

SOCIAL WORKERS

Telephone numbers are correct at time of publication but are not continually updated. You may need to check the numbers in the telephone directory.

REVIEWED
October 2001
NSW Multicultural Health Communication Service

Translated by the Health Translation Service,
N.S.W. Health Department, 1992

ADMISSIONS

Being sick in hospital can be:

- * Embarrassing
- * Frightening
- * Strange

Social Workers can provide understanding and support for people who find it hard to accept that they are sick, immobilised, in pain and isolated.

Patients find it hard to talk about their problems, worry about their relatives, animals, their jobs, the ways to pay bills; they worry about the effects of their illness on their lives afterwards.

If you need help from an interpreter, ask the Hospital to arrange for a trained Health Care Interpreter. This service is free and confidential. A bilingual counsellor may also be available.

SOCIAL WORKERS

Social Workers are trained professionals who offer counselling, support and practical assistance to people who are sick:

- * When in hospital.
- * When attending outpatients clinics or casualty.

THE SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT PROVIDES YOU WITH:

- * Confidential counselling.
- * Help to get assistance with:
 - pensions and benefits
 - short-term accommodation
 - legal matters
- * Assistance in difficult domestic situations.
- * Social activities in day centres/clubs.
- * Advice on agencies dealing with
 - alcohol and drug dependency
 - child care problems
 - homelessness
 - immigration matters

SOCIAL WORKERS ALSO OFFER COUNSELLING TO INPATIENTS WHOSE LIVES ARE DISRUPTED e.g.

By the death of a loved one.

Mothers who lose a child from pre-birth or after-birth deaths.

Patients who suffer from terminal diseases or who have to alter their way of life because of amputation of a limb or limbs.

Ask to see a Social Worker if you are in need.