



# Gladstone Views Primary School

Community Forum 15 December 2017

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Event Details

1. When was the damage found and when was it reported?

On 16 November 2017, a staff member at the school identified the damage. The Principal immediately called the Department of Education and Training's asbestos hotline, and arranged for the area to be isolated. Our licensed asbestos removalist and hygienist attended the school the same day.

2. Which rooms have had works?

Please see **Attachment 1** for a map of where works were undertaken, and a description of what happened.

3. What is the cause of this damage?

The cause of the damage is unknown.

4. Nineteen dust samples were taken and four came back positive. Where were they found?

Please see **Attachment 2** for a map of where the positive dust samples were found.

5. What is the risk posed by the dust?

The Department's occupational hygienist has assessed the risk posed by dust being found in the rafters as extremely low and the carpet as low.

6. What is an environmental clean?

Only a licensed asbestos removalist is qualified to conduct an environmental clean. They remove all dust/debris in the area using an industrial grade High



Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) vacuum and wet wiping methods. Once the environmental clean has finished, our hygienists will conduct a thorough visual inspection and undertake further air monitoring. An environmental clean will usually extend beyond the area(s) affected by any contamination as a precautionary measure.

7. What is the relevance of air monitoring?

Asbestos only poses a risk when the fibres are inhaled. Because we prioritise the safety of school communities, we always arrange air monitoring before during and after works. The results of the air monitoring consistently state that there have been no fibres above the limit of detection. This means that the air in the school is the same as the air outside.

8. Some furniture was moved into the prep rooms, was this furniture cleaned?

Yes, this furniture was included in the environmental clean.

9. Why was the carpet replaced?

We removed and replaced the carpet as a precautionary measure. The occupational hygienist reported that the risk posed by the dust found in the carpet was low. However, because there were trace amounts, we have taken additional precautions to ensure the ongoing safety of the school community.

10. What does low risk really mean?

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral. 'We are all exposed to low levels of asbestos in the air we breathe every day. However, most people do not become ill from this exposure, because the levels of asbestos present in the environment are very low. Most people are also exposed to higher levels of asbestos at some time in their lives, and this kind of infrequent exposure is also unlikely to result in any ill effects' (ref: *Asbestos - a guide for householders and the general public* – enHealth February 2013).

11. Should this incident have been handled differently?

We can assure you that this incident was managed in full accordance with occupational health and safety requirements. As soon as the damage was identified, the Principal closed the area off, contacted the hotline, and contractors came out and made the area safe. A hygienist conducted air testing and monitoring and found that airborne fibres were below the limit of



detection. Worksafe also attended the school on 22 November and reported that "the Principal has promptly and effectively attended to these matters as soon as identified to mitigate the risk as far as reasonably practicable."

12. What is Worksafe's role?

Worksafe is an independent statutory body whose role is to enforce Victoria's occupational health and safety laws.

## Asbestos Management

13. How is asbestos managed in schools?

All schools, including Gladstone Views, have a site-specific Asbestos Management Plan, which identifies where asbestos-containing-materials are located and how to effectively manage them. Schools maintain an asbestos register and this is kept in the administration area, to be checked before any work is undertaken at the school and then updated afterwards. A visual inspection of facilities is conducted every three months, and any changes or concerns are noted. All buildings containing asbestos have warning labels displayed. The Department also provides a 24 hour advice and response hotline that allows schools to access advice, raise any concerns and arrange asbestos site inspections, incident responses, risk assessment and planned removal works.

14. Does the school complete routine inspections of asbestos containing material?

As part of the school's Asbestos Management Plan, quarterly inspections of all asbestos-containing-material at the school are undertaken, and any changes or concerns are noted. Gladstone View Primary School's last visual inspection was conducted in September 2017. No damage was identified at this time.

15. When was the last asbestos audit conducted by the Department?

Under the legislation, we are required to undertake an audit of the school every five years. The last asbestos audit report was issued in September 2017.

16. Where else is there asbestos in the school and what rating does it have?

You may view a copy of the school's asbestos register at the front reception. Please be reassured that all remaining asbestos in the school is in good condition and does not pose a risk.



17. Are the works related to the works completed on the roof during the term 3 school holidays?

The works on the roof were external only and are unrelated.

18. What induction is there for trades people and volunteer workers performing any work within the school? What checks are in place?

