

**PLANNING — CHILDREN'S HOSPICE**

*Statement by Minister for Planning*

**MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Planning)** [12.28 pm]: I rise today to formally recognise the approval of Western Australia's much-awaited first hospice and respite care facility for children and their families. This significant development was granted approval by the Western Australian Planning Commission through the state government's streamlined development pathway. The children's hospice will be a purpose-built facility that will provide essential care for children with life-limiting conditions, offering around-the-clock clinical support, end-of-life care, bereavement care and respite accommodation for families from across Western Australia.

A partnership between the Child and Adolescent Health Service and the Perth Children's Hospital Foundation, this hospice is a vital initiative to ensure that families going through the most challenging of journeys receive the care and support they deserve. The facility, which will be situated in Swanbourne, will offer a home away from home setting for children and their families. The hospice will feature well-designed guest bedrooms, family suites, a bereavement suite, a hydrotherapy pool, a fenced playground, a memorial garden, indoor play areas, communal living and dining spaces, therapy and clinical areas, and meeting rooms. The approval process, which was managed by the significant development unit within the Department of Planning, Lands, and Heritage, was executed with due diligence and deep respect. Over the course of 18 months, the applicant's consultants worked closely with the unit to address land use issues and bushfire risks to ensure a safe and well-planned environment for families. The State Design Review Panel—this is important for the public record—lauded the high level of design quality, the focus on seamless connections between indoor and outdoor spaces and appreciation of the site's broader views and Aboriginal cultural engagement, all of which are integral to this project's success.

As we move forward, I am heartened by the positive impact that this hospice will have on our communities. The children's hospice will be a beacon of hope, providing comfort, support and holistic care for children and their families, creating a central hub for statewide paediatric palliative care services. On behalf of the government, I express my heartfelt gratitude to all those involved in making this project a reality. I look forward to witnessing the completion of this important facility in which children and their loved ones will find solace and support during their most challenging times.