

STEP-UP, STEP-DOWN MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY — BUNBURY

**99. Mr D.T. PUNCH to the Minister for Mental Health:**

Can the minister update the house on the McGowan Labor government's commitment to a new step-up, step-down service for people in Bunbury and the south west who are dealing with a mental health issue; and can the minister advise the house how this service will build on this government's ongoing investment in mental health services across Western Australia?

**Mr R.H. COOK replied:**

I would like to thank the member for Bunbury for his question, but, most of all, I would like to thank him for his advocacy for making sure that we have the sorts of social services in his area that means Bunbury remains a terrific place in which to live. This is another great Don Punch success story! It is another notch in his holster to continue to promote the community.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members, do you realise that when the Speaker is on his feet, there should be complete silence? Member for Southern River—Mr Acting Speaker up there—I call you to order for the first time, and I call the member for Dawesville for the second time.

**Mr R.H. COOK:** The Mental Health Commission, through the “Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015–2025”, aims to achieve a more balanced health system through investment in community-based treatment and support services. What this means for regional Western Australians is that we want to continue to develop mental health services in the communities in which people live so that they are surrounded by their loved ones and getting the support they need. That is the reason why we are investing over \$28 million in the next three years to build mental health services in regional Western Australia. I know all members will agree that this is an important part of making sure our mental health system continues to grow its community sector so that we can support Western Australians at their time of need.

On 11 January, under the watchful gaze of the member for Bunbury, just making sure everything went well, we turned the sod on a new 10-bed step-up, step-down facility in Bunbury. It will be a great facility, providing support to the people in that community. Recently, I met with a number of the residents at the newly opened Albany step-up, step-down facility. They say that this service is changing lives. It is transforming. It allows those who are coming out of an acute setting to get more support as they transition back into the community. It allows those who are having difficulties managing their mental health to get some residential care and support while they get themselves back on their feet. It is a terrific service.

Members will, of course, be very pleased to hear that we are also developing a step-up, step-down service in Broome, which will be a six-bed facility. We will have 10 beds in Bunbury; 10 beds in Geraldton, member for Geraldton; 10 beds in Kalgoorlie, member for Kalgoorlie; and six beds in Karratha, because the member for Pilbara demands it. We already have six beds in Albany.

The step-up, step-down facilities are a \$28 million investment in mental health services for regional Western Australia, and they will provide a vital mental health service in communities right across this great state.