

Canberra Hospitals Ordinance 1973

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Australian Capital Territory

Amendment of Canberra Hospital

Ordinance 1938-1971

The amendment, which changes the name of the present Ordinance to Canberra Hospitals Ordinance, will have three effects, namely:

- (a) the Canberra Hospital Management Board will be responsible for the management of the Woden Valley Hospital after its opening;
- (b) the Canberra Hospital Management Board will be authorised to conduct two short term care annexes created to provide residential facilities for intellectually handicapped children and for the rehabilitation of persons recovering from mental illness or a physical ailment; and
- (c) the present restriction on the employment of Resident Medical Officers in the wards of the Hospitals will be relaxed to the extent that they will be permitted, subject to the direction and control of a Visiting Medical Officer to assist that Visiting Medical Officer in the treatment of the Visiting Medical Officer's patient.

In respect to the first matter the Canberra Hospital Management Board is at present only charged with the responsibility for preparing the Woden Valley Hospital for occupation and use. It is expected that that hospital will be ready for occupation in the near future and a considerable number of amendments to the Ordinance are necessary to permit the Board to take responsibility for managing the hospital on an identical basis to that applying to the Canberra Hospital. The attached draft Ordinance therefore extends the existing provisions of the Canberra Hospital Ordinance to include the Woden Valley Hospital.

With regard to the second matter, there have until recently been no facilities in the A.C.T. for the short-term care of intellectually handicapped children or for persons recovering from an episode of mental illness or a physical ailment. However two small hostels have now been established to provide residential facilities for such persons normally after having been in-patients at the Canberra Hospital. Provision has been made therefore in the draft legislation for the hostels to be created as annexes to the Canberra Hospital under the control and direction of the Board.

In respect of Resident Medical Officers, the Canberra Hospital Ordinance at present places a severe limit on the ward experience which can be obtained by prohibiting them except in emergency, from treating patients admitted to the hospital on the recommendation of a Visting Medical Officer. Provision has therefore been made to permit Resident Medical Officers, subject to the control and direction of a Visiting Medical Officer to assist that Visiting Medical Officer in the treatment of his patients and thereby gaining valuable ward experience.

Original initialled D.E.

Authority: The Minister for Health
vide section 12 of the Seat of Government
(Administration) Act 1910-1972