



13 February 2003

'OPEN WIDE'.... – WOY WOY DENTAL CLINIC OPENED BY HEALTH MINISTER

Families on the Peninsula will soon be able to have dental care close to home with the NSW Health Minister, Craig Knowles, today opening the Woy Woy Dental Clinic.

"It's been my pleasure to see this unit develop from start to finish. I was here just a few weeks ago as the primary building work was being completed and I'm proud to be on the Central Coast today to perform the official opening. Final detailing is still underway and in just a couple of weeks the Central Coast Area Health Service will be booking patients in to this much needed service."

"Several years ago John Howard's Commonwealth Government decimated public dentistry by discontinuing the Commonwealth Dental Program and instead now he spends around \$250 million on cosmetic dentistry by private health insurance.

"This unit is part of the Carr Government's efforts to rebuild public dentistry in this state and to fill that gap."

Mr Knowles said the \$750,000 purpose-built unit would house four dental chairs and a laboratory to manufacture dental prosthetics.

"Just as importantly, the service itself will be expanded. Previously, the only public dental service in Woy Woy was the two-chair children's service. This wonderful new unit replaces that service and broadens it to include eligible adults.

"We have invested additional funding to cater for this expansion and for increased demand for dental care across the area. We project that an additional 10,000 services will be provided across the Central Coast as a result of this investment.

"This unit at Woy Woy offers enormous benefits to local families. Children, adults and older people will now have access to dental services close to home, rather than having to travel to Gosford for assessment and treatment.

"I can't say that it will make going to the dentist an enjoyable experience, but this is a unit which offers the best in comfort and quality care.

"It's a real asset to the community and it would be remiss of me to not mention the contribution your local member, Marie Andrews, has made to helping this project come to fruition.

"Marie really has been a tireless advocate of this project and I know she is very proud to see the Woy Woy Dental Clinic delivering the best possible dental care to local families," said Mr Knowles.

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