

NO GERIATRIC HOSPITAL FOR WOY WOY

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erection of a nursing home.

"However, whatever you want done I will do. If you wish we to plug for a hospital I will plug for a hospital," he concluded.

In presenting his suggestion for the establishment of a nursing home, Mr. Humphries said he considered the most important problem from a humanitarian point of the many with which he was required to deal was how to help and care for our elderly citizens.

The care of the aged had, he stated, become a community responsibility. "Something has happened to our civilization and our family circle as it was in the past no longer exists," he said.

Continuing, Mr. Humphries said that the community must not allow those people, who had contributed their whole lives to the development of the standard of their country, to feel that they would be shelved into public institutions during their old age.

Woy Woy, he said, could not expect to get a hospital as such in the foreseeable future because a great deal of complications had come into hospitalisation in the last decade. Hospitals were no longer erected with little thought to design or equipment but were required not only to have complete technical equipment but to be properly designed buildings with a staff of specialists able to deal with all types of illness.

"ONE BASE HOSPITAL"
This district, he continued, needed one base hospital with all these amenities, or otherwise the chronically ill must still be transferred to either Sydney or Newcastle.

A geriatric hospital which specialised in the rehabilitation of people, not necessarily old, who had suffered a severe illness, must also be part of a base hospital, Mr. Humphries stated. House-keeping and nursing services and occupational therapy must also be part of the organisation of the base hospital.

"Care of the aged is one of our greatest problems and a nursing home would be the best possible thing you could put on the 12 acres of land at Woy Woy at this time," he said.

Mr. Humphries said he felt the district needed a place where aged people who could not care for themselves or be nursed at home could live in dignity and be treated medically, under the supervision of a medical practitioner.

Under the Consultative Report prepared in 1965 by Dr. ago, such nursing homes could be administered by a Public Hospital Authority, by a voluntary organisation not for profit or by a private person for profit.

Mr. Humphries said he felt there was no body better equipped to help the aged people of this district than the Proposed Woy Woy Hospital Committee, assisted by other 450 organisations in the area.

POOLING OF WORK

Mr. Humphries spoke of the outstanding success which had resulted from the pooling of work and ideas by district associations last year for the campaign for the Olympic Pool. "Surely," he added, "this can be done for a nursing home for the aged."

Mr. Humphries said he knew that the people of Woy Woy once they had been acquainted with the proposal would rise to the occasion. It was a matter of one generation helping the next, he said.

A nursing home would need to reduce the cost of its operation, he continued, to the extent that people on fixed incomes could be accommodated.

Mr. Humphries said he had spoken on the matter with Dr. Sax and Dr. Jago, both of whom had indicated that they would be quite happy for a nursing home at Woy Woy to be run by its own board under the control of the Gosford District Hospital, which would probably supply laundry, cooking and nursing services.

Government grants towards the building of a nursing home would be subject to certain conditions which must be complied with by the Woy Woy Hospital Committee, he stated. It was proposed that Government grants should not exceed two thirds of the capital cost or twice the amount raised by the organisation prepared to build the home, which ever was the least.

Mr. Humphries suggested that the Woy Woy Hospital Committee immediately look into the facts, figures and costs of establishing a 30 bed home.

It was at this stage that Mr. Perc Cornish moved that the public meeting accept the foreshadowed motion from Mr. Humphries and place his suggestions as a matter of urgency before the Woy Woy Hospital Committee for detailed study.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Claude Knight, President of the Ettalong Memorial Club and a financial trustee for the Hospital Committee.

Mr. Tom Waugh, President of Woy Woy Lions' Club, said he felt it was reasonable to presume that the charitable organisations and service clubs in the district would see fit to do for the proposed nursing home what they had undertaken for the Olympic Pool last year.

Mr. Waugh then said he felt "a little let down" because what had transpired at this meeting was not what the Woy Woy Hospital Committee had originally planned, although fully agreeing with the suggestions made for the care of the aged.

"Where is there a district of 25,000 people with nothing at all representing a hospital in any form," he added. "In the early days of the Committee the term 'Cottage Hospital' was used, with the idea that a small hospital be built at Woy Woy as an annexe to Gosford Hospital."

"We are completely underhospitalised in this district and it is laugh-

able that we should be in this position," he concluded.

PROTEST

Later in the meeting Mr. Waugh formally moved that a protest be sent to the State Premier and his motion was supported by Mr. Perc Cornish.

Mr. Cornish also expressed disappointment at the outcome of the meeting. The Woy Woy Chamber of Commerce was asked 11 years ago to select ground suitable for a hospital which would possibly be built in 10 years, he said. The proposal then was that Woy Woy hospital should eventually become a 100 bed hospital with a base hospital of 150 beds at Gosford.

