



17 June 2004

\$300 million four year plan for Hospital services in South West Sydney

A blueprint for the development and growth of hospital and health services for the people of South Western Sydney was launched today by the Minister for Health, Morris Iemma.

Mr Iemma said the new plan, ***South Western Sydney Health Network: The Way Forward 2004-08***, was developed by clinicians and involved a further boosting of the clinical workforce and the medical and academic leadership in the Area.

Specifically, it delivers:

- An increase of over **\$300 million** over four years, including **\$26.2 million in 2004/05** to back the Health Plan, rising to **\$112 million per annum by 2007/08**
- A clear four year plan for the delivery of over 60 clinical services, with priority enhancements to 17 services including intensive care, diabetes services, renal medicine, cardiology, mental health, neurology and emergency medicine.
- Improved clinical leadership with new senior academic appointments in a number of service areas including cancer, aged care, anaesthetics and pain, emergency and trauma, colorectal surgery, maternity and foetal medicine, paediatrics, rheumatology and general medicine.
- An increase in beds in specialised services, including:
 - 12 intensive care beds, with seven to be located at Campbelltown Hospital
 - Eight high dependency beds
 - Three ventilated neo-natal intensive care cots at Liverpool Hospital
 - Additional inpatient maternity beds for women with complicated pregnancies
- A bed management plan that will determine the number of additional general, surgical and transitional beds that will be required to meet the growth in demand.
- The appointment of medical staff across a number of hospitals so that care can be provided at the most appropriate site by the most appropriate clinical team.
- A strengthening of the partnership between hospitals and the community sector to ensure that patients receive ongoing care after leaving hospital, or an alternative to hospital care; and
- An improved single phone call system for inter-hospital acute patient transfer.

“In four years time I want to be able to say that access to hospital and health services for the people of South West Sydney has been significantly enhanced, along with the standard of care delivered,” Mr Iemma said.

“This Plan sets a pathway for patients to be immediately referred or transferred to the right hospital and the right clinical team for the type of care they require.

“It aims to develop a network of services across South West Sydney in which every hospital has a clearly defined role to play.

“The Plan is designed to be sustainable well into the future, but it is a working document that will be subject to review and will continue to evolve to meet the changing health care needs of the local community.”

Role of Hospitals

Mr Lemma said it was important to recognise that not all hospitals can be all things to all people, and a distribution of specialised medical workforce across an Area is essential.

“It is simply not possible to replicate every clinical service at every hospital with the limited pool of medical workforce that faces hospital networks the world over,” he said.

“This Health Plan is designed to ensure that a full range of complementary, not competitive services is developed across the network of hospitals in South West Sydney.

“Significantly, it further boosts resources to key areas of need including Campbelltown and Camden Hospitals.

“Campbelltown Hospital will be developed towards principal referral hospital status and will be the lead site in South West Sydney for paediatric and ambulatory care.

“The capacity of acute services will be expanded with the addition of further intensive care and high dependency beds.

“Sub-specialty areas including cardiology, neurology, and respiratory medicine will also be enhanced with the addition of medical staff and academic leadership.

“Camden Hospital will continue its complementary role with Campbelltown, specialising in rehabilitation, normal risk obstetrics, palliative care and day surgery.

“Liverpool Hospital will continue to be the tertiary referral for South Western Sydney, and will maintain its role as the academic and research hub for the Area.”

Development of the Plan

The new Health Plan follows the establishment in November 2003 of a Clinical Strategy Group, chaired by Professor Jeremy Wilson and including 16 eminent SWSAHS clinicians.

In all, over 500 staff members from SWSAHS including doctors, nurses, allied health workers, health planners and administrative staff have worked together over the past six months to develop the Health Plan.

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