

John Castrilli MLA



Strong progress on radiotherapy centre

Construction on Bunbury's new cancer radiotherapy centre is progressing well, meaning we will soon have Western Australia's only radiation oncology unit outside the metropolitan area.

I was thrilled to be able to announce on Monday that the radiotherapy provider has been appointed, as this is an important stage of the process.

On Friday I visited the site at the South West Health Campus where the facility is being built.

I was very impressed by the progress being made by Perkins Builders and also the innovative architectural design of this state-of-the-art building.

The importance of this facility cannot be under-estimated for cancer patients and their families, as well as the wider community.

While radiotherapy treatment sessions only take 15 minutes, they must be done consecutively over several days or weeks.

Having this service close to home will mean cancer patients will be able to be treated locally and remain close to family and support networks without the emotional, physical and financial strain of travelling to Perth for treatment.

The \$15.2million facility is being funded with \$9.2million from the State Government and \$6m from the Federal Government.

As well as the work generated during the construction phase, the addition of radiotherapy services to Bunbury's health system is expected to generate more than 20 new jobs in the local area for health professionals and administration staff.

I look forward to the centre opening later this year and the benefits it will offer our community.

Youth award nominations open

Nominations are now open for the 2011 WA Youth Awards and I would encourage people to consider nominating an outstanding local young person or youth worker for the awards.

We have many people in our community who quietly go about making Bunbury a better place, whether it's young people helping improve our community, or youth workers offering guidance and a helping hand to those who need it.

The awards will celebrate the achievements and contributions of people aged 12 to 25, along with youth-led groups, organisations and youth workers.

There are eight categories including sections to recognise young people making a difference in areas including arts, the environment, and community development.

Journalists and photographers will also be recognised in a related award for reporting on young people and youth issues.

Nomination forms are available at www.youth.wa.gov.au or from my office at 4B Spencer Street. Entries close at 5pm on Friday, February 18.