

# Fiona Stanley Hospital: No combustible panels removed, more than two years after hazard revealed



**John Flint** The West Australian  
Tue, 7 September 2021 4:00AM [Comments](#)

**John Flint**



Fiona Stanley Hospital just after its completion in 2013. Credit: Nic Ellis/WA News

No combustible panels have been removed from the facade of Fiona Stanley Hospital, two-and-a-half years after WA Health revealed the fire hazard.

On March 25, 2019, it announced work “would soon commence on a remediation strategy to replace aluminium composite panels” on the hospital’s exterior.

Aluminium composite panels were identified as a fire risk following London’s Grenfell Tower disaster and the Lacrosse high-rise inferno in Melbourne. A preliminary fire risk assessment had found ACP cladding across Fiona Stanley Hospital site.



The Grenfell Tower fire in 2017. Credit: Sky News/Sky News

“Immediate action has been taken to ensure the ongoing safety of staff and patients within the hospital,” a department spokesman said at the time.

The West Australian understands FSH is one of six Health Department properties where works to replace combustible panels are still to begin.

The department, along with all other State Government agencies, was requested to carry out audits on all its buildings that were three storeys or taller, built or refurbished after 2000, and that had cladding.

The request was made by the Building and Energy Division of the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety.

On Friday, WA Health defended its actions, saying it had been “one of the most proactive agencies” in relation to ACP cladding.

Some 84 out of 97 of its sites were cleared in an initial review. Another three had been cleared after detailed risk assessments, whilst remedial action has been completed at one site, according to data that was correct up to last Thursday.

“The sites remediated and cleared include large hospitals, including King Edward Memorial Hospital and Royal Perth Hospital,” a WA Health spokeswoman said.

“There are currently 11 WA Health sites which need further assessment, planning or works. It is expected that some of these 11 sites will be cleared soon, while others will require longer time frames.”



The Lacrosse tower fire in Melbourne's Docklands in 2014. Credit: Metropolitan Fire Brigade/Metropolitan Fire Brigade

FSH wasn't mentioned in the department's response, even though The West Australian asked about it.

"While investigation works and remediation continue, all sites have risk mitigation strategies in place including more frequent fire-system testing and ensuring all staff are fully trained in evacuation procedures," the spokeswoman added.

Two universities also have work to do. The University of WA has seven sites requiring remedial works, while Edith Cowan University has 11. The Education Department has three and VenuesWest has two.

A separate audit of privately owned, high-risk buildings in WA identified 52 as either high or moderate risk. Most have been fixed or cleared.

"As at 2 September 2021, there are now just 17 private buildings that are yet to commence works to remove or replace cladding on their buildings or to satisfy the local government permit authority that no further action is required," a Building and Energy spokeswoman said.

"The 17 outstanding buildings include three private hospitals, where the property owners are due to submit building permits to carry out works in the near future. The private hospitals have implemented additional fire safety measures while cladding remediation activities are under way.

"Building and Energy understands all building owners are working towards remediation of cladding and making the necessary arrangements to submit building approvals for those works."