

Hospital unit to be built

A geriatric hospital unit and 20 frail aged units will be built at Woy Woy.

The decision to build followed a conference between representatives of the Gosford District Hospital Board, the Minister for Health (Mr. A. H. Jago) and the chairman of the Hospitals Commission (Dr. Selle).

The units would be built on land held in trust by the Gosford District Hospital Board, in Ocean Beach Road, Woy Woy.

The proposal is the sequel to the original scheme to build a public hospital at Woy Woy.

Raised \$25,000

Woy Woy Hospital Committee raised \$25,000 for the building of a hospital and these funds will now be utilised for the new project.

This situation arose because insufficient money was available to proceed with a public hospital at Woy Woy.

After a conference between members of the Woy Woy and District War Memorial Hospital Committee and Hospital Board members, it was agreed to support the scheme which the Minister ultimately endorsed.

Govt. subsidy

The Frail Aged Units will be built with Commonwealth subsidy, and the Hospitals Commission will provide the Geriatric Unit at Woy Woy, under the control of Gosford District Hospital.

The plan also provides for the building of a 20-bed rehabilitation section at Gosford District Hospital.

20 AGED UNITS

In a report to the Minister, Mr. Neville Boyce, chief executive officer, pointed out that patients utilising the Frail Aid Units would need very little nursing care, but could benefit from the Rehabilitation Unit at Gosford.

The patients would be looked after by their own doctor, or under supervision from the Director of Physical Medicine and the district nurses in the area.

This would attract maximum Commonwealth subsidy.

It was realised that with a Commonwealth Subsidy, accommodation could be made available for patients requiring nursing attention.

Geriatric ward

The Geriatric Ward at Woy Woy would house patients requiring prolonged rehabilitation at Gosford District Hospital and sick aged patients now using acute bed space at Gosford.

Patients requiring service at Gosford would be conveyed there by ambulance and treated as patients under the constant supervision of the Director of Physical Medicine.

Patients discharged to their homes would be supervised by the district nurse and other social service facilities available such as the Housekeeper's Service and the Meals on Wheels.

Rehab. unit

In his report, Mr. Boyce said the 20-bed rehabilitation unit to be built at Gosford would provide facilities for day patients, including occupational therapy, speech therapy, aides to daily living, physiotherapy and a gymnasium.

The patients to be placed in this 20-bed unit would be those requiring assessment and who would show a dramatic recovery with extensive treatment.

Daily service

The day hospital service would be for patients to attend during the day in order to receive active treatment and care simi-



Demonstrating some of the modern equipment in the physiotherapy department at Gosford District Hospital are Christine Kirkness, receiving neck traction treatment and Lea Wilson having ultra sonic treatment. — Laurie Andrews Photo

lar to that given to some of the in-patients.

They could return home each night and remain home at weekends.

In providing this day hospital service it would enable in-patients to be discharged from hospital earlier than would be possible otherwise; treatment could be started on some patients awaiting admission; rehabilitation treatment could be continued and supervised closely.

Home treatment

In his report Mr. Boyce pointed out that patients generally preferred treat-

ment in the familiar surroundings of their home.

Mr. Boyce reported there was a growing problem of solving the modern-day geriatric domiciliary service.

"The time may not be too far distant when we see visits from doctors, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, meal services, etc., all arranged along the lines of the District Nursing Service," Mr. Boyce said.

"It is a logical answer, and a logical extension of the hospital system."

"There seems to be no other way of achieving a major cost reduction per patient treated."

"This hospital, with the largest number of district nurses outside the metropolitan area, is in the forefront of any move to elaborate on the service."