

# CRINGILA PUBLIC SCHOOL INDOOR AIR QUALITY RISK ASSESSMENT

Summary Report  
15/11/2021 – 26/11/2021

NSW Department  
of Education

Cringila Public School

35 Sheffield Street  
Cringila NSW 2502

November 2021  
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# Air Monitoring Risk Assessment - IAQ

## Cringila Public School

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## 1.INTRODUCTION

At the request of the Department of Education, Greencap were engaged to undertake indoor air monitoring utilising real-time monitoring devices at Cringila Public School, 35 Sheffield Street Cringila NSW 2502. The aim of this monitoring program was primarily to investigate concerns raised by school employees and the Department of Education regarding the potential exposure to elevated concentrations of air pollutants, specifically carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and Carbon Monoxide (CO), during the normal occupation of rooms within the school.

## 2.OBJECTIVES

Based on the correspondence provided by the NSW Department of Education, the objective of this assessment is to undertake an assessment of the indoor air quality to determine the concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> and CO within buildings at Cringila Public School.

This report presents the results relating to the weekly indoor air quality monitoring investigation carried out within the Entry (Room 7R0008) in Building B007 between 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at Cringila Public School. The locations of the monitoring are displayed in **Appendix A: Site Map and Sample Locations**.

## 3.ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The following paragraphs list the relevant standards and guidelines used as a reference in this assessment. These reference sources included Approved Methods for Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in NSW (NSW EPA 2016), Workplace Exposure Standards for Airborne Contaminants (SWA, 2013), ASHRAE Standard 62.1 Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality (2016), or equivalent publications as a point of reference. For the purpose of this assessment, these criteria values will be referenced as they are deemed to be the most conservative levels based on the monitoring works undertaken.

### 3.1 Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)

Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) measurements are compared against the ASHRAE Standard 62-2010 *Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality* (American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers).

CO<sub>2</sub> measurements provide an indication of the adequacy of fresh air levels supplied to rooms within a building. A person's comfort and health may be affected by high concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub>.

For the purpose of this assessment, the recorded CO<sub>2</sub> measurements will be referenced against the ASHRAE Guideline value of 1,000 parts per million (ppm). This criterion is set for human comfort factors and is deemed to be the most conservative level to adopt.

CO<sub>2</sub> is a normal constituent of exhaled breath and is commonly measured as a screening tool to evaluate whether adequate volumes of fresh outdoor air are being introduced into indoor air.

The outdoor level of CO<sub>2</sub> usually ranges from 300 ppm to 400 ppm. The CO<sub>2</sub> level is usually greater inside a building than outside, even in buildings with few complaints about indoor air quality. If indoor carbon dioxide levels are more than 1,000 ppm, there is probably inadequate ventilation; and complaints such as headaches, fatigue, and eye and throat irritation may be prevalent.

### 3.2 Carbon Monoxide (CO)

Sampling for carbon monoxide provides an indication of the level of combustion by-products that may impinge on air quality.

The National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure (EPA 2016) specifies an indoor air quality standard of 9.0 parts per million (ppm) as a maximum concentration. This is considered the most relevant concentration for carbon monoxide and is consistent with other international guidelines such as the World Health Organisation (WHO).

## 4. INDOOR AIR QUALITY MONITORING METHODOLOGY

### 4.1 Indoor Air Quality Monitoring

Indoor air quality monitoring was conducted at a single location over the course of a school day to study the concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> and CO within school buildings while they are occupied. Weekly monitoring was conducted within the Entry (Room 7R0008) in Building B007.

In this assessment, RAE Systems Multi RAE Gas Detectors were used with a specific sensor configuration to target CO<sub>2</sub> and CO concentrations to be assessed against the relevant guidelines as detailed above.

