



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Tuesday, 30 October 2018**

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### **Jaycee Park earmarked for cultural health hub**

The South West Aboriginal Medical Service (SWAMS) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Bunbury to transform Jaycee Park into a precinct for a purpose-built health campus for the South West Region.

The City is in the process of acquiring the 19,421m<sup>2</sup> parcel of land in Carey Park from the State Government.

Once secured, the land will be transferred to SWAMS for the purpose of developing a cultural health hub, subject to formal Council endorsement likely to take place in November.

The proposed 3,700m<sup>2</sup> two-storey building will house clinical and research facilities, administrative offices, retail space, community rooms and a bush tucker café.

The plans also include over 4,000m<sup>2</sup> of revitalised public recreational space, including a secure children's playground, landscaped gardens and new toilet facilities.

Bunbury Mayor Gary Brennan said the MOU between the City and SWAMS was an important step forward in the proposed development of a community health hub at Jaycee Park.

"On behalf of Council, I congratulate SWAMS for this initiative which will result in further health benefits for our South West Indigenous community," Mayor Brennan said.

"Jaycee Park is centrally located close to public transport with retention of public open space for community enjoyment a feature of this proposal."

SWAMS CEO Lesley Nelson approached the City in June with the concept of establishing a regional health campus to accommodate the growing community demand for SWAMS' services.

"We are currently utilising a number of external consultation rooms and facilities across Bunbury and the South West region, Ms Nelson said.

“It has become clear to us that we have outgrown our current service model and no longer have the capacity to meet the expanding needs of the region’s Indigenous community,”

“For 20 years, our health service has lacked a permanent location. It’s time we found a place to call home.”

In addition to providing essential primary health services, the proposed development is expected to increase the vitality of the City and position Bunbury as a cultural hub within the region.

“The SWAMS health hub is not only fit for purpose, it is also an opportunity for the location to become a vibrant precinct in its own right – an all-encompassing, multi-faceted development that brings tourism, culture, recreation, economic benefit and research to Bunbury,” Ms Nelson said.

“This will be a significant, innovative and holistic community facility that will bring transformational change to the health and wellbeing of the Noongar people of Bunbury and the South West region.”

Subject to funding, construction is expected to commence in October 2019 and last approximately 15 months.

Members of the public are invited to learn more about the proposed health hub at a ‘meet and greet’ being held between 4-5.30pm on Friday 9 November at Jaycee Park, where SWAMS and City staff will be on hand to answer questions.

**For more information please contact SWAMS on (08) 9791 1166.**

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**For media enquiries please contact SWAMS Public Relations Officer Jo Mills on (08) 9791 1166.**

### **About SWAMS**

SWAMS is an Aboriginal community controlled health organisation that provides high quality, culturally appropriate and accessible health and wellbeing services to Aboriginal people living in the South West region of Western Australia.

### **About Jaycee Park**

Jaycee Park is an area covering 19,420m<sup>2</sup>, located in Carey Park within the City of Bunbury local government area.

The land is owned by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, and managed by the City of Bunbury. The park is currently utilised for public recreation purposes.

The site is predominantly zoned Civic and Community, with a smaller portion of the site zoned Public Open Space.



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**PHOTO**

**SWAMS Health Hub\_291018** : Bunbury Mayor Gary Brennan, South West Aboriginal Medical Service CEO Lesley Nelson and City of Bunbury CEO Mal Osborne with concept drawings of the proposed health hub in Carey Park.