

Fact Sheet

Griffith Base Hospital Redevelopment

Mid 2025

Hazardous material on the redevelopment site

This factsheet provides staff, patients, neighbours and the hospital community with information about the safe removal and management of hazardous material on the Griffith Base Hospital Redevelopment site.

Many of the old hospital buildings on the site will be demolished to make way for the new hospital's main entry, drop-off zone and carpark.

Due to the age of the buildings at Griffith Base Hospital, there are known hazardous materials, that were previously used as building materials.

The health, safety and well-being of the community is our highest priority and we will implement a rigorous process to ensure the safe removal and disposal of hazardous materials.

FAQs

What is hazardous material?

Asbestos is the main hazardous material on construction sites and is a naturally occurring mineral. Asbestos was used as a construction material up until the 1980s because of its strong fibres, low cost and fire-retardant properties.

Where is asbestos used?

Most Australian buildings, including houses and hospitals built before the 1990s contain asbestos in roofing, guttering, vinyl flooring, wall sheeting and many other products. Fragments from historical construction work can also be found in the ground during excavation. The presence of asbestos is not considered harmful unless it is disturbed and inhaled.



When does asbestos pose a risk to health?

Asbestos fibres can pose a risk to health if they become airborne, as inhalation is the main way that asbestos enters the body.

Small quantities of asbestos fibres are present in the air at all times.

Finding that your home or workplace has asbestos does not mean your health is at risk.

People who have suffered health effects from exposure to asbestos have usually had high levels of exposure to airborne dust. They commonly worked in either the asbestos mining or milling industry, industries involved in making or installing asbestos products, or are from the immediate families of these people. This was before disposable protective clothing requirements and other measures were introduced.

The health and safety of our staff, patients, families, and visitors is always our priority.

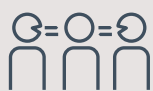
If you have any questions please contact the project team.

How is hazardous material managed on site?

Hazardous material found on sites is managed in strict accordance with Safe Work NSW and applicable legislation and guidelines.

Asbestos removal is carried out by a licenced specialist contractor under strict conditions. When removing asbestos, work is scheduled to ensure no risk to consumers, staff or the community including:

- High visibility signage will be displayed in the vicinity of worksites to notify staff and visitors of works involving hazardous materials.
- Environmental site assessment and detailed surveys (above and below ground), including air monitoring for baseline readings.
- A detailed process including isolation of the areas, establishing exclusion zone and appropriate disposal to a licensed facility to ensure the safety of staff and the community.



For an interpreter, call 131 450 and ask them to call 02 9978 5402

For more information

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