

CTRC Media Release – Friday 21st February 2025

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Claremont Therapeutic Riding Centre receives \$10.6 million commitment for relocation.

WA's largest horse riding school catering for people with disabilities has received an election commitment from the Cook Labor government for \$10.6 million to relocate and secure its future for the benefit of Western Australians of all abilities.

CTRC has existed on a plot of land at Graylands hospital since 1972, but in 2021 we discovered our lease would not be renewed and we would need to find a new location. Since this news we have been working collaboratively with the Department of Health to find and plan a new home for CTRC.

"Today, we are overjoyed that the Cook Labor government has pledged to fund the move to a new property - across the road from our existing site." Said Head Coach M'Liss Henry, who at 82 still works full time as Chief Coach (and was last year a finalist for Senior Australian of the year, WA).

Our Riding School was started 53 years ago, when I was asked a little boy in a wheelchair if he'd like to ride my pony. He kept coming back every week to ride and soon others started to come as well. That's how CTRC was born"

Since then CTRC has grown to become WA's largest therapeutic riding school, with 165 clients each week, 70 volunteers and wide range of specially trained therapy horses.

CTRC has helped thousands of WA riders of all abilities experience the social, physical and psychological benefits of horse riding, and along the way, produced riders to elite levels - including para-olympic National and international competitions and the Special Olympic World Games.

"We are thrilled that the Cook Labor Government recognises the need and valuable contribution that our organisation makes to the lives of people living with disabilities in WA. Now we can plan to grow our services to meet the extensive waitlist that we currently have and be available to the people of Perth for future generations" - CEO Jacqui Moon

Many hundreds of parents have seen first hand the benefits that the activities of the centre have provided to their children.

"I am overjoyed and at the same time relieved that Claremont Therapeutic Riding Centre will be able to continue to provide the one key ongoing activity for my daughter to develop a passion, to have something to look forward to, to feel safe, enjoy social interactions and to fulfill that desire we all have - to belong and to succeed. The direct impact on self-worth cannot be under-estimated, providing social and physical benefits in an often-lonely world. We are just one example of the countless people who are touched by the therapeutic benefits of this centre and I congratulate the Labor Government recognising this too." Cath McGregor (Client Parent)

We can provide vision, photos and interview opportunities. For further information contact Jacqui Moon on 0417124352