



ON CALL: Sydney Adventist Hospital patient John Wilson with a handset for the Nurse Call system that won a national award for hospital. Photo: SARA NIXON

Call system wins award

TRACEY FINDLAY

AN innovative nurse call system has put the Sydney Adventist Hospital at Wahroonga in the national spotlight.

It was awarded the San, a national award by the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards, at a special presentation last Thursday night.

The nurse call system has been installed in the majority of the hospital's wards.

It provides patients with a handset from which they can

directly page the nurse responsible for their care, adjust the lighting in their rooms and control their radio and television.

Nursing staff can also use the system to remotely control power, temperature and other functions to suit a patient's individual requirements, which are then programmed and automatically applied on future admissions.

The nurse call system was developed by the hospital's engineering, information services and business development de-

partments over a number of years as there was no commercially available system which met the functionality requirements of the hospital.

"We were looking for a system that would improve patient care, primarily by improving nurse response times," project manager Hilary Kuwahata said.

"As the system developed, it became apparent that a number of other functions could also be built into it which would benefit both patients and staff."