

NSW Department of Education
Heathcote High School
Works notification | 17 June 2024



Dear staff, parents, and carers,

During a routine inspection on 27 May 2024 at Heathcote High School, fragments of suspected bonded asbestos-containing material were found on the ground between the gym and sports oval.

Following the find, the area was immediately cordoned off and made inaccessible to students and staff. As a precaution, an independent hygienist was engaged, the fragments were removed for testing and the area was cleared outside of school hours on 30 May 2024. Testing confirmed one of the fragments contained bonded asbestos which means it was attached to other materials such as tiles or cement and cannot be crumbled by light pressure.

NSW Health explains that if bonded asbestos is mixed with cement or other hard bonding materials, and in good condition, it is likely to be low-risk.

The school has a site-specific asbestos management plan for known asbestos in-ground. The fragments were found in an area already listed on the school's site-specific asbestos management plan and the school's asbestos register has been updated to include this find. Additional safety measures and air monitoring were in place before the work started. The area was inspected by the independent hygienist to confirm it was fully remediated, and a clearance certificate was issued before the area was reopened.

All work was done outside of school hours, 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 and accredited asbestos contractors and monitored by independent hygienists in strict accordance with all applicable legislation, regulations, policies, and guidelines.

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

If you have any questions about this work, please contact the NSW Department of Education on the details below.

Thank you for your cooperation during this important work.

NSW Department of Education, School Infrastructure

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