

Doonside Technology High School

Works notification | 19 August 2024

Dear staff, parents and carers,

On Monday 12 August 2024, we were undertaking precautionary testing in the ceiling cavities in Building D in preparation for ceiling restoration work at Doonside Technology High School.

The preliminary tests returned a positive result for asbestos in the ceiling cavities above 2 classrooms on Level 1. As a precautionary measure, the rooms below the affected ceiling cavities were immediately locked.

Students and staff who normally use these rooms were relocated to other classrooms in the school to continue their face-to-face learning.

We engaged an independent hygienist to attend the site that afternoon to assist with our investigations and conduct air monitoring.

On Wednesday 14 August 2024, the independent hygienist confirmed dust samples taken from high-level surfaces, on top of the air conditioning unit and a ceiling beam in one of the rooms tested positive for asbestos.

Other surfaces in the room that had dust samples taken, tested negative. These surfaces included windowsills, table surfaces and a classroom cabinet.

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.

We are waiting for the full hygienist report with recommendations, however in the meantime the independent hygienist has provided interim recommendations that included an environmental clean for the 2 classrooms and as a precautionary measure, all rooms on Level 1 of the building.

This work was completed outside of school hours, Friday 16 August - Sunday 18 August 2024.

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 and accredited asbestos contractors and monitored by independent hygienists in strict accordance with all applicable legislation, regulations, policies, and guidelines.

A clearance certificate is expected to be issued from the independent hygienist today, Monday 19 August 2024. Regardless of clearance, we will keep the 2 rooms closed until the ceiling restoration work has been completed. This work is still being organised and we will continue to keep you informed.

Until then, students and staff will continue learning from alternate classrooms.

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.

