

MINISTER'S STATEMENT—

HOSPITAL'S VITAL ROLE

The Gosford District Hospital has a vital role to play in the hospital system of New South Wales.

This was stated yesterday by the Minister for Health, the Hon. A. H. Jago, M.L.A., who tomorrow (Saturday) officially opens extensions and equipment at the hospital, worth an estimated \$1,200,000.

In a special statement to the "Express" Mr. Jago said he was looking forward to performing the official opening of the Gosford Hospital extensions.

Mr. Jago commented:

"The hospital is a key link in the State system as it is halfway between Newcastle and Hornsby and not only does it provide for the hospital needs of Gosford and surrounding communities, but is also called upon to play a very important role in the care of the victims of accidents that occur all too frequently on the Highway between Newcastle and Hornsby.

"Indeed, one of the features of these extensions is the provision of a modern, up-to-date Casualty Department, complete with reception area, examination cubicles, Operating Theatre, Xray and orthopaedic facilities, as well as an Observation Ward.

Casualty facilities

"I am confident that these improved and enlarged casualty facilities will be of considerable benefit to those who, unfortunately, will require to be brought to its doors.

"Of course these extensions contain much more than a Casualty Department. They provide an additional 65 ward beds, which are urgently needed to meet the increased demands for hospital services in the area consequent upon the growth in population.

"A new kitchen block has also been provided together with a new boiler house and laundry. The modern hospital is depen-

dent more and more on an adequate supply of steam. The boiler house and kitchen have been built of sufficient size to cope with the full development of the Hospital.

"Ultimately it is envisaged that the Gosford District Hospital will be developed to a capacity of some 250-300 beds, and it is hoped that the development will proceed without delay. Already the next stage of its development, which includes renovations of the older section of the hospital, is in hand and tenders for this work have been called.

"The cost of the extensions that are being opened on Saturday is of the order of \$1m. This cost is inclusive of all necessary equipment.

Important

"The provision of such a large sum of public moneys clearly indicates how important the Gosford District Hospital is considered by the responsible authorities.

"These extensions, I am sure, will greatly facilitate the worthy work of the doctors, the nurses and the staff of the Hospital in caring for the sick and the injured.

"It would be remiss of me if I did not pay a high tribute to the doctors, the nurses and all the staff of the hospital for their industry and devotion to duty over the past years, working under cramped and difficult conditions.

"These extensions will assist their efforts considerably in maintaining their high standards of care for the sick and the injured."

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