

THANKS TO HOSPITALS

I WOULD like to express my gratitude to Gosford and Woy Woy Hospitals.

Recently my husband suffered a stroke and the attention and care he received from both hospitals was so good I just felt I had to write and express my thanks.

So to the doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, in fact all the staff - thank you on behalf of my husband and myself.

MRS S. PURCELL
Toowoon Bay

New hospitals mean closures elsewhere

HOSPITAL rationalisation in line with the Federal Government's policy meant that no new hospital services should be opened without compensatory closures of services elsewhere, the Minister for Health, Mr Kevin Stewart, said in Gosford recently.

He explained the procedure during his address at the official opening of the new wing at Gosford District Hospital.

He pointed out that the new unit at Gosford would have remained unstaffed and idle, if beds in other

hospitals had not been closed.

Mr Stewart said the government was conscious of the substantial increase in population that had occurred on the Central Coast, bringing the current figure up to about 141,000.

He said it was predicted that the figure would reach 175,000 by 1990.

In the past the district had been disadvantaged by the limited availability of specialist services which would now be more readily available in the new hospital.

He said the new facility would also serve as a major new employer.

With the completion of the new block, 402 new positions had become available. More than half were nursing positions, many of them at quite senior levels.

The actual breakdown of positions is:

- Nursing positions 243.
- Medical posts, 20.
- Para-medicals, 25.
- Administration, 17.
- Domestic, engineering, catering and other non-medical positions, 97.

The appointment of 402 persons to staff the new facility was an important part of the rationalisation program which involved the redeployment and not a reduction of services.

Mr Stewart said similar advantages would flow on to Wyong later this year when

MINISTER EXPLAINS POLICY

the new hospital being built at Kanwal is completed.

Some 120 to 130 new positions would be created with the opening of this facility, he said.

He also congratulated the 10 Rotary Clubs on the Central Coast which had contributed a total of \$10,000 towards the provision of six motel-style units for the use of parents and relatives of patients confined to Gosford District Hospital.

Mr Stewart also outlined the policy of all health services on the Central Coast being administered by the Central Coast Area Health Services Advisory Committee, which also was the Board of Directors of Gosford District Hospital.

He said it co-ordinated all health services including child health, mental health, rehabilitation programs, domiciliary nursing, occupational health, speech pathology, health education, ambulance and medical emergency services.

This scheme was conducted in tandem with the Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai Hospital, to assess the value of placing all health services in a district under the one administration.

PILOT SCHEME FOR HOSPITAL

A 'FIRST' for Gosford District Hospital is a pilot training scheme for Newcastle Undergraduates, eight of whom started at the hospital on February 18.

Accommodation has been provided by the hospital. They include six males and two females - who are doing third year medicine at the university.

In line with Newcastle University's new curriculum the students will undertake studies in specialist areas of medicine, including intensive and coronary care, ot-rhino-laryngology (ear, nose and throat), ophthalmology, and other specialised fields.

The students will work under the guidance of hospital specialists for a period of 16 weeks and then assessed.

It is possible the pilot scheme will expand next year with the same group returning as fourth year students and another third year group joining them.

Medical superintendent, Dr Rod Kennedy now has a staff of 42 resident medical officers including five registrars, seven residents and three interns from Royal North Shore and Camperdown Hospitals.

The hospital also has an extensive honorary medical staff, affiliated medical officers, and honorary general practitioners.

Handwritten signature and date: RB 6/3/80.