

Support centre in sight for cancer patients Council considers rezoning

BEAUPEARSON

A NEW cancer support centre offering patients complementary therapies looks set to be established in Bunbury.

SolarisCare Foundation is looking to buy a property in Brittain Road and has approached the Bunbury City Council for a zoning change to allow the centre to be developed.

The non-profit organisation operates two centres in Perth — one at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and another at St John of God Subiaco.

The organisation would amalgamate with local provider the Rainbow Relaxation Centre to expand services for South West cancer patients ahead of the opening of the radiation unit at the South West Health Campus.

SolarisCare Foundation general manager David Edwards said the organisation would offer patients a range of therapies and other support.

“They range from counselling, massage and reiki to reflexology, kinesiology and other therapies,” he said.

“They don’t have to take a therapy.

They can access information about their particular type of cancer.

“We can also link them in with other support groups.”

Mr Edwards said it was important for cancer patients to have as few burdens as possible.

“Travelling is another layer that people have to navigate through their treatment,” he said.

“Whatever difficulties and anxieties we can take away, such as travel, it just adds to the benefit of the patient.”

Mr Edwards said the Bunbury centre would be designed as a South West regional hub for cancer patients.

“It is a place where they can get away and be themselves,” he said.

“That’s why we talk about operating the drop-in centres like an oasis for them.”

The organisation also focuses on researching the benefits of its therapies.

“SolarisCare is committed to following that research line and being an

evidence-based organisation,” Mr Edwards said.

“We are working holistically with mainstream medicine.”

SolarisCare Foundation was founded in 2001 by Dr David Joske, head of the Department of Haematology at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, and provides support to people with cancer, their families and carers.

A city council committee voted to rezone the site and the issue will come before next week’s full council meeting.