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**Jeremy Matthew**

Director, Facilities & Services

Australian National University

### **Childcare Lead Paint Removal**

Dear Jeremy

In early 2023, Construction Control undertook a trial of lead paint removal for the childcare buildings.

The trial was carried out in an office area, in the Cubby Childcare (building 67).

Areas selected included the walls, and other timber elements with heritage significance such as skirting, architraves and picture rails.

The total area was in the order of just 2-3m<sup>2</sup> of building fabric.

In order for the lead paint to be entirely removed the timber elements needed to be removed from the walls, resulting in some of the timbers being snapped.

The initial process included the use of a range of lead paint removers (paint strippers). These products did not remove all the lead paint.

The next step was to take the timbers into an off-site lead paint enclosure, and sand blast the timber. This resulted in some of the timbers being damaged, and the lead paint was still impregnated in the timber.

The trial process for this small amount of building fabric took weeks, and cost in the order of \$15,000.

The findings were that the lead paint removal would result in workers being exposed unnecessarily to lead paint process work, it was time and cost prohibitive, it damaged the fabric of the building and was ineffective in actually removing all of the lead paint.

The conclusion was that the building fabric must be removed (ie demolition and removal of all elements with lead paint.) to ensure the removal of all lead paint.

If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

**Construction Control**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lauren Couter', written over a thin horizontal line.

**Lauren Couter**

Director