

## **First Private Mental Health Service South of the River in Cockburn Central West**

Independent private health care provider Bethesda Health Care announced today that the first private Mental Health Service South of the River will be constructed on 10,000sqm<sup>2</sup> of vacant land in Cockburn Central West. The innovative Mental Health System of Care will feature 40 overnight beds, a Mental Health and Wellbeing Centre and Consulting Suites, with construction due to begin at the end of 2020.

Bethesda Health Care CEO Dr Neale Fong made this announcement on the Cockburn site alongside Bethesda Health Care board members and:

- Hon Mark McGowan Premier, Member for Rockingham; (TBC)
- Hon Roger Cook Deputy Premier; Minister for Health; Mental Health, Member for Kwinana;
- Yaz Mubarakai MLA and Member for Jandakot;
- Hon Fran Logan, Minister for Corrective Services, Member of Cockburn;
- Mayor of Cockburn, Logan K Howlett.

Other service innovations at the centre will involve new service delivery models using digital health and community-based care including tele-health and video-conferencing. The service will focus on voluntary adult patient admission only, along with specialist referral.

The facility will be managed by Bethesda Health Care, who will employ up to 100 staff at the centre, as well as creating a number of jobs in the planning and construction phases. The provision of psychiatry, psychology and other allied health services at the centre will be undertaken by respected and experienced clinicians.

At present, people who reside south of the river (close to half of the population of Perth) do not have direct access to private mental health services. The area is growing rapidly and has high median income but lacks access to private Mental Health services; patients are required to travel to the Perth CBD, Nedlands and Wembley to receive treatment.

The location of Cockburn Central West has excellent patient access via public transport, the Kwinana Freeway, North Lake and Armadale Roads and has good parking on site.

The area is a community wellness hub centred around the Aquatic Recreation Centre (ARC) and Fremantle Dockers training facility along with many other current and future developments, and this Centre will compliment these existing amenities.

'It is well known that WA has a major mental health bed shortage, and this facility will go a long way to assisting to ease the burden,' said Dr Fong.



# Media Release

21 February 2020



**Bethesda**  
health care

'Mental Health and substance abuse disorders represent the fourth highest burden of disease in Australia, and the highest in young people.\* Utilisation of mental health services in private hospitals is growing, increasing 25% since 2013.'

The facility has been in planning for four years and it is anticipated to admit patients in 2022/23. Land contracts are in the final stages of procurement from Development WA and Bethesda is now completing master planning and concept design.

Bethesda Health Care has a long history of providing outstanding patient and medical care from their 88 bed Claremont hospital for more than 70 years.

Their services and expertise expanded to community care in 2010, through their mobile palliative consultancy advisory service – the Metropolitan Palliative Care Consultancy Service (MPaCCS), in conjunction with the Department of Health and the WA Cancer and Palliative Care Network.

Media Announcement and Photo opportunity on site on **Friday 21 February from 9.30-10.00am. 19 Legacy Way, Cockburn Central West.**

\*source : Australian Burden of Disease Study – June 2019

[www.bethesda.org.au](http://www.bethesda.org.au)

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