

Broken Hill Community

Community Update | 19 March 2024

Dear community members,

We have an update on Willyama High School, which has been recently impacted by mould that was discovered during the 2023/24 summer break.

The Broken Hill community has come together to support the Willyama High School students and staff, and we will be with the community every step of the way.

Report from the occupational hygienist

Extensive sampling and testing have been conducted by the independent occupational hygienist at Willyama High School in January and February 2024.

The hygienist found active microbial growth throughout the main three-storey campus building, including the adjoining administration office at Willyama High School. The mould outbreak was classified as the most severe, Condition 3, which means there is a high level of actual fungal growth.

The hygienist's report identifies multiple contributing factors included moisture within the building following carpet cleaning during the summer break and air conditioning operating without ventilation, water ingress with significant levels of rain in January, and storage issues preventing routine cleaning.

The report concluded that even after remediation works the recurrence of mould growth is likely.

Based on these findings, the NSW Government has supported a plan to rebuild Willyama High School on the same site.

The independent occupational hygienist's report to the NSW Department of Education is available on the [Willyama High School website](https://willyama-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/news.html) at <https://willyama-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/news.html>.

Next steps

We will continue to work closely with the Willyama High School staff and student bodies, alongside the wider community, to reunite all Willyama High School students within the Broken Hill High School site.

A pop-up school is currently being installed on the Broken Hill High School site to provide staff and students with high quality facilities and amenities, and is on track to be delivered for Day 1, Term 2.

We will organise community consultation soon to further understand the community's preferences and aspirations for education in Broken Hill. In the meantime, please register your interest at <https://edu.nsw.link/Willyama-community> to be notified once details of the consultation are available.



Providing support

Staff and students of Willyama High School will be provided with additional wellbeing support throughout this process.

Keeping you informed

We are committed to continuing to keep the school community updated as we progress with our work.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the department at schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au or during business hours on 1300 483 651.

