


# Kalgoorlie Miner

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**GOLD** \$US1281.20 ▲ \$AUI1754.73 ▲

**NICKEL** \$US3.9017 ▲

**ASX** 5358.9 ▲

**CURRENCY \$AUI** = US 0.72954 ▲ EU 0.64431 ▲ UK 0.50765 ▲

# Rehab service wins \$2.7m

## ■ Natalie Nazzari

Happy tears were flowing as Member for Kalgoorlie Wendy Duncan revealed yesterday that the Goldfields Rehabilitation Service would receive long-awaited funding to double the size of its Porter Street facility.

During a post-State Budget lunch in the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Chamber of Commerce and Industry Function Room, Ms Duncan announced that the Goldfields Re-

habilitation Service would receive \$2.7 million.

Funding, under the Goldfields-Esperance Revitalisation Scheme, will go towards securing 11 additional beds and a four-bed medical detoxification facility.

The vacant land next door will be used to build an 18-bed rehabilitation facility while the detoxification facility will be established at the current site.

Goldfields Rehabilitation Service executive manager Jane

Fajardo said she had been waiting for an outcome after working on the project for almost four years. "We're so happy and so excited to start," she said.

"We have a long client wait list and it's increasing — it's been frustrating not being able to get them the necessary immediate help they need." Holding back tears, Ms Duncan said the project would ultimately save lives. "One of the biggest challenges

you're looking at when you're looking at rehabilitation from drug or alcohol addiction is that if you decide that you need help you don't help straight away — you need to be stuck on a waiting list and told to come back in three months," she said. "What we need to see it achieve is to help people with their addictions, help people to learn that drugs and alcohol are not a solution in life. It will also have flow-on benefits

to the community — there will be less antisocial behaviour, less break-ins for people needing money to feed their habit, less family breakdown and heartbreak, so it's a very, very important part of our service and support in the Goldfields."

About 90 per cent of the service's clients are users of methamphetamine.

The facility has a waiting list of about 50 people for a 15-week program.