

# \$8.3m. hospital

## extensions

### ready next month

Saturday, February 23, has been announced as the official opening date for the new wing of extensions at Gosford District Hospital.

The opening of the new hospital block, which should be operational by March, will relieve the acute shortage of health facilities on the Central Coast.

It will add an additional 120 beds to the existing 378 public hospital beds in the area.

The outside work of the hospital is almost completed and interior fittings are well advanced as the photographs show.

The magnificent new block at the hospital consists of four 30 bed wards; a large accident and emergency centre; six operating theatres; admission and discharge departments, plant and PABX facilities.

A tunnel links the first floor of the new block with the existing hospital, providing underground access between both facilities.

NSW State Health Minister, Mr Kevin Stewart has been invited to Gosford to perform



Mr Kevin Stewart

the opening ceremony of the \$8.3 million extensions, complete with equipment and furnishings.

Staff will also be moved into the new section by March 1, with more than 400 jobs created by the additional services. A total of 243 nursing personnel will work in the new wing.

Medical and paramedical staff with total 25, with 17 people working in the administration of the new wards and facilities. A further 97 people will be required as domestic, engineering and catering staff.

The new block has also provided much local employment for the building industry during its construction.

The new building was designed by Leighton Irwin and Company Pty Ltd, who were also engineers for the project. The builders were Girvan Bros Pty Ltd.

With the foreshadowed closure of beds in other NSW hospitals, the NSW Health Commission has directed that priority be given to job applications from staff of those hospitals.

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