



Caring for the Coast

MEDIA RELEASE

Major Milestone for Mental Health

Pouring concrete might not sound very exciting but to Central Coast Health it marks a major milestone for Mental Health services on the Central Coast. On Thursday 26th June contractors will commence pouring the main slab for the new 50-bed Mental Health inpatient facility at Wyong Hospital.

“This is an exciting time for staff and the community,” said Greg Flint, Wyong Hospital’s General Manager, “as the hospital expands both its facilities and services.

“Wyong Hospital will see tremendous growth during the redevelopment and the pouring of the concrete slab means the hospital will soon realise some of that growth.

“This will be the first major facility at Wyong Hospital to come online as part of the redevelopment.” said Mr Flint.

Central Coast Health’s Area Director of Community Health, Paul Warwick said that the new Mental Health inpatient unit would be opened in stages commencing early 2004.

“This facility will significantly expand mental health services on the Central Coast and enable the provision of new services such as the 15-bed dedicated psychogeriatric unit within the facility,” said Paul Warwick.

“We are currently working with the builder to finalise the details of handover of the building whilst our mental health staff are commencing the equipment procurement process for the fitout.

“The recruitment of specialist nursing and medical staff is underway to support this new facility that will have 25 acute mental health beds, 10 high dependency beds and the 15 psychogeriatric beds.” added Paul Warwick.

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Staff and consumers will join together at 10am on Thursday to create a Wishing Stone feature that will eventually become a part of the new facility’s grounds. The wishing stones are pieces of clay that have been hand moulded by staff and consumers and will be placed into a section of concrete to form a spiral effect.

The concept of the Wishing Stone feature is the creation of a symbolic gesture that involves people in the development of a caring place. It will help mark special occasions, looking to the new future, and acknowledging the changes that are about to happen.

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Contact

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