

STATEMENT FOR THE WERRIWA PRESS:



PRIME MINISTER

1974 BUDGET - LIVERPOOL HOSPITAL

Campbelltown and Liverpool Hospitals should benefit from the 1974 Budget allocation of \$28 million for public hospital facilities in the States.

The Prime Minister and Member for Werriwa, Mr. Gough Whitlam Q.C., M.P., said today that the Australian Government had decided to go ahead with a five year program of capital assistance for the provision, expansion and modernisation of public hospital facilities.

"I anticipate that Campbelltown and Liverpool Hospitals will be able to speed up their development programs through their share of the grant for 1974/75," he said.

Mr. Whitlam estimated that total federal assistance to public hospitals would exceed \$650 million by 1978/79, the end of the five year period.

The Budget allocation is a direct result of the Australian Government's decision to implement the recommendations of the Hospitals and Health Services Commission's "Report on Hospitals in Australia". This was tabled in Parliament on April 10 this year by the Minister for Health, Dr. Everingham.

The Report made recommendations on the provision of hospital facilities in Australia, and emphasised that health services should be organised on a regional basis so that people in each region would have access to comprehensive health care. In the Report, hospital facilities were taken to include general public hospitals, mental hospitals and other institutions offering alternative accommodation for patients such as nursing homes and hostels.

Mr. Whitlam said that the Hospitals and Health Services Commission had as its objective "The provision of high-quality, readily accessible, reasonably comprehensive co-ordinated and efficient health and related welfare services at local, regional, State and national levels." He said that it has been clear for some years that not enough would be done to overcome deficiencies in our health services until the national Government assumed a greater responsibility for the provision of hospital and medical services throughout the nation.