

Move for geriatric hospital

Woy Woy and District War Memorial Hospital Committee at its annual meeting on Saturday took the first major step towards obtaining a hospital for the area.

It was decided to approach the Minister for Health, Mr. A. H. Jago, M.L.A., and the N.S.W. Hospitals Commission, through Mr. E. H. Humphries, M.L.A. (Gosford) to establish a Geriatric Hospital in Woy Woy.

The hospital, to be administered by Gosford District Hospital, will serve the needs of the area pending the establishment of a general hospital in Woy Woy.

Mr. A. R. (Fred) Moss, who was elected publicity officer and spokesman for the hospital committee, said he was confident that the government would welcome the committee's decision.

The resolution was adopted after the committee had dealt with replies from local doctors to a survey organised by Mr. E. H. Humphries, M.L.A.

Mr. Claude Knight, trustee of the committee, in supporting the resolution, mentioned his experience as welfare officer of the RSL sub-branch.

District Hospital secretary, Mr. Neville Boyce, attended the meeting with the new superintendent, Dr. I. Walters.

Mr. Boyce pointed out that a Geriatric Hospital

in Woy Woy would provide great relief to the base hospital at Gosford.

He explained how patients, after special treatment or operation in Gosford, could be, at a later stage, transferred to Woy Woy.

This would place them in closer proximity to their local doctor and also to their relatives.

Mr. Humphries, who made himself available on Saturday afternoon for an interview, said the resolution would be the speediest way of establishing a hospital in Woy Woy.

He pointed out that the Minister for Health had appointed a panel of specialists to assist and to solve a big medical problem — the care of the aged and geriatric patients.

Mr. Moss said Mr. Humphries would make representations to the Minister in the near future and the committee felt that this geriatric hospital was not far off.

During the meeting the retiring president of the sub-committee, Mrs. E. Darby, handed over a cheque for \$1000 on behalf of the sub-committee.