



THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

Telephone 80 1122

Medical School Building,
Perth Medical Centre,
Nedlands, W.A. 6009.

UNIT OF CLINICAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

18th November, 1977

Mr. C. R. Leith, *CL*
Manager in Western Australia,
C.S.R. Limited,
Box M968, G.P.O.
PERTH W.A. 6001

M. J. F. Blackland

Dear Mr. Leith,

Dr. Armstrong and I were grateful for the opportunity of meeting with you and other members of C.S.R. last week. As indicated in our discussions, we are now in a position to estimate our ongoing requirements for research into the incidence of asbestos-caused diseases in former Wittenoom employees (F.W.E.) We see the following steps as necessary or desirable:

1. Estimation of the incidence of asbestos-caused disease.

- i. Determination of the number of F.W.E. still alive and residing in W.A. (this work is substantially complete) and other Australian States (this has only just begun).
- ii. Determination of the number of F.W.E. who have emigrated from Australia. The possibility of doing this through existing records has been successfully negotiated with the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.
- iii. Determination of the number of F.W.E. who have died in Australia with ascertainment of date and cause of death. This work is substantially complete for W.A. but has yet to be done in the other States.

C 3677

2. Determination of the separate and combined relationships between smoking and asbestos exposure and cancer of the lung.

The precise nature of the interaction between cigarette smoking and asbestos fibre in the production of lung cancer is not yet determined. This is particularly true for crocidolite, for which few data exist.

It is proposed that we should contact all F.W.E. (about 1,600) who are still alive and resident in W.A. and determine their past and present smoking habits and health status. They will then be followed prospectively to determine their risk of developing lung cancer and other respiratory diseases.

consideration of lung

*that about Hobbs
examining associations
and contacting F.W.E.s
because of miss etc.
nothing can be done*

Mr. C. R. Leith

2.

18th November, 1977

In addition, the possibility is being considered that the smokers in the group may be offered counselling in relation to smoking habits, assistance with cigarette withdrawal if desired, and the opportunity of screening for the early detection of lung cancer should this occur.

3. Determination of the social consequences to past employees and their relatives following asbestos-caused disease.

No definitive plans for study on this subject have been made as yet. The possibility of entering this field will be reviewed in the light of experience gained from a similar study being sponsored by the Cancer Council of Western Australia.

It is anticipated that the completion of 1. above and the establishment of base data for 2. above would take a full-time investigator with appropriate support staff and maintenance funds, about three years to complete. Although the project will remain under my general supervision with assistance and advice from Dr. Armstrong and Dr. A. W. Musk, it will be necessary for us to appoint a Research Fellow (preferably a medical graduate with interest and training in Epidemiology and/or Occupational