

1,800 doctors and nurses to be hired

▷ Staff to improve health services

THE Government will hire about 1,800 doctors and nurses next year to improve the quality of medical services.

Secretary for Health and Welfare Elizabeth Wong said the extra staff were needed to meet Governor Chris Patten's ambitious health plans. But she was confident recruitment could be met by the two universities, nursing schools and a youth employment drive for the medical industry.

Hospital Authority spokesman Dr E K Yeoh said they would also expand their services next year.

▷ New eye treatment facilities and a

child psychiatric clinic would be established as well as a psycho-geriatric team.

Yeoh said patient administration would be computerised.

Meanwhile, John Chan, Secretary for Education and Manpower, said he was confident 10,000 new teachers could be brought into education within five years to meet the Governor's pledge to reduce the student-to-teacher ratio.

He said overseas graduates would be recruited and that teachers who were going to retire would be re-trained if they wished.

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