

## **Friable Asbestos Incident - Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. How serious is this issue/are we taking it seriously enough?**

Exposure to asbestos is a serious issue however, the testing that has been conducted to date following this incident has shown that there is no presence of asbestos particles outside of the small impacted area on Level 2. Tape adhesive testing (industry best practice) has been conducted by EnviroScience Solutions across Level 1, 2 and 3. Testing results have come back negative for asbestos for Level 1, 3 and the Peel Street end of Level 2. 11 samples were taken from the Kable Avenue end of Level 2. Only 2 samples detected asbestos; these samples were located in the Kable Avenue/Fitzroy Street corner of Level 2. The fibres detected were deemed to be Chrysotile, Organic. The remaining 9 samples did not detect asbestos. We are waiting results of other testing that has been undertaken.

### **2. Why is there asbestos in Ray Walsh House?**

Vermiculite, the material which contains asbestos particles, was a common material used in construction when Ray Walsh House was built due to its light-weight, fire-resistant and odorless properties.

### **3. How do we guarantee that asbestos containing material won't fall on someone else's head in the future?**

A very thorough investigation is currently being undertaken which identify existing risks, and will provide associated risk assessment and/or management plan.

### **4. How do we guarantee that the work environment is free of asbestos?**

Adhesive tape testing, airborne testing and other ceiling space testing for asbestos will be conducted once the air conditioner has been turned on. Testing results from these will be able to ensure that the work environment is free of asbestos.

### **5. What maintenance is/can be done in the roof cavity to ensure something similar doesn't happen in the future?**

This will be determined and established by the risk assessment/management plan after the occupational hygienists have undertaken their assessments.

### **6. Who is doing the risk assessment to inform when and under what circumstances staff can return to the building – is this someone independent?**

EnviroScience solutions have been engaged and are undertaking the site assessment and scope of works for remediation of the workplace. They include qualified occupational hygienists with experience in asbestos matters.

### **7. Are we going to share the results of the risk assessment and air monitoring etc with staff before they come back to the office, together with further details of clean-up work and further remediation work, if any, being undertaken?**

Yes, any staff member who wishes to view a copy of the risk assessment and management plan will be able to do so once they are available.

## **8. I have left work and personal items inside the building – when can I collect these?**

We are working closely with EnviroScience Solutions to develop and understand a safe method for this to be undertaken. We understand that this is a widespread situation. Further advice will be communicated with staff once we have it.

## **9. What is health monitoring?**

Health monitoring is undertaken by a health professional and may include respiratory function tests and a chest x-ray or physical examination. Initial results form a baseline and based on the risk of exposure or potential exposure, further testing may follow at regular intervals, for example every two years.

## **10. Do I need health monitoring?**

The Health and Wellbeing team will be in contact with employees directly impacted for further information and advice regarding health monitoring. Other staff who have questions should speak to their supervisor or manager or contact Mags or Amanda in the Health and Wellbeing team. Further information will follow in regard to health monitoring requirements.

## **11. What if I'm feeling anxious about this recent occurrence at Ray Walsh House?**

Employees can contact the Health and Wellbeing team if they have concerns. The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is also available for staff and details are located on MILO in the Health and Wellbeing section. Follow the link below for full details on how to access the EAP program - <https://milo.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/staff-information/health-wellbeing/mental-health>

## **12. Where do I go for further information?**

Employees can speak to their supervisor or manager in the first instance. They can also contact the Risk and Safety or Health and wellbeing teams for further information or guidance.