GOSFORD HOSPITAL TO RANK SECOND BIGGEST IN COUNTRY

When the planned $10.5 million extensions were completed the Gosford District Hospital would probably rank second to Royal Newcastle as the biggest hospital complex outside the metropolitan area.

Mr. Bob Vaughan, MBE, the chairman of the board of directors of the Gosford District Hospital, envisaged this in his annual report on Monday night.

He said a direction had been received from the Health Commission of New South Wales to proceed with planning for major extensions to the hospital.

The extensions to cost more than $10.5 million would double the number of beds at present on site at Gosford making a total of 400.

Taking into account the number of beds at the subsidiary hospitals at Woy Woy, Long Jetty and Wyoming and the nursing home being built at Woy Woy the Gosford controlled complex would administer about 570 beds.

"Gosford will be one of the biggest hospitals outside the metropolitan area," Mr. Vaughan said in projecting the complex into future planning.

"Probably only second to Royal Newcastle and in fact there will be very few hospitals within the metropolitan area which will equal Gosford in size."

1975 START

A start on the extensions is scheduled for 1975.

For the past few months a planning committee chaired by the regional administrative officer, Mr. W. Godsell, has been meeting at Gosford Hospital three or four times a month.

"A very significant contribution to planning has been made by individual staff members, who have drawn on their experience and given generously of their time to supplement the work of the planning committee," Mr. Vaughan added.

In delivering the 29th annual report of the hospital, the chairman said the year under review had seen many changes, "not only within our own hospital and its subsidiary hospitals but throughout the whole of the health structure of this State."

Mr. Vaughan said it was one of the busiest the hospital staff had ever experienced.

During the year the Board accepted the responsibility of administering The Entrance and Long Jetty Community Hospitals.

This move followed a request from a public meeting of residents in the area concerned.

Since then extensive renovations have been carried out at the hospital. Sewerage has been connected and further renovations are projected as funds become available.

NURSING HOME

The Board administered Gosford Hospital’s 200 beds, 34 beds at Woy Woy Hospital and 34 at The Entrance Long Jetty.

Since the end of the financial year Wingello Nursing Home (now known as Wyoming Hospital) had been added to the Gosford Hospital administration, the new addition representing 76 beds.

"In recent times there has been an unprecedented demand on the services of the hospital," Mr. Vaughan said.

"The Hospitals Commission of NSW and later the Health Commission of NSW have been generous in the provision of facilities for this area."

"But you will realise the difficulty we are facing when I tell you that it took 26 years for this hospital to reach the stage of 146 beds and only three more years to add a further 200 beds.

GROWTH FACTOR

"The growth of the hospital is a reflection of the dramatic rate of development of the Central Coast."

"The Board of Directors and staff have a commitment to meet the health"
$101/2m. plan to extend hospital

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needs of the community and to provide the highest possible standard of care.

"This is achieved only by the efforts of many people associated with the hospital who give themselves unceasingly to maintain this standard under increasingly difficult conditions.

"The Board is very conscious that every year the hospital is expected to carry on more work for the community in providing acute care and diagnostic-patient services and every year it becomes necessary to modify some existing services to adjust to changing health care requirements."

EMERGENCY SERVICE

"For example, an after hours emergency medical service has been in operation at Woy Woy since September, 1972.

"This service may not meet every contingency which arises, but basically it is providing a focal point of contact for those local residents who require medical care after normal hours.

"Endeavours are now being made to introduce a similar type of service for the people of the Entrance-Long Jetty area."

Explaining the extensions, Mr. Vaughan said that planning for the Health Services building has reached the stage of design in brief and it is anticipated that construction will start next year.

"The health services building will provide a co-ordinated health service to the residents of both Gosford and Wyong Shires and will be the nucleus of a wide range of health services, covering physical, mental, dental, child and baby health, counselling, rehabilitation, geriatric and physiotherapy services."

OVERHEAD LINK

"The building will be constructed on hospital grounds with a connecting overhead link to the main hospital.

"It will be located on the lower side of the present Stephen Street and to avoid having a public thoroughfare to the hospital and health services building arrangements have been made for the hospital to purchase the area now known as Stephen Street and to re-locate this roadway on the western boundary of the hospital property."

The hospital complex had a staff of 570 on its payroll at the end of the financial year, the figure rising to 680 after the Woy Woy Hospital came under its wing.

Mr. Vaughan praised the support received from outside organisations.

SUPPORT

"The support shown for the hospital by local organisations is generous, valuable and encouraging," he said.

"A tremendous amount of time and effort is spent by the members of service clubs, RSL clubs and other organisations in raising money to provide equipment for this hospital."

"As a result many sections have benefited. For instance the coronary care ward has received donations for specialised equipment which will improve patient care.

"Other areas of the hospital have received amenities such as television in the children's ward and air-conditioning in some other areas."

Mr. Vaughan praised the work of the honorary medical officers, nurses and women's auxiliaries.