

# The West Australian

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## King Edward Memorial Hospital cladding being replaced over fire risk after audit in wake of Grenfell Tower tragedy

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WA's biggest maternity hospital is at the centre of a fire safety scare.



Work to replace potentially flammable aluminium cladding at King Edward Memorial Hospital has started, after an audit of the building in the wake of the Grenfell Tower tragedy.

Health Department director general David Russell-Weisz said an aluminium composite cladding was found on the building's facade as part of a State-wide audit.

The cladding was similar to that used in the Grenfell Tower in London, where a fire in June 2017 killed 72 people.

Dr Russell-Weisz said a fire risk assessment of the Subiaco maternity hospital prompted the Health Department to take immediate action.

“Core samples of the ACP cladding were taken for laboratory testing to confirm their material type,” he said.

“The results indicate the panels should be removed as a safety precaution.”

He said there was no need to relocate staff or patients.

“Action has been taken to ensure the ongoing safety of staff and patients within the hospital, including fire system testing and re-confirming that all hospital staff are fully trained in evacuation procedures,” Dr Russell-Weisz said.

The Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety is examining the cladding of more than 100 buildings as part of the safety review.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services new head office and two private buildings in the Pilbara are among the buildings that need remedial works.

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