

HOSPITAL COSTS TO SOAR TO \$500,000

The total cost of running Gosford District Hospital is expected to reach approximately \$500,000 for the year 1966/1967.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Hospital (Mr. N. Boyce) revealed this last week after he had been advised of the budget figure allocation by the Hospitals Commission.

Mr. Boyce said that of this amount, \$200,000 would have to be raised locally from patients' fees.

He said that the Board of Directors was conscious of the amount of local fees to be raised and every endeavour will be made to collect current and outstanding fees.

INSPECTION OF HOSPITAL

Following a recent visit by the inspection staff of the Hospitals Commission, 50 new staff positions have been allocated to the hospital.

When filled, these will bring the number of staff members to approximately 220.

Applications have already been called to fill some of the positions.

The majority of the additional staff will be nursing—both trained and untrained.

A further 32 nurses will be employed, with 12 of these already undergoing training and more to start in February.

Mr. Boyce said that the new nurses' home/training school was nearing completion and is expected to be ready for occupation in early February.

GRANT FOR FURNISHINGS

The renovated section, including the blood bank, should also be finished early next month.

The Hospitals Commission has provided a special grant for furnishing the new nurses' home and training school, and money will also come from the Commission for renewing equipment in the renovated section.

When occupied, this section will increase the hospital's bed capacity to 135.

Together with the recent additions, this will make the hospital one of the most modern in the State.

Maternity patients are still occupying a ground floor ward, but they should return to the remodelled first floor maternity ward at the end of January.

A vacancy now exists on the Board of Directors, following the death of its secretary, Mr. Harry Craft.

Following an alteration to the Public Hospitals Act and Hospital By-Laws Mr. Boyce is now to be known as Chief Executive Officer, instead of secretary, of the hospital.