

Kids' health hub vow

Jessica Coates

CALLS for increased health services in Sunbury have taken centre stage for the upcoming federal election.

The push comes on the heels of news Labor has committed \$2.5 million to a child health hub in town if it wins government.

The hub would bring speech pathology, audiology, occupational therapy, physiotherapy and other allied health professionals together in one place, run by Sunbury Community Health.

Sunbury mum Simone Meyer welcomed the news.

Labor stumps up cash as battle for McEwen heats up



"That's exactly what I wanted to see — the first step was the paediatrician, but this would tick the boxes of everything that Sunbury needs," she said.

Ms Meyer makes regular trips to Keilor Downs and Broadmeadows to access bulk-billed paediatric services for her child.

Services would include family support and parenting groups, access to a paediatrician and other services, and NDIS-funded support for eligible children.

The pledge, announced on Friday afternoon by Opposition health spokeswoman Catherine King, would fund the project's first stage.

Incumbent McEwen federal Labor MP Rob Mitchell promised the project would get started "very, very quickly" if his party took office next month.

"This is going to be a big

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— PHILLIP FUSCO

opportunity, give more room and access to more services to deal with the huge amount of growth we have in this area," he said.

"The work the community health

does is second to none. We've got to keep investing in those services."

Mr Mitchell said Sunbury needed the infrastructure to support a ballooning population.

Liberal candidate Phillip Fusco backed a fully-fledged emergency services hospital at Sunbury, saying he would make it a priority if elected.

"I've had personal experience with waiting an hour, to driving down to Melbourne," he said.

"It's time we had a proper regional emergency hospital in the Sunbury area. As member for McEwen, I'd be focusing on trying to make that happen."



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