"We would be better to wait for a £1 million hospital than to have four or five subsidiary hospitals scattered over 12 acres of ground," he concluded.

Mr. Humphries then produced the letter from Dr. ago, which stated that there was no possibility of establishing a hospital at Woy Woy at present, and pointed out that any building erected on the ground now could be utilised when a hospital was finally established.

Cr. I. Hoskin spoke against the motion which protested against the delay in establishing a proper hospital at Woy Woy. Cr. Hoskin said that she felt the motion should not be sent in view of the fact that millions of pounds would have to be found for drought relief in Australia and also for the country's international responsibility towards India which was suffering a severe famine.

The support of the Gosford District Hospital Board for the proposed nursing home was offered by the Secretary of Gosford Hospital, Mr. Boyce, who said that the hospital was behind any move to improve hospitalisation of the district.

Mr. Boyce, in a rough estimate based on the cost of nurses' quarters, said the Committee could expect to spend £2,500 to £3,000 per bed in a nursing home.

In comparison the 65 beds at Gosford District Hospital cost £10,000 per bed, and £100,000 per year was spent in salaries alone.

GOSFORD HOSPITAL NEEDS 300 BEDS

When completed the new wing would give Gosford Hospital 130 beds but 300 beds were needed to adequately serve the Central Coast, he added.

Mr. Boyce said that £50 million a year was being spent on hospitals.

In conclusion he said he was confident that Gosford Hospital could handle the laundry and nursing services for a nursing home for aged at Woy Woy.

At the conclusion of Mr. Ted Humphries' address a formal vote of thanks was extended by Mr. Claude Knight who expressed the Committee's gratitude for such a comprehensive and elaborate report.

Mr. Perc Cornish also added his thanks to Mr. Humphries for the courtesy he had shown the Committee in being present at its public meeting.

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NURSING HOME FOR THE AGED SUGGESTED AS ALTERNATIVE

Woy Woy will not get a hospital or geriatric centre in the foreseeable future.

This statement was made at a public meeting at Woy Woy Masonic Hall last Thursday night by Mr. Ted Humphries, M.L.A., who offered as an alternative suggestion the erection, in the meantime, of a nursing home for elderly patients who could not be adequately cared for in their own homes.

Acting on Mr. Humphries' recommendation, the meeting directed the Woy Woy and District War Memorial Hospital Committee to study thoroughly the possibility of establishing such a nursing home, with the aid of a Government grant, on the 12 acres of land in Ocean Beach Road, Woy Woy, which has been set aside for a hospital.

The announcement that Woy Woy could not expect to get its hospital, at least within the next five years, came as disappointing news for most of the

80 or so people, many of them elderly, who attended last Thursday night's meeting.

The meeting decided on a motion by Mr. Tom Waugh, President of Woy Woy Lions' Club and a financial trustee for the Woy Woy Hospital Committee, that a letter be sent to the State Premier complaining bitterly of the long history of promises over the years and the general tone of such promises before the last election which had led the people of Woy Woy to believe they would be given a hospital in the near future.

However, despite obvious disappointment, the general feeling of the meeting was that the establishment of a nursing home on the lines suggested by Mr. Humphries would be a step in the right direction and, as the chairman, Mr. A. Osborne remarked, "half a loaf of bread is better than none".

The foreshadowed motion, made by Mr. Hum-

phries and accepted by the meeting as a recommendation to the Woy Woy Hospital Committee, read as follows:

"That the Woy Woy and District War Memorial Hospital Committee, being a registered and charitable organisation and as such is an eligible organisation in accordance with the Public Hospitals Authority, be empowered to liaise with the Commonwealth and State Government, the N.S.W. Department of Public Health, the N.S.W. Hospitals Commission, the Board of the Gosford District Hospital and Regional Hospital Committee, the Gosford Shire Council, Services, Churches, Community and Civic Societies, organisations and associations to find ways and means of establishing, administering and operating on the Hospital Commission's land in Ocean Beach Road, Woy Woy, a Nursing Home as defin-

ed by the Consultative Committee's report for the care of the aged, dated 17th August, 1965."

Mr. Humphries said he wished to make it clear that the erection of a nursing home for the aged on the Hospital Commission's 12 acres of land would not include the erection of a hospital there at this date. The home would be placed on the land in relation to the site plan and used later when a hospital was possibly as a nurses' home.

Having read the report from the Minister of Health, Mr. Jago, who clearly stated that commitments already entered into for the Gosford District Hospital and others in the State would preclude the erection of a hospital at Woy Woy at present, Mr. Humphries said, "I am being perfectly honest with you when I say you will not get a general hospital at Woy Woy until Gosford reaches 250 beds."

"You will either wait and wait until Gosford is fully equipped to handle all types of hospitalisation or you will meet an immediate need with the

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