



## Frequently Asked Questions – Harrison School

### **How and when was the asbestos discovered?**

A parent raised a concern with the school on Monday. Testing began on Tuesday and is continuing this week. This testing was initially considered to be a precautionary measure given the relatively recent construction of the school. When the testing report was received on Wednesday, WorkSafe ACT was notified and action was taken to prevent access to the affected areas when students returned to school on Thursday. The Education Directorate is investigating the source of the material, including when it was supplied to the school.

### **What were the results of the tests?**

Non-friable asbestos-containing material (bonded cement sheet debris) was found in the recycled building material mixed with gravel used as ground cover in some garden beds. The licensed asbestos consultant engaged to conduct testing found the asbestos-containing cement sheet debris was randomly dispersed and in very low concentration compared with the volume of fill. All samples were non-friable.

### **Where is the non-friable asbestos-containing material located?**

The assessors reported that this material was identified in some garden beds. Further testing of all garden beds at the school is now occurring. As a precautionary measure, all garden beds at Harrison School have been declared out of bounds until testing is completed and fencing is being installed to prevent access to the gardens.

### **What is the asbestos removal plan and what will happen to the gardens?**

Fencing has been installed to prevent access to the gardens at the school. An asbestos management plan is being prepared for the school by the licensed asbestos consultant. Removal works of the garden bed material will be completed by licensed asbestos removalists. A plan to rehabilitate the affected gardens will also be developed.

### **Are there any plans to close Harrison School until all the asbestos has been removed?**

No, the school remains open but access to the garden beds has been prevented for the safety of students, staff and community members attending the school.

### **Who can parents and teachers speak with about this matter?**

In the first instance, please speak to Harrison School's principal Jason Holmes.

Asbestos information is also available at <https://www.asbestossafety.gov.au/asbestos-information>

Information about health and asbestos is also available from your GP or at:

<http://www.health.act.gov.au/datapublications/fact-sheets/environmental-health#Asbestos>