

IMPROVING INSIDE AIR QUALITY

Fact sheet

Background

Over many years, we've been working on improving air quality inside our buildings. At Bedford Park we have almost 4000 discrete rooms, in addition to those located in other Flinders locations including rural and remote areas. Each space is different – different configurations, different types of air conditioning and a wide variety of room layouts.

Current actions to improve inside air quality

We've been investigating immediate ways to increase ventilation in our University spaces through:

- Extending the time air conditioners are running in buildings (programming them to start earlier and finish later)
- Increasing air change rates
- Opening doors and windows (where safe to do so)
- Turning ceiling fans on

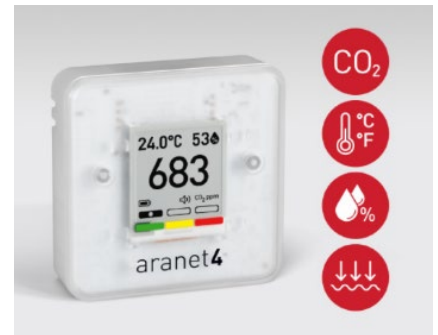
This has also posed some challenges including balancing ventilation with:

- The introduction of other risks (like in specialised lab environments, or introducing humidity or mould)
- Varying external temperatures and the comfort of people in the rooms (where it's 45 or 12 degrees outside)
- Increasing energy use and the cost of running our facilities
- Trade offs with external noise or water/dust/animal ingress (through open windows and doors).

Next steps to improve inside air quality

With the assistance of the College of Medicine and Public Health and SAMHRI, we are currently rolling out CO2 sensors which allow us to access live data, better monitor ventilation levels and model ventilation quality in targeted spaces. The results will help us to prioritise future improvements based on risk and other factors (for example room utilisation levels and teaching spaces).

Future buildings are integrating best practice design principles to ensure high standards of air quality going forward. The new Health and Medical Research building is seeking WELLS certification, which includes requirements for high levels of indoor air quality to maximise benefits to productivity, wellbeing and health.



CO2 sensor

Other longer term initiatives include:

- Opening additional windows (where possible and safe to do so)
- Integrating additional sensors into buildings controls to enable live monitoring and drive improvements
- Improving design standards for our buildings
- Upgrading air filters to existing HVAC systems with capacity to improve air quality/ filtration
- Working with staff to avoid crowding outside teaching spaces and meeting rooms, and allowing time for air in spaces to refresh before using again
- Installing additional CO2 sensors where required and practical.

How can you help to improve inside air quality?

There are simple things we can all do help. Wherever possible you can:

- Open doors and windows (where safe and appropriate)
- Ensure air conditioners and ceiling fans are on and running.
- Ensure adequate distancing within rooms and when congregating in small areas/ hallways between meetings/classes.
- Hold meetings outside where possible.
- If possible give rooms some time to refresh the air between bookings

Questions about inside air quality?

Contact us via Service One, [General Properties or Facilities](#) query form.