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## **MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES SUSPENDED AT BETHESDA CLINIC**

Bethesda Clinic, Perth's only private mental health service south of the river, is suspending services from Friday 23 February 2024 for the foreseeable future.

This outcome is deeply saddening for the Board, Management and organisation as a whole. Bethesda is immensely proud of the vision and service provided to the community.

The 75-bed mental health clinic, located in Cockburn, was opened by the Minister for Health in March 2023 after seven years of intense planning, building and commissioning.

Unfortunately, despite best efforts, the service is not financially viable. The level of reimbursement and payment from private health insurance funds and the lack of psychiatrists willing to look after inpatients are two factors that has led to this tragic decision.

Bethesda Clinic is a world-class facility and was catering for many patients who deserved care, thus saving the state's public system from huge demand. These patients will no longer have access to this care south of the river.

Bethesda would like to sincerely thank its consumers, doctors, staff and community for their support and faith in the Clinic and its contemporary model of care, offering private mental health care for the first time in the south metropolitan area, closer to patients' homes and focusing on keeping consumers out of hospital.

As of Thursday 8 February 2024, Bethesda Clinic will no longer be accepting referrals.

Discharge summaries for all current consumers are being developed by Bethesda's psychiatrists and clinical teams, in collaboration with the consumers and their families, where appropriate.

Bethesda Clinic put the consumer at the centre of every decision it made, and there are many patients who have benefited greatly from our care and are now living well in their communities.

Bethesda Health Care, an independent 86-bed award-winning hospital in Claremont that has been providing care and service to the Western Australian community for more than 80 years. Bethesda provides a community palliative care service and the Metropolitan Palliative Care Consultancy Service. These services are operating as usual and are not affected by Bethesda Clinic's service suspension.

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

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