

Monday March 14, 2005

PREMIER CARR OPENS \$96 MILLION WYONG HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT

The Premier of NSW, Mr Bob Carr today officially opened the \$96.5 million 316-bed Wyong Hospital redevelopment – a NSW Government project that has increased hospital bed numbers by 134.

“This redevelopment has transformed Wyong hospital into one of the State’s leading and most modern health facilities NSW,” Mr Carr said.

“It is a major part of the NSW Government’s strong and detailed plans to deliver the best possible health facilities to families in their own region.”

Mr Carr said the hospital better equips staff to deal with the region’s growing population and the ever-increasing demands on local health services.

Last financial year there were 40,000 presentations to Wyong Hospital Emergency Department and 24,000 admissions to the hospital.

“Thanks to our \$96.5 million investment these Central Coast families are now able to receive the best available treatment closer to home,” Mr Carr said.

“And the world-class nurses and doctors who work at Wyong now have a world-class hospital to call their own.”

The \$96.5 million Wyong Hospital redevelopment includes:

- An increase in bed numbers of 134 – from 182 to 316;
- New medical and surgical wards;
- Six new Operating Theatres;
- A new maternity unit;
- A new Audiology Department;
- An extended Medical Imaging, Pathology and Pharmacy Service;
- A new Outpatients Clinics area;
- A Short Stay Observation ward;
- A new unit to investigate cardiac, neurological and respiratory disorders; and
- A High Dependency Unit.

The new Audiology Department – specialising in toddlers and pre-schoolers but also catering for adults – includes two new state-of-the-art testing booths and audiology equipment.

“This means around 800 Wyong Shire residents each year will no longer have to travel to Gosford for hearing tests,” Mr Carr said.

The maternity unit in the redevelopment features:

- 14 postnatal beds in individual rooms each with ensuite and baby bath; and
- Three Birthing rooms - each with a large bath to help women relax while they are in labour.

Around 350 babies each year are born at Wyong Hospital.

In addition, the number of mental health beds available on the Central Coast has tripled with the opening of 50 beds in the Hospital's Mental Health Unit over the past 10 months.

A 174-space car park located at the new hospital main entrance allows patients and visitors to access the hospital more easily.

Mr Carr was joined at the official opening by the NSW Minister for Health Mr Morris Iemma and Local Central Coast State Labor MP for Wyong, Mr Paul Crittenden.

"The new building is part of the State Government's \$212 million redevelopment of both Wyong and Gosford Hospitals," Mr Iemma said.

The Gosford Hospital redevelopment, which will have 484 beds, is expected to be completed this year.

Mr Iemma said the reconstruction of the two hospitals and expansion of clinical services on the Central Coast is complemented by the new \$1.7 million Community Health Centre at Erina opened in July 2003.

Mr Crittenden said hospital staff worked closely with architects to develop the best possible design to accommodate the changes in health care since the hospital first opened – 25 years ago.

"This hospital will allow these highly skilled people to work effectively and safely and provide the best care possible," Mr Crittenden said.