



Tuesday 11 September, 2007

APEC MEDICAL TEAMS SHOWCASE NSW HEALTH SYSTEM

NSW Minister for Health Reba Meagher today paid tribute to the health system personnel who provided a dedicated medical response during APEC.

Ms Meagher commended the teams, amid feedback from overseas delegations who expressed ultimate confidence in the elite NSW services.

“Foreign governments paid the ultimate compliment to the capabilities of the NSW health system to respond to a Chemical, Biological or Radiological (CBR) incident in their decisions not to bring their own CBR management teams to Sydney,” Ms Meagher said.

“The delegations told our officials this was due to their confidence in the abilities of our specialist, counter-terrorism trained paramedics.”

Ms Meagher said an additional 223 health staff played an integral role in the smooth running of APEC through on-site medical clinics at secure APEC venues and inclusion in motorcades that crossed the city.

“The efforts of these personnel highlighted the professionalism and commitment of the NSW health system in delivering a world-class service to the APEC Economy leaders, visiting media and support staff over the past week,” Ms Meagher said.

Ms Meagher said the extensive planning and training undertaken by the NSW health system prior to APEC paid off with NSW Health and the Ambulance Service providing a range of patient services.

Health system staff dedicated to APEC comprised:

- 158 SCAT/Rescue Paramedics and ambulance officers (including shift commanders)
- 14 patient transport officers
- 10 nurses
- 8 doctors
- 4 clinic coordinators
- 29 support staff providing a range of functions including coordinating logistics.

“The rostering of a dedicated workforce for APEC ensured this significant event had no impact on the normal operations of the health system,” Ms Meagher said.

While the APEC public holiday saw many Sydney residents take advantage of a long weekend, the workload of the Ambulance Service remained consistent.

Across Sydney responses dropped slightly to 10,137 (3-9 September 2007) compared with 10,535 for the same period in 2006. However, transports to emergency departments increased from 6,755 (2006) to 6,836 in 2007.

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