

# SPECIAL SEMINAR

**TO assist people suffering the effects of being separated from their partners, Central Coast Community Women's Health Centre has arranged "a seminar for the separated" to be held every Wednesday night for eight weeks.**

## To assist separated

Purpose of the seminar, which will be held at the Long Jetty Health Centre, Yakkalla St, Bateau Bay (opposite The Entrance High School), will be to help the separated understand what is happening to them and their children and to feel more competent in their new life.

The program will be conducted by local people, including those involved in health and welfare, and lone parents.

First session (all will begin at 7 pm) will be held on Wednesday, September 12, and child minding facilities will be available throughout the program.

Pam Grinter of the Com-

munity Women's Health Centre said the seminars, lasting two hours, had resulted from the experience of the centre over the past four years.

Separation of people from their partners often created a crisis in their lives.

"With the result being the person feels confused and disorientated, making it virtually impossible of having any insight into how they are going to readjust and make a new life for themselves," she said.

The program has been devised by Dr Robert Weiss and presented by Pat Davies, psychologist of the Central Coast Mental Health

Service, who will give a short talk each week.

Afterwards those participating will form a small group to share experiences and feelings to do with separation.

Each group will comprise about 10 people, including two group facilitators and a "veteran" of separation experience.

The session on Wednesday, September 19, will deal with local community resources, activities and groups and what one can expect to get from supportive or directive relationships.

This session will be conducted by a panel - Pat Davies, social worker

Esmeralda Branco and lawyer Priscilla Adey.

There will be no charge for the seminar, other than a \$2 donation to cover refreshments for the whole course.

Further information may be obtained from Isla Tooth, who will be hostess for the program, on 24 2251.

# BUILDING PLANS WILL GO AHEAD

**WORK on Gosford District Hospital extensions and the new Wyong Hospital will go ahead as planned, despite reductions in public hospital budgets recently announced by the Federal Government.**

The budget cuts are to be offset by "hospital rationalisation" to be put into practice throughout NSW.

Details of the rationalisation were announced recently by State Minister for Health Mr Kevin Stewart.

"The rationalisation program is being undertaken as a consequence of Federal cutbacks in health funds, and in order that the NSW Government can proceed with the commissioning of essential new hospital facilities," he said.

Mr Stewart explained that in many respects, the rationalisation program would have the effect of re-allocating beds within the metropolitan area.

It would include cuts in services at some hospitals where there is a surplus of beds, he said.

"Also under the program, some hospitals will be required to designate certain of their beds as nursing home beds and staff that section of the hospital appropriately," Mr Stewart said.

"The program of re-allocation of resources is also intended to prevent duplication of services and ensure proper utilisation of resources, including those concerned with highly sophisticated medical services.

"In the main, the program will affect the large teaching hospitals."

The overall effect of these reclassifications and cuts in beds will be to allow work to proceed in areas where existing hospital facilities are inadequate.

Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Gosford District Hospital, David Briggs, commented last week that rationalisation would ensure the continuation of work begun on Central Coast Hospitals.