

Medical superintendent starts at Gosford

APPOINTMENT MAJOR STEP IN BID FOR BASE HOSPITAL

A major step forward in the gradual development of Gosford as a base hospital occurred this week with the appointment of the District Hospital's first Medical Superintendent.

He is Dr. N. Walters who took over the medical administration of the hospital on Monday.

The appointment, ratified by the Hospitals Commission, was announced by the Gosford District Hospital Board chairman, Mr. R. G. Mathews.

Dr. Walters' appointment will be the forerunner of gradual development of hospital resident medical staff.

The burden, now carried on by the district's honorary medical officers, will be eased.

Mr. Mathews said it was planned that junior resident medical staff would be allotted to Gosford from major teaching hospitals in the State.

Dr. Walters has taken over full responsibility of medical administration.

A graduate from the Queensland University, the new medical superintendent was introduced to the "Express" by the GDH secretary, Mr. N. Boyce.

Dr. Walters, born in Queensland, worked at the University of Queensland as a lecturer in Anatomy for twelve months and later as Orthopaedic Registrar at Prince Henry and Prince of Wales Hospitals.

From July of last year until his appointment in Gosford he was chief medical resident officer at Prince Henry in Sydney.

He is married, he and Mrs. Walters moving into the recently completed hospital cottage at the weekend.

Dr. Walters is a keen golfer.

Negotiations for the appointment of a Medical Superintendent at the Gosford Hospital were commenced from the later part of last year.

COMMISSION DIRECTION

The Board acted on a direction by the Hospitals Commission because of the potential growth of Gosford to a base hospital of 250 beds.

The Commission had advised that Gosford would have to appoint a Medical Superintendent before it could receive rotating medical staff from teaching hospitals.

Gosford, at present, has 130 beds (some under renovations).

ULTIMATE DEVELOPMENT IN FIVE TO TEN YEARS

When he was in Gosford earlier this year, Health Minister Jago said a period of from five to ten years should see the "ultimate development of the Gosford District Hospital."

The hospital has 172 on its staff, including 88 trained and trainee nurses.

Mr. Boyce said it was expected the staff would be increased to in excess of 200 when fully operating at 130 beds.

Mr. Mathews said the appointment of Dr. Walters was a tremendous step forward for future hospital facilities in the Gosford district.

The hospital was first opened just on 20 years ago.

Dr. Walters said he was "really looking forward to his new appointment."

He felt that the potential of Gosford Shire warranted the hospital having a Medical Superintendent with, ultimately, resident medicals.



Dr. Walters (left) with Hospital Secretary, Mr. Neville Boyce.