

FIRE SAFETY REVIEW UPDATE

Health Infrastructure working in partnership with the NSW Government Cladding Taskforce has carried out a preliminary review of all its NSW Health registered assets.

A total of 4,621 individual hospital buildings and structures across NSW were assessed as part of the review. This represented all facilities on the NSW Health asset register.

Having assessed available facility information, and undertaken site inspections of 94 buildings, the review found buildings at three hospital sites where cladding will need to be removed due to fire safety risk. These are:

- Queanbeyan Hospital, Main Building
- Armidale Hospital, Ambulatory Care Building
- John Hunter Hospital, Royal Newcastle Centre (RNC) Building.

Work to remove the external cladding from Queanbeyan Hospital and Armidale Hospital is already underway, and will begin at John Hunter Hospital in early 2018.

Interim measures are being put in place immediately at John Hunter Hospital to reduce the safety risk until the cladding is removed. These include removing panels from high risk areas, improving evacuation procedures and liaising closely with emergency services.

Inspections of lower risk buildings at five additional sites are ongoing and will be reported on by Health Infrastructure when the results are known.

A preliminary summary report detailing which buildings will require fire safety improvement works will be made available once investigations are complete and recommendations from the fire safety experts are finalised.

"Health Infrastructure has undertaken an extensive amount of work to ensure our methodology and approach is thorough, and we assess each and every building on the Asset Management Register," Health Infrastructure's Chief Executive, Sam Sangster said.