

The case

for paramedics

Hospital calls for report



MR. BOYCE

Gosford District Hospital Board is sympathetic towards the campaign launched recently for the establishment of a paramedic ambulance on the Central Coast.

The idea for the paramedic ambulance was mooted by South Woy Woy Progress Association which has launched a community appeal for the \$30,000 needed to purchase the ambulance with a donation of \$1000 from its own funds.

Gosford Hospital's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Neville Boyce, said no one could deny the benefits which would accrue from having a specially equipped ambulance and team of

trained paramedics centrally located to provide a 24-hour emergency service.

Mr Boyce said the last meeting of the hospital board had called for a report on the feasibility of setting up the service and, as a result, the hospital's medical superintendent and the Brisbane Water District Ambulance superintendent had met to discuss the matter.

However, Mr Boyce said the staffing of the

ambulance, which would provide the large cost factor, would be a decision of the State Government.

The report which comes out of the meeting of the medical and ambulance heads will be considered at the next meeting of the hospital board on June 23.

Hospital hours change

In response to many suggestions, the board of directors of Gosford District Hospital has varied visiting hours for maternity patients.

Hospital visiting hours were recently extended to run from 2.30 pm to 8 pm.

The hospital board has since received letters from maternity patients which raise the problems of disturbances from visitors and their children whilst resting or eating meals, and the increasing difficulty in obtaining privacy for breastfeeding

and post-natal treatments.

Miss Lowndes, director of nursing, said that many of these letters praised the nursing staff for the way they cope with an increased flow of visitors.

"It is important that mothers be rested as much as possible before being discharged from hospital and be given as much time as possible for

undisturbed intimate contact with their babies."

"Visiting hours for maternity patients will now revert to 2.30 pm to 3.30 pm and 7 pm to 8 pm. Husbands may extend their visit to 8.30 pm," she said.

"A survey of maternity patients will be conducted to determine what visiting hours are most appropriate."

RP
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