



PRIME MINISTER

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NEW COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECTS

The Prime Minister and Member for Werriwa, Mr Gough Whitlam, today welcomed the new grants for community health projects in the Western Metropolitan Region of Sydney. These were announced in Canberra yesterday by the Acting Minister for Health, Dr Moss Cass.

Mr Whitlam said that he had always believed that the health care obtainable everywhere in Australia should be as good as the health care obtainable anywhere in Australia. Too often in the past there had been inadequate health facilities in the rapidly developing outer suburban areas of Australia's cities, and an over-concentration in other areas.

The Australian Government's real commitment to the improvement of health care facilities was already illustrated by yesterday's announcement of \$8,232,148 for community health projects throughout N.S.W.

Mr Whitlam said the Western Metropolitan Area would receive the lion's share of the total grant of \$8,232,148 for community health projects in New South Wales.

The largest N.S.W. grant is \$291,300 for a Community Nursing Program in Werriwa/Prospect. These funds have been made available to recruit, train and employ 50 community nurses in an expansion of the project.

Several other grants would also boost nursing programs in the Western suburbs, Mr Whitlam said. Primary Nursing Centres will receive \$82,200 for the establishment of Community Nurse facilities throughout the region. The Macquarie Fields Health Centre will get \$58,418 to provide accommodation for community nurses and to establish a health centre base for secondary services. Specialist Community Nursing in the Western Metropolitan Region will benefit from a \$27,644 grant towards the establishment of a Community Nurse Support service.

Mr Whitlam said he was glad that proper attention was finally being paid to the importance of community nursing programs and to upgrading facilities for nurses. For too long nurses had been regarded as the poor relations in health care, despite the fact that they were in closest and most constant touch with people in need of care.

Two grants had been announced of particular interest to women, Mr Whitlam said. A grant of \$74,100 has been allocated to establish a Women's Community Health Centre in the Western Metropolitan Region. This follows the success of the Women's Community Health Centre in Leichardt which is run by women and for women.

Another grant of \$41,400 will go towards providing co-ordinated family planning services in Liverpool, Mt Druitt, Penrith and Fairfield Health Centres.

Smaller grants will go towards promoting community involvement in community health projects in the area and to establish integrated health education in industry. A grant of \$9,525 is to employ a nutritionist working with the health education team to develop a nutritional education program for special risk groups in the western suburbs region.

Finally, Mr Whitlam said, \$34,650 had been recommended for feasibility studies and the preparation of briefs and tender documents for a community health centre at Fairfield/Liverpool.

CANBERRA. A.C.T.