



3 August 2007

Health system prepared for 2007 APEC Leaders Week

Sydney's hospitals and the Ambulance Service are well prepared for next month's APEC 2007 Leaders Week meetings in Sydney.

While the event and associated public holiday will cause some disruption, the early designation of the dates for APEC has made it possible for the NSW health system to do extensive planning, to minimise any inconvenience.

The NSW Health Counter Disaster Unit has undertaken extensive planning in conjunction with the APEC Taskforce in preparation for APEC 2007.

Greg Rochford, Health Services Functional Area Coordinator said that a number of hospitals across Sydney have been designated for various needs arising during APEC 2007 Leaders Week.

"NSW Health and the Ambulance Service will provide a range of patient transport services for APEC leaders and officials and each of the metropolitan health services will maintain 24/7 medical response teams during APEC Leaders Week.

"As well on site medical clinics will be established at secure APEC venues, staffed by GPs, nurses and paramedics" Mr Rochford said.

During APEC Leaders Week it will also be business as usual for our hospitals and ambulance services:

- all emergency departments will remain open;
- operating theatres will be available for emergency surgery;
- elective surgery will continue to be available;
- on Friday 7 September, the designated public holiday, metropolitan hospitals will defer non-urgent elective surgery and out-patients services will be closed - this is normal practice on public holidays;
- emergency departments remain open and usual weekend hospital services will be available on 7, 8 & 9 September 2007.
- During a medical emergency dial triple zero and ask for Ambulance.



Ambulance Service of New South Wales

media statement

Counter disaster planning

NSW has an excellent record in counter-disaster planning and response.

"Our trauma system is not a stand alone system, but forms part of the integrated critical care services that make use of the state's network of intensive care beds and specialist burns unit, said Mr Rochford.

"Results of planning exercises and capacity studies indicate that appropriate trauma resources, including ICU and High Dependency beds, can be rapidly made available.

"Doctors, nurses and ambulance staff regularly conduct exercises on a range of incidents within hospitals and also as part of whole-of-government emergency training exercises.

NSW currently has major trauma centres located in Sydney and Newcastle.

Mr Rochford said practical experience was received during the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, the Glenbrook and Waterfall train accidents, Sydney bushfires and in the sending medical teams to Indonesia and other parts of south east Asia to deal with mass casualties associated with the two Bali bombings and the south east Asian tsunami.

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