



# Media Release

## Senator Mathias Cormann

### *Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Health Administration*

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## **REINSTATE PEEL HEALTH CAMPUS FUNDING**

The Rudd Labor Government is letting down children in the Peel region who need access to more appropriate local hospital care according to WA Senator and Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Health Administration Mathias Cormann.

Senator Cormann introduced a motion in the Senate calling on the Rudd Labor Government to immediately reinstate more than half a million dollars in funding for the much needed paediatric ward at Peel Health Campus.

The motion will be dealt with in mid-October when Parliament resumes.

He also called on Brand Labor MP Gary Gray to join him and Canning MP Don Randall in lobbying the Rudd Government to reverse its cruel and cold hearted decision to withdraw funding for a new paediatric ward at the Peel Health Campus.

“In October last year the Howard Government provided \$502,700 in funding towards the establishment of a paediatric ward at the Peel Health Campus,” Senator Cormann said.

“The project involves the construction of a 12 bed paediatric ward, paediatric furniture and equipment.

“The rooms currently being used for children in the Peel area are designed for adult care and do not offer children the safe and monitored environment they need,” he said.

“The federal funding was to complement over \$2.4 million raised by the local community and \$750,000 to be contributed by the WA State Government.

“The Rudd Labor Government’s approach to this important project has been nothing short of disgraceful,” Senator Cormann said.

Just weeks after being elected in November last year, the Rudd Government withdrew funding for the paediatric ward at Peel Health Campus as part of a blanket stop to all projects approved under the Regional Partnerships program.

After a public outcry the new Federal Labor Government eventually agreed to re-examine projects that had already been approved, including the Peel Health Campus project.

“Funding was reinstated at the end of May this year, cruelly, only to be withdrawn again in August, based on some obscure bureaucratic justification,” Senator Cormann said.

“Canning MP Don Randall and I will not rest until this federal funding has been reinstated,” Senator Cormann said.

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