All contractors undertaking maintenance, repair work, or services at schools must be approved prior to commencing. They are then inducted onto the school site, which provides them with information and instructions about the policies, procedures and processes that must be followed while on the premises, including hazardous safety management processes.

Contractors must review the school's current Asbestos Management Plan and Division 5 Audit Report before undertaking any works.

Contractors are also required to provide information about relevant licences and certificates. Volunteers must also be inducted similarly onto school sites, but they are not permitted to undertake any high risk tasks.

## Next Steps

19. What are the next steps?

While the school is currently safe, we are taking additional precautions to remove asbestos that may be damaged in the future. These works will occur over the school holidays and includes:

- Vinyl floor sheeting in the Junior Building
- Cement sheet in the toilet
- All low level ACM cement sheet window panels

20. I would like there to be a record made of this incident.

This incident, and the names of any parties potentially affected, will be recorded in the Department's incident reporting system, eduSafe. This will ensure that a permanent record is kept. Please contact front reception if you would like to lodge an eduSafe report.



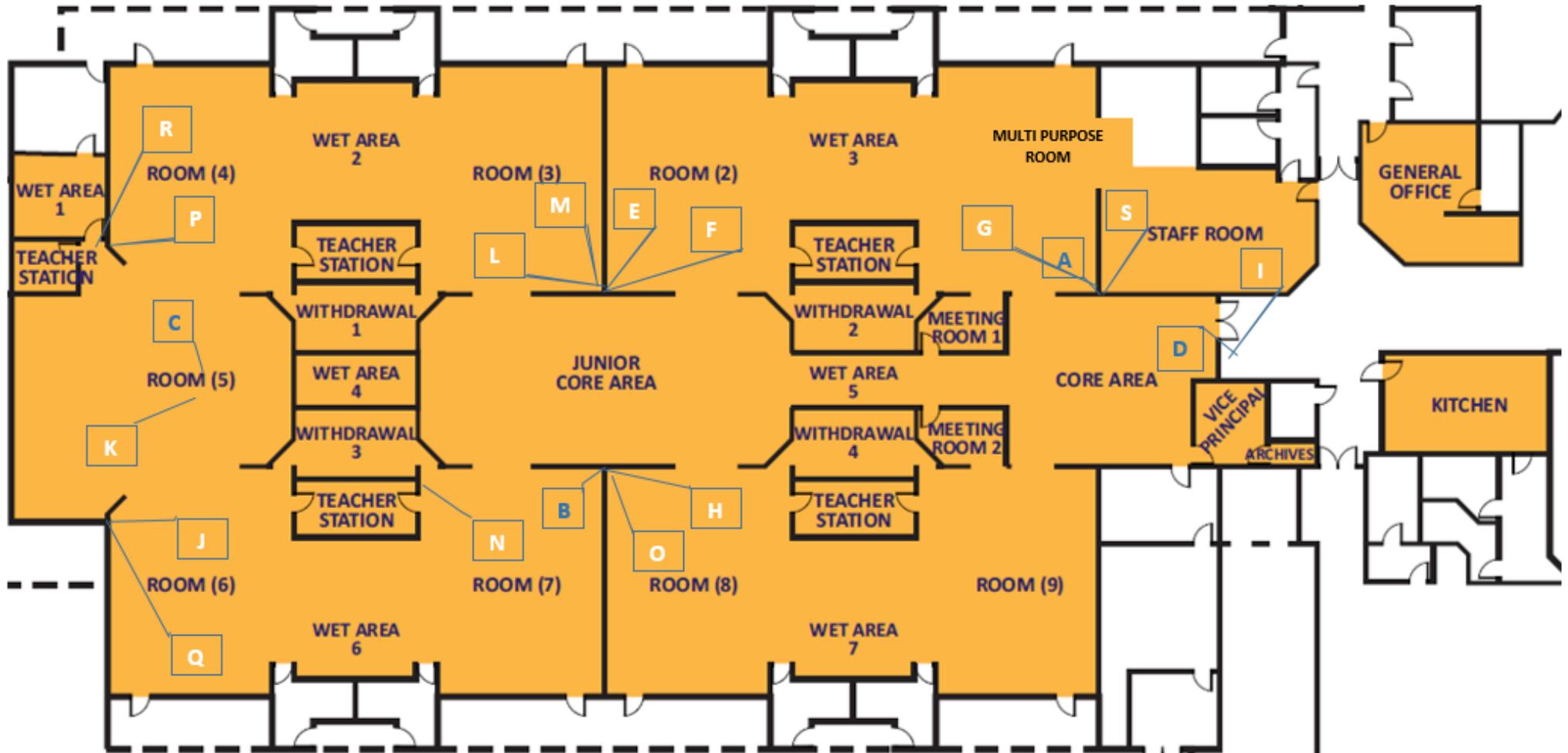
## General queries about maintenance

21. What is the general condition rating of our buildings and when were they last assessed?

The most up-to-date condition assessment was undertaken in 2012. At this time, Gladstone Views buildings were assessed overall as 3.95 out of 5, which is considered to be 'good' condition.

