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📷 WA's first children's hospice Sandcastles (Boodja Mia) is expected to be completed by the end of the year. Credit: Supplied

First WA children's hospice Sandcastles gifted major donation to keep the project moving

Eliana Hullett | PerthNow - Western Suburbs | 18 July 2026, 2:00am

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Western Australia's first children's hospice has received a major donation towards its sensory and soft play rooms, which will offer respite and comfort to some of the State's sickest children.

The Sandcastles (Boodja Mia) hospice, being built near Swanbourne Beach with support from



📷 Renders of the Sandcastles (Boodja Mia) children's hospice, due for completion by the end of 2026. Credit: Supplied

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Perth-based custom home designer Trendsetter Homes last week presented a cheque for almost \$150,000 to fund the entire fit-out of the hospice's sensory and soft play rooms.

Trendsetter typically specialises in luxury custom homes. Managing director Michael Agostino said he and his wife Brooke felt "very proud" to be making such a significant philanthropic gesture.

"It's something we've wanted to do for ages, but it just never eventuated between business or through contracts. But everything lined up at the right time," he said.

“Giving back as a whole has always been something really close to myself and my wife. We deliberated a fair bit about the right avenue, but it’s very simple - it’s kids.”

The Agostinos are parents to two young boys, and said the idea of giving back to a project like the hospice resonated deeply.

About 2000 children in WA have life-limiting conditions and many families find specialised respite and end-of-life care difficult to access.

Sandcastles aims to bridge this gap by offering state-of-the-art clinical care in a home-like environment, that does not feel like a hospital. When completed, the centre will provide a self-contained seven-bed facility with family rooms, a main kitchen and a dining and living space.

It will also include a physical treatment area, including a hydrotherapy pool, clinical spaces and outdoor play spaces.

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📷 Render of the hydrotherapy pool to be used for physical treatment. Credit: Supplied

Mr Agostino said he felt specifically drawn towards the sensory and soft playrooms after learning how beneficial they can be for young patients.

“Once my wife explained the gravity the sensory room and soft touch and sound therapy has, and the effect it has on kids in terms of relief, I just went, ‘that’s it,’” he said.

“You imagine, but you don’t get the gravity of it. As a parent, anything that can give them relief would just be like, ‘yes please, can we please give my child some relief’.”

The comfortable and calm playrooms will include soft play structures, interactive sensory lighting, low-stimulation zones for relaxation, therapeutic seating equipment and flexible spaces for family interaction.

After taking a private walkthrough of the WA-first facility with PCHF staff, Mr Agostino said it felt “surreal” to be part of the special facility.

“You know what you’re donating to and you know the cause, but until you see it, you just don’t get it. That was a really grounding moment for me and my wife,” he said.

“It’s so much bigger than just the word ‘hospice’ when you see the lengths they’ve gone to, to

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"To be a part of something ground-breaking like that is brilliant."

The Agostinos are planning to continue donating to causes that are meaningful to them and are considering ideas to develop an annual giving program.

"We've always had the vision of doing a per contract amount as a donation per financial year. We haven't finalised anything yet, but as far as we're concerned, at this point in time, it is an ongoing thing we'll be doing each year," he said.

"I think it's extremely important to give back and to cement that within the business and within our own beliefs."

PCHF confirmed Sandcastles construction remains on track to be completed by the end of the year.

The project, which has received some criticism due to its coastal location, is being funded through PCHF in partnership with the WA Government's Child and Adolescent Health Service. Earlier this year, the foundation secured a \$21 million government funding boost to help get the hospice with costs associated with palliative care staffing.

PCHF is still seeking donations to help fund the construction and fit-out. Enquiries can be made at sandcastles.org.au.

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