

PERTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL — MENTAL HEALTH UNIT — REFURBISHMENT

Statement by Minister for Mines and Petroleum

MR D.R. MICHAEL (Balcatta — Minister for Mines and Petroleum) [9.08 am]: On behalf of the Minister for Health; Mental Health, I rise to update the house on the refurbishment of Perth Children's Hospital's inpatient unit, ward 5A. Perth Children's Hospital's ward 5A will undergo an upgrade to ensure that it continues to meet the contemporary needs of its patients as part of the Cook government's commitment to improving mental health facilities for children and adolescents. Of the ward's 20 mental health beds, 12 will be temporarily moved to Hollywood Private Hospital in October 2024 to allow for the upgrades to take place. The 12 beds at Hollywood Private Hospital will continue to be staffed by existing experienced child and adolescent mental health clinicians employed by the Child and Adolescent Health Service. Those 12 beds will cater for children and adolescents aged 14 to 16 years, while the other eight beds will remain open at Perth Children's Hospital for children aged 13 and under and non-voluntary patients. The upgrade will help to ensure that children and their families and carers can access equitable, timely and quality mental health care, and will include the creation of more therapeutic and activity spaces and provide more flexibility in how spaces are used to suit patient needs. This refurbishment is part of the government's commitment to transform the WA mental health system, following the report of the Ministerial Taskforce into Public Mental Health Services for Infants, Children and Adolescents aged 0–18 years in WA.