### 4.2 Data Analysis and Reporting

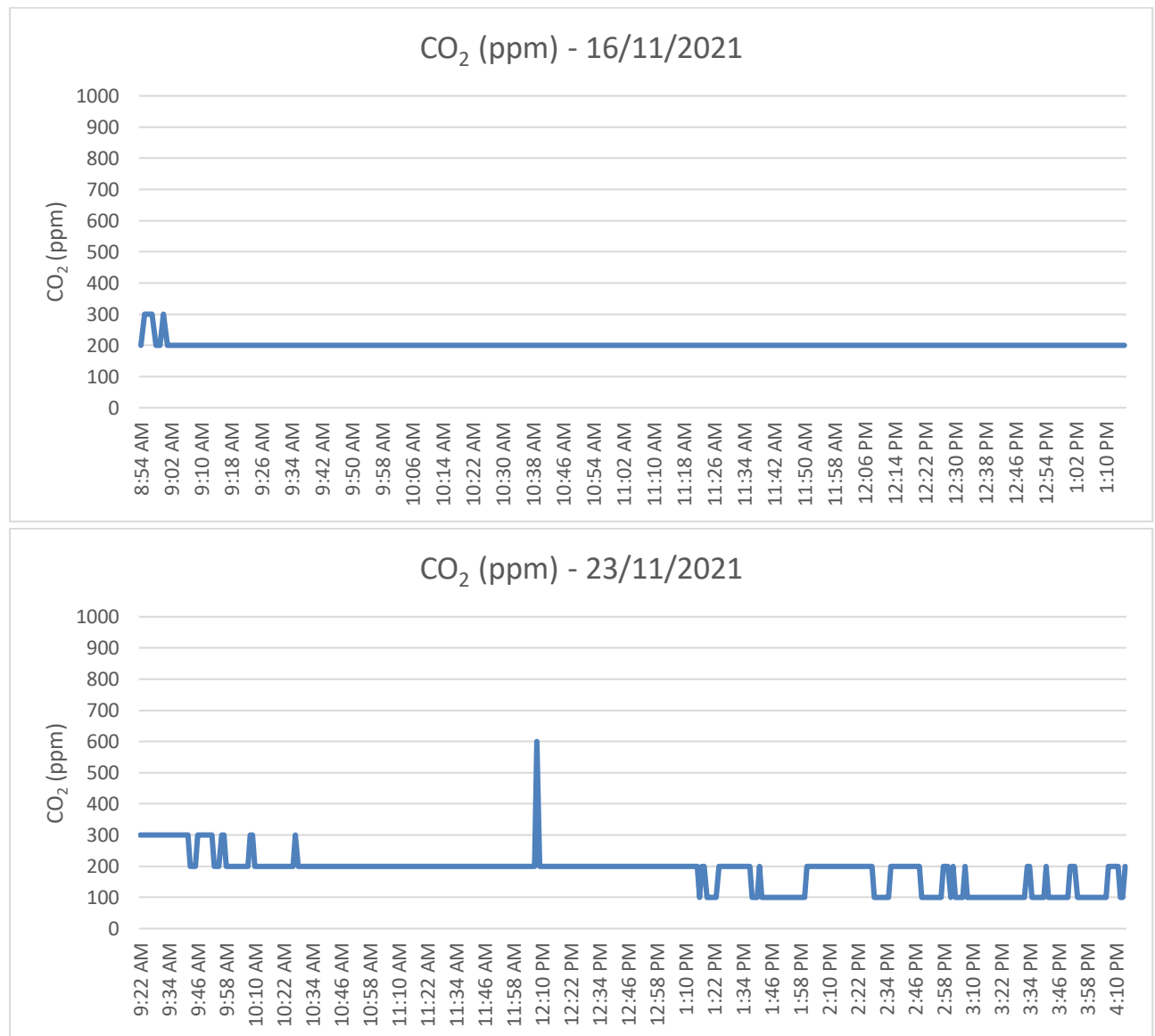
The MultiRAE Gas Detector units are configured to log data at one-minute intervals and left to run over a representative period. Logged data was downloaded from the device and tabulated in this report to present the results. Refer to **Section 5: Indoor Air Quality Monitoring Results**.

## 5. INDOOR AIR QUALITY MONITORING RESULTS

### 5.1 Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)

The Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) concentration results for the monitoring period are summarised below in **Figure 1**. Monitoring locations are displayed in **Appendix A: Site Map and Sampling Locations**.

Figure 1: Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) monitoring results



### 5.2 Carbon Monoxide (CO)

The Carbon Monoxide (CO) concentration results for the monitoring period were consistently 0ppm.

## 6. DISCUSSION

### 6.1 Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)

The monitoring results for CO<sub>2</sub> within the Entry (Room 7R0008) in Building B007 at Cringila Public School ranged between 100ppm and 600ppm during the period of monitoring. No results were found to exceed the ASHRAE guideline level of 1,000 ppm.

It should be noted that the adopted ASHRAE Guideline of 1,000 ppm is set for comfort only. A time weighted average (TWA) of 5,000 ppm has been set by Safe Work Australia for health purposes. It should also be noted that short term static monitoring results cannot be compared to exposure monitoring criteria and therefore may be used as guidance only with regard to concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> in these locations.

Adequate supply of fresh air is required to dilute CO<sub>2</sub> and other pollutants to acceptable levels for human comfort and health considerations.

### 6.2 Carbon Monoxide (CO)

The peak monitoring results for CO within the Entry (Room 7R0008) in Building B007 at Cringila Public School were consistently 0ppm during each period of monitoring. All results were below the adopted maximum guideline level of 9 ppm.

## 7. CONCLUSION

This concludes the indoor air quality monitoring summary report for monitoring conducted between 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021. It is recommended that weekly assessments are continued in order to gain firm and reliable data sets regarding the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> and CO within indoor environments at the school whilst further investigation of the site is undertaken.



# **Indoor Air Quality Risk Assessment**

## **Cringila Public School**

### **Appendix A: Site Map and Sampling Location**



**Legend:**

- ✕ Air Quality Monitoring Location
- Northwest Hotspot Investigation Area

Site	Cringila Public School
Monitoring Location	Entry (7R0008)
Job Number	J172171
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# Indoor Air Quality Risk Assessment

## Cringila Public School

### Appendix B: Calibration Certificate