



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

20 September 2004

### **Nursing initiative set to speed up wait at Bowral Hospital**

The Advanced Clinical Nurse program at Bowral & District Hospital will improve services being provided through the Emergency Department.

Patients will be offered quality treatment by suitably qualified nursing staff based on documented best practice that will lead to improve waiting times.

In 2002, the nursing unit manager of Bowral Emergency Department, Kathy Bowie, identified that services offered by the Emergency Department could be enhanced by better utilisation of our highly experienced and skilled nursing staff in a more advanced role.

Clinical nurse specialist of Bowral Emergency Department, Kathy Arthurs said the Advanced Clinical Nurse (ACN) is an innovative work practice allowing early assessment and implementation of appropriate clinical care without the need to wait for medical officer assessment.

“ACNs use procedures, protocols and standing orders that have been ratified and authorised by the Health Service Quality Committee, the director Of Medical Services and general manager.

“Nursing administration has supported the initiative as the patient achieves definitive care as soon as possible based on documented best practice,” she said.

“The ACN is undertaken by trained, experienced registered nurses who fulfil education and competencies associated with the role, while working within the set guidelines.”

The role was put into practice in May this year after many hours of hard work by Kathy Bowie nursing unit manager Bowral Hospital, Jenny Morris area clinical nurse consultant for Emergency, Emergency Department clinical nurse specialists Helen Reynolds, Lynn Anderson, Bernadette Lawlor and Kathy Arthurs, and senior nurses Maie Pikkat and Sue Henning.

Maie Pikkat and Kathy Arthurs have presented the concept at the New Zealand College of Emergency Nurses National Conference with very encouraging feedback.

**Issued by Public Affairs, South Western Sydney Area Health Service 9828 5700.**