

Media Release
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BETHESDA HEALTH CARE OPENS FIRST PRIVATE MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY SOUTH OF THE RIVER, BETHESDA CLINIC

WA Health Mental Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson has today officially opened Bethesda Health Care's new mental health facility, Bethesda Clinic in Cockburn.

The \$60 million facility is the first private mental health service south of the river and will be open to patients from Monday 13 March.

Bethesda Chief Executive Officer Dr Neale Fong said that Bethesda Clinic will benefit residents in Perth's southern suburbs and regions by providing mental health services closer to home.

"Bethesda Clinic will help meet the growing demand for mental health services in our State," Dr Fong said.

The Clinic is a 75-bed single room state-of-the-art facility, offering inpatient services and day therapy programs through a Wellness and Recovery Centre. The Clinic has a focus on trauma recovery programs for defence personnel and veterans and in a WA-first, a dedicated women's-only ward, offering care in a safe environment.

"We want to keep people well in their community," Dr Fong said.

In a move away from traditional private hospital mental health care, a national first partnership with Microsoft Cloud for Healthcare will support patients post discharge to remain mentally well in their home and community.

"The digital element of the Clinic is what we are really excited about and our model of care works towards minimising repeat admissions. We want to see people supported and well outside of a hospital environment."

Bethesda Clinic is accepting referrals for general psychiatry, alcohol and other drug addiction, mood and anxiety and trauma. Stage two will open in the middle of the year, rounding out the 75 beds, and will include a Neurostimulation suite with electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) and repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation (rTMS).

Bethesda enters the mental health sector with a strong reputation for excellence in patient-centred care. Bethesda also operates an 86-bed not-for-profit surgical and specialist palliative care hospital in Claremont, which has been providing care and service to the Western Australian community for 80 years.

Comments attributed to His Worship Logan Howlett, Mayor, City of Cockburn:

"Bethesda Clinic is a welcome boost to community wellness and the establishment of sustainable health services in Cockburn, something the City is highly invested in."

"Bethesda Clinic further consolidates a growing cohort of health providers in Cockburn Central."

www.bethesdaclinic.org.au

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Additional photos available on request.

