

Blood tests for farmers

FREE blood tests will be offered Central Coast primary producers and farm workers to detect any cases of pesticide poisoning at Gosford Health Services Centre, Gosford Hospital, on Tuesday, March 11.

The tests will be made by the NSW Health Commission and will be conducted from 9 am to 5 pm.

No appointment will be required by people wanting a blood test.

The tests are for users of organic phosphate and/or carbamate pesticides.

They are not for users of organo-chlorine pesticides or for weedicides such as 2,4 D or 2,4,5 -T.

They are also not aimed at the home gardener.

The Health Commission aid more than 15 people were admitted to NSW hospitals with pesticide poisoning during the spray season last year.

Health Commission chairman, Dr R. McEwin, has issued a warning stressing the need for care and proper protective clothing in using and handling these substances during the spray season this year.

He did this when advising that free blood tests would be offered to local primary producers and farm workers at various centres throughout the State during the season.

The blood testing program is being carried out in country areas during January, February and March.

"The tests reveal whether users of organic phosphate or carbamate pesticides have absorbed dangerous levels of poison," Dr McEwin said.

"Graziers, orchardists and market gardeners use these chemicals to protect crops and livestock against pests.

OPENING DAY SET FOR HOSPITAL EXTENSIONS

NSW Health Minister, Mr Kevin Stewart will visit Gosford on Saturday, February 23, to officially open Stage 1 of extensions to Gosford Hospital and Rotary Lodge in the grounds of the hospital.

While here he will also address the Rotary International Zone Convention at the Central Coast Leagues Club.

Mr Stewart will arrive on the Coast at 11.30 am and will go immediately to inspect Rotary Lodge.

This is a motel type unit in the hospital grounds built by Rotary Clubs on the Central Coast to accommodate overnight relatives visiting patients and who have no place to stay during that visit.

At 12 pm he will address the Rotary Convention at the Leagues Club and while there will officially declare open Rotary Lodge.

At 2.30 pm Mr Stewart will go back to the hospital and open officially Stage 1 of the hospital's extension.



MR STEWART

KB 5/2/80