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DISTRICT HOSPITAL

KALGOORLIE

4th December, 1959.

Mr. C.A. Allan,
Mine Manager,
Australian Blue Asbestos Ltd.,
WITTENOOM

Dear Mr. Allan,

Thank you for your letter.

With a few exceptions, the health of the workers, whom I examined at Wittenoom, appeared excellent. No inferences can properly be made from the number of workers who were specially examined. Whilst many were included in whom there was some reason, often slight, to expect evidence of industrial chest disease, this was excluded clinically. It is also true to say that the health of the workers appeared much better than in 1958 and that no new case of industrial disease was revealed.

However, there are a number of workers, approximately 12, who have suffered considerable lung damage, directly attributable to their work at Wittenoom. All of these cases of industrial chest disease have occured after a relatively short exposure, compared to comparably employedworkers in the gold-mines. Those who suffered most, worked in the old Mill and it is much too early to assess what hazard, if any, exists in the new Mill. Althoug the conditions underground appear, superficially, very good there have been a few unexpected cases of industrial chest disease among these workers.

By and large I was favourably impressed by the working conditions, but I feel that there is a particular problem and a particular hazard which has not yet been fully investigated or remedied. The transfer from the old to the new Mill has removed some of the urgency.

A report is being composed for submission to the Public Health Commissioner.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) J.McNulty.

MINES MEDICAL OFFICER

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