



Ground breaks on construction of WA's first children's hospice: Sandcastles

- Perth Children's Hospital Foundation (PCHF) has revealed the name of Western Australia's first children's hospice: Sandcastles / Boodja Mia
- Construction on Sandcastles has now officially begun, with the state-of-the-art facility anticipated to open in late 2025

Perth Children's Hospital Foundation (PCHF) today revealed the name of Western Australia's first children's hospice: Sandcastles / Boodja Mia.

An ode to the therapeutic healing properties of the sun, sea, sand and ocean breeze; Sandcastles is inspired by the natural surrounds of the children's hospice and invites WA's sickest kids into a comfortable safe haven where freedom and imagination can be explored and families can connect.

Dual naming was developed by Noongar cultural advisors, Soft Earth, with Sandcastles directly translating to Boodja Mia in traditional Noongar language.

The reveal was announced today at the Swanbourne site, where WA Premier Hon. Roger Cook was joined by WA Minister for Health Hon. Amber-Jane Sanderson to officially break ground on construction with Perth Children's Hospital Foundation Chairman, Hon. Ian Campbell, and CEO, Carrick Robinson.

Perth Children's Hospital Foundation Chairman the Hon. Ian Campbell said: "Today marks a proud day in Western Australia's history as we officially begin construction on the state's first-ever children's hospice.

"A nostalgic nod to days spent on the beach with family and friends, Sandcastles will become a comfortable 'home away from home' space to help kids create cherished memories with family and friends.

"Sandcastles will touch the lives of countless sick WA kids and their families, with services to help improve their quality of life as they continue to persevere through life-limiting conditions. We are eternally grateful to our generous donors and supporters, including the Western Australian public, without whom we would not be standing here today," said Mr Campbell.

Comments attributed to Premier Hon. Roger Cook: "Today marks a significant day as we begin construction on the State's first ever children's hospice - Boodja Mia. My Government is proud to be supporting the first and only purpose-built facility providing respite and palliative care for Western Australian children. Boodja Mia will support WA families going through what is the most challenging journey."



Comments attributed to Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson: “Boodja Mia will provide support for families during their toughest times and will be the central hub from which State-wide paediatric palliative care services are coordinated.

“The facility will be a ‘home away from home’ and provide holistic care for children with a life-limiting conditions.

“These services will help Western Australian children and their families, and I look forward to seeing this important facility complete.”

Upon completion, Sandcastles will be a ‘home away from home’ built close to Swanbourne Beach and nature, featuring seven single-guest bedrooms, three family suites and a bereavement suite.

WA property developer, Hesperia has been engaged to deliver the project on behalf of PCHF, with negotiations underway to select a managing contractor. Enabling works will begin in coming weeks, with main works to commence in April 2024. Sandcastles is anticipated to open in late 2025.

Construction will create an estimated 100 jobs, with the budgeted cost for the complete build and fit-out of Sandcastles estimated at around \$35 million.

Sandcastles is made possible thanks to generous contributions from Cancer Council WA (via a generous bequest from the late John Street), the State and Federal Governments, Lotterywest and the WA community, Stan Perron Charitable Foundation, and Minderoo Foundation, as well as HFW Australia, Hassell and Hesperia.

The ongoing clinical operational costs of Sandcastles / Boodja Mia will be covered by facility partner, the Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS).

Sandcastles will mark Australia’s fourth paediatric hospice, adding to Bear Cottage (NSW), Very Special Kids (VIC) and Hummingbird House (QLD).

To learn more or to donate, visit pCHF.org.au/childrenshospice

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About Sandcastles

Sandcastles / Boodja Mia is Western Australia’s first purpose-built children’s hospice. Upon completion, Sandcastles will be a self-contained, homelike seven-bed facility built close to the beach and nature near Swanbourne Beach.



The design includes adjoining family rooms, a main kitchen, dining and living space, playrooms, a physical treatment area inclusive of hydrotherapy pool, clinical spaces, outdoor living, play space, seating, parking, and administrative spaces.

The facility will provide services in key areas including:

- Care for children who have a life-limiting diagnosis with little prospect of being well and who require 24/7 care. The Hospice will assume care of these children for a period of time allowing their families much needed respite.
- End of life care for children with the safety net of clinical care in the comfort of a highly respectful and supported environment.
- Support for the families of life-limited children.
- State-wide bereavement service for families following the death of a child.

About the Children's Hospice Project Team

The Children's Hospice Project Team is comprised of Perth Children's Hospital Foundation (PCHF), the Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS), Hassell and Hesperia.

PCHF is funding construction, fit-out and ongoing non-clinical support services for the Hospice, while CAHS has secured a land holding and will provide ongoing clinical funding, governance, and overall clinical management of the hospice.

Note to journalists/editors: Perth Children's Hospital Foundation is the official fundraiser for Perth Children's Hospital. As these two organisations are separate entities, please *shorten to* either PCHF or the Foundation (not to PCH Foundation or PCH).

About Perth Children's Hospital Foundation – The foundation on the frontline

Perth Children's Hospital Foundation is the official and largest fundraiser of Perth Children's Hospital. We fuel the fight on the frontline, to help children get well and stay well.

By working closely with those on the frontline, the Foundation has an in-depth understanding of what clinicians, researchers and families need to ensure we make a tangible impact where it counts most. This knowledge guides the solutions we fund, ensuring sick children have access to world-class care through the most advanced equipment and technology, research, expertise and positive patient experiences. Help us fuel the fight on the frontline by donating at pCHF.org.au/donate-today