



Tuesday, May 20, 2014

Building the vision: a new era for the Lions Eye Institute begins.

The Lions Eye Institute (LEI) has entered a new era with the opening of state-of-the-art research laboratories in the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research building on the QEII Medical Centre campus in Nedlands.

His Excellency the Governor Malcolm McCusker QC officially opened the new research floor last night while Health Minister Dr Kim Hames spoke about the importance of scientific research to Western Australia.

The State Government supported the fit-out of the LEI floor with new medical equipment via a Lotterywest grant. Other major contributors included Wesfarmers, The McCusker Charitable Foundation, Stan and Jean Perron, Apache Energy and the Lions Club of Western Australia.

The \$122 million 10-storey building houses a number of the State's leading medical research bodies, including the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research, Heart Research Institute, Lung Institute, the Keogh Institute and The University of Western Australia.

LEI Managing Director Professor David Mackey told more than 150 guests at the opening that the co-location of the State's leading medical research institutes would allow for greater collaboration, sharing of equipment and resources and help retain Western Australia's best and brightest scientists and clinicians.

"It represents the first major physical restructure of the Institute since the opening of the LEI Verdun St building in 1996," Professor Mackey said.

"It creates a unique opportunity to strengthen the communication and relationships between our research areas, drive new collaborations and facilitate fresh research directions for the Institute."

After the formal opening, the new research floor was open for guests to tour.

The LEI celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2013 and in its short history has become a global leader in eye research.

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Images from the event are available. Please email francescarobb@lei.org.au