22. Will Gladstone Views be receiving any State Budget funding for maintenance?

Schools receive maintenance funding as part of their Student Resource Package (SRP). This funding should be used to address maintenance issues as they arise.



## Attachment 1 – Map of locations where dust samples were taken

ID	Room	Location	Result/s	Status
A	Multi-purpose	South-eastern corner	Beneath infill panels – Dust on carpet (on tape)	<b>Positive</b>
B	Room (7)	North-eastern corner	Infill panels – Dust on carpet (on tape)	<b>Positive</b>
C	Room (5)	Centre of Room	Beneath infill panels – Dust on rafter	<b>Positive</b>
D	45 Core Area	Outside 52 Vice Prin	Beneath infill panels – Dust on rafter	<b>Positive</b>
E	Room (2)	South-western corner	Beneath infill panels – Dust to carpet	Negative
F	Room (2)	South-western corner	Beneath infill panels – Dust on rafter	Negative
G	Multi-purpose	South-eastern corner	Beneath infill panels – Dust on rafter	Negative
H	Room (8)	North-western corner	Beneath infill panels – Dust on carpet (on tape)	Negative
I	45 Core Area	Outside 52 Vice Prin	Beneath infill panels – Dust on carpet (on tape)	Negative
J	Room (6)	North-western	Beneath infill panels – Dust on carpet (on tape)	Negative
K	Room (5)	Centre of Room	Beneath infill panels – Dust on carpet (on tape)	Negative
L	Room (3)	South-eastern corner	Beneath infill panels – Dust on carpet	Negative
M	Room (3)	South-eastern corner	Beneath infill panels – Dust on rafter	Negative
N	Room (7)	North-eastern corner	Beneath infill panels – Dust on rafter	Negative
O	Room (8)	North-western corner	Beneath infill panels – Dust on rafter	Negative
P	Room (4)	South-western corner	Beneath infill panels – Dust on carpet (on tape)	Negative
Q	Room (6)	North-western corner	Beneath infill panels – Dust on rafter	Negative
R	Room (4)	South-western corner	Beneath infill panels – Dust on rafter	Negative
S	50 Staff Room	South-western corner	Beneath infill panels – Dust on rafter	Negative

## Attachment 2 – Works to date

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location/s</b>	<b>Description</b>
16th – 19th Nov- 2017	Junior area classrooms, general office, kitchen & staff room	Dust sampling was undertaken on the rafters and carpets adjacent to where damaged cement sheet upper infill panels were located
16th – 19th Nov- 2017	Junior area classrooms, general office, kitchen & staff room	Removed carpet as an additional precaution (~900m <sup>2</sup> )
16th – 19th Nov- 2017	Junior area classrooms, general office, kitchen & staff room	Carried out thorough environmental clean
16th – 19th Nov- 2017	Junior area classrooms	Removed cement sheet upper infill panels (~20m <sup>2</sup> )
16th – 19th Nov- 2017	Junior area classrooms	Encapsulated cement sheet upper infill panels (~20m <sup>2</sup> )
16th – 19th Nov- 2017	Junior area classrooms, general office, kitchen & staff room	Removed non-fixed items & materials
16th – 19th Nov- 2017	Teacher Station 34, Teacher Station 14, Teacher Station 16, Teacher Station 2, Withdrawal (2) & Withdrawal (3) 17.	Encapsulated paper backed vinyl floor tile coverings underneath the carpet
27th–Nov 17	Art Class area 2 66 E11239	Reviewed paper lining under vinyl flooring. Removal of a section (approximately 1 linear metre) of paper lined vinyl flooring to enable electrical wiring repair.
30th-Nov 17	Junior Block - 6 x toilet blocks	Senior wing – review 6 x toilet blocks. Encapsulation works.