackett Public School had not been available for testing and was included in this program.

We also indicated that the dust came from previous remediation work. This is also incorrect. Remediation work in this room has not been conducted because the hygienist was not able to access it in previous visits.

Air monitoring results when the closet was being cleaned and the dust removed, returned results below the minimum detectable limit, which means it is consistent with acceptable levels in ambient air (i.e. <0.01 fibres/mL) as per SafeWork NSW guidelines.

The hygienist confirmed that there is no asbestos in the room including in the walls, floors and ceiling and determined that the source of the dust is unknown.

If you have any questions about this work, please contact us on the details below. Please note our community phone and email are staffed Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm.

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

We sincerely apologise for any confusion this may have caused and thank you for your cooperation during this important work.

Notification issued on 10 February 2025

During the Summer School Holidays, we conducted maintenance work at Blackett Public School as part of the NSW SafeWork Environment survey.

This involved an independent hygienist capturing data of any non-registered spaces for the school's asbestos register.

On Thursday 30 January 2025, the hygienist tested a small cleaner's closet in Building C that was not listed on the register.



Dust particles on a surface in the closet were found to contain friable asbestos. Friable asbestos can be crumbled, pulverised or reduced to a powder by hand pressure. It is our understanding that these particles came from previous remediation work.

The room was immediately locked and made inaccessible to any cleaning staff on site.

On Saturday 1 February 2025, an independent hygienist removed all dust particles in the area with specialist cleaning materials and performed air monitoring.

Air monitoring returned results below the minimum detectable limit, which means it is consistent with acceptable levels in ambient air (i.e. <0.01 fibres/mL) as per SafeWork NSW guidelines.

These results represent a consistent finding that there is not a detectable level of asbestos fibres in the air in this area. Asbestos fibres pose a risk to health if airborne. In this case the evidence and advice from our hygienist is that there is not airborne asbestos in this area.

All work was done in accordance with work health and safety laws and the NSW Department of Education's Asbestos Management Plan. Safety measures were in place while work was done. All work was completed by licensed asbestos contractors and monitored by independent hygienists.

Once the hygienist was satisfied the room had been fully remediated, a clearance certificate was issued and the room was added to the school's asbestos register.

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