



Media Statement

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World-class clinic heralds new era in eye care

Eye health services in Western Australia enter a new era this **Saturday, February 11** with the official opening of a state-of-the-art clinic at the Lions Eye Institute (LEI) in Nedlands.

The new clinic is designed to cater for the growing number of Western Australians requiring specialist care for eye diseases and disorders.

It will also allow the LEI to run larger numbers of Clinical Trials, ensuring patients have access to the very latest in medical therapies, treatments and devices.

The official opening coincides with the LEI's annual **Open Day**, which runs from 10am to 1.30pm.

LEI Managing Director Professor David Mackey said the new clinic was world-class and expanded on and replaced an ageing clinic which was struggling to cope with patient demand.

He said the new clinic was designed for efficiency, accessibility and privacy and offered a vastly-improved patient experience.

"Clinical services at the LEI have undergone dramatic growth over the past decade - increasing at roughly six per cent per annum," Professor Mackey said.

"Some speciality areas like intravitreal injections for age-related macular degeneration have grown 200 per cent in the last six years. All up, patient numbers through clinical services are reaching 60,000 per annum.

"The new clinic is designed not only to meet this demand, but cater for demand well into the future."

Key elements of the new clinic include:

- Relocation of the Retina Clinic and the consolidation of ancillary services in the same area, including photography, patient facilities, secretary and administrative functions
- Additional consultation and testing rooms to meet the demands and volumes of patients attending clinics
- A separate injection suite incorporating dedicated waiting areas, two injection rooms, recovery bays and administration area
- A dedicated Clinical Trials area, incorporating dedicated Clinical Trials rooms and a separate waiting area for patients who are participating in ground-breaking research trials

Professor Mackey said the clinic transformation would benefit the entire organisation.

“The LEI blends both medical research into eye disease and clinical services that cater for patients with a huge range of eye problems,” he said. “What some people don’t realise is that profits from our clinic support our medical research.

“Having a modern, functional, well-equipped clinic where people can get the best possible eye care is crucial in supporting our overall commitment to find new treatments to prevent and cure blindness and eye disease.”

Visitors to the LEI Open Day will be able to tour the new clinic and participate in a range of engaging activities. They can:

- Don simulator glasses that mimic eye disease and try carrying out everyday tasks
- Be tested on a laser test machine and learn their suitability for laser surgery
- Tour the Lions Outback Vision Van
- Meet and chat with Managing Director Professor David Mackey
- Watch the dissection of a pig’s eye to understand how the eye works

For more information about the LEI Open Day, visit www.lei.org.au/events

Media Contact: Francesca Robb – 0409 102 556 / francescarobb@lei.org.au