



## Safe use of A frame ladders

**Alert No.** HSEQ-SA-121  
**Date of issue** 24/01/2022

### Hazard/incident description:

A City team member was working at a Goodstart Early Learning Centre and was in the process of cleaning the top of an air conditioning unit using a small aluminium A frame step ladder to access the unit.

To reach the top of the air conditioning unit, the team member stood on the top step of the ladder and also placed his foot on a nearby locker. As a result of this action, the locker cabinetry could not support the weight of the team member and broke. The team member subsequently lost his balance and fell to the floor.

There were children and GSEL staff members in the room at the time, however no injuries were sustained to anyone in the room or to the City team member.



Image 1: Location of incident



Image 2: Safe use of ladders

### Contributing factors:

- Inadequate Take 5 risk assessment.
- Incorrect ladder selection - height of ladder not appropriate for the task.
- Incorrect ladder use – used top step, no barricading of work area.

### Actions taken / to be taken:

- Team members are reminded to:
  - Identify All hazards when completing the Take 5 and ensure that adequate control measures are implemented.
  - Refer to SWMS-100 for additional control measure where risks are not controlled through the Take 5.
  - When using an A frame ladder ensure that you:
    - Select the correct size ladder for the job.
    - Maintain three points of contact.
    - Do not climb higher than the third step from the top.
    - Barricade and isolate work area to prevent unauthorised access.