

FILE NAME: Colonial Sugar Refinery (CSR)

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letters to Dr. Rennie from Dr.
McNulty RE Inspection Results

161

JMcN/TL.

Dr. H.M. Rennie,
Macquarie Chambers,
183 Macquarie Street,
SYDNEY.

8th March, 1963.

Dear Dr. Rennie,

Thank you again.

The enclosed copy of a letter from Dr. Wagner may interest you. He is in error in assuming that there have been three other cases of mesothelioma associated with asbestos exposure.

The reference to the possible slightness of exposure especially in childhood is one that has always worried me and why I have always decried the practice of using mill tailings for laying paths etc., in the township.

For the rest of the letter, naturally any help or assistance would be very welcome and the Company has certainly been quite co-operative in so far as investigation, at least, is concerned. I doubt that there would be any need for an approach to the Federal authorities and the co-operation of the State can be taken for granted.

Don Letham is in Sydney now staying at St. Paul's College and he would, I know, be very pleased to have the opportunity of discussing the problem with you.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

J. McNulty,
ACT./PHYSICIAN
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH.

Simpson
Ex 140(d) 154

KALGOORLIE.

6th February, 1963.

JMcN:RM

Dr. H.M. Rennie,
Macquarie Chambers,
183 Macquarie Street,
SYDNEY : N.S.W.

Dear Dr. Rennie,

Thank you for your continuing interest in our asbestos problem.

Unfortunately the latest inspection of the mine and mill at Australian Blue Asbestos suggests that I may have been too sanguine in my last letter. The Mines Department Inspector reported to me that the mill was dirtier than ever. Despite a reduced ore production from the mine, a higher rate of fibre extraction has been achieved at the expense of higher dust concentrations. Is it to be wondered that this cynical attitude towards their workers' health makes me doubt the Company's good faith.

Enclosed is a reprint which might interest you. Also enclosed are copies of letters concerning a man born 1910 who was unfortunate enough to be employed in the mill by Australian Blue Asbestos from 1954 to 1959. Such rapidly progressive disease is uncommon in the literature of industrial chest disease and confirms the fearful hazard to which the workers are exposed.

Yours faithfully,

J. McNulty
CHEST PHYSICIAN