

UPDATED NATIONAL WA HOSPITALS

# Potentially combustible cladding found at Fiona Stanley Hospital

By [Hamish Hastie](#)

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The Australian Medical Association WA has called on the government to complete the testing of cladding at WA hospitals as soon as possible after Fiona Stanley Hospital bosses confirmed the presence of potentially dangerous cladding.

In an email sent to all staff on Monday Fiona Stanley Fremantle hospitals group executive director Neil Doverty and south metro health service chief executive Paul Forden said aluminium composite panels had been used on the state's largest hospital.



Fiona Stanley hospital was built with potentially dangerous cladding. PETER BENNETTS / FIONA STANLEY HOSPITAL DESIGN COLLABORATION

The cladding is the same material experts believe may have added to the ferocity of the fire that killed 72 people in the Grenfell tower fire in London in 2017.

"Specialist fire engineers have confirmed the presence of Aluminium Composite Panel panels on the exterior of the Fiona Stanley Hospital," the email read.

"While the use of ACP panels was previously approved under the Building Code of Australia, they are now considered a combustible building material.

"We are working with the Department of Health on a plan to replace the cladding, where required; with the timeframes for remediation to be confirmed."



Smoke and flames rise from the Grenfell Tower building. MATT DUNHAM

The email said the safety of staff and patients was a priority but there was no need to relocate either.

"Our ongoing comprehensive staff fire safety training and regular fire hydrant and evacuation testing are an important part of our risk mitigation, but we will be investigating additional safety measures to further mitigate any risk," it read.

AMA WA president Dr Omar Khorshid said he was surprised it had taken so long to completely check WA hospital infrastructure.

"It is concerning that after almost two years since the Grenfell Tower tragedy, we are still having testing done of cladding in Perth," he said.

"Although the risk is low, those who work in, stay and visit our hospitals are entitled to know that these vital buildings are the safest they can possible be.

"It is a great pity that it took so many deaths in London to expose the dangers of flammable cladding. It is vital that all hospital buildings are tested as soon as possible and remedial action taken promptly when necessary."

In a statement the Department of Health said work would soon commence on a remediation strategy but it did not reveal how much cladding was on the hospital, how much it would cost to replace or how long it would take.

The hospital cost has 783 beds, cost \$2 billion and began accepting patients in 2014.

The Grenfell fire triggered building audits around the world including in WA by the building commissioner.

Last year Health Minister Roger Cook said he was confident neither Fiona Stanley Hospital or the Perth Children's Hospital would be caught up in the cladding audit.

The hospital is one of four Department of Health buildings requiring remediation work following a state-wide audit of public and private buildings.

Currently 14 public buildings and 15 private buildings have been identified in the audit.

[In February Attorney General John Quigley said none of the private buildings identified in the audit posed 'extreme risks' to inhabitants.](#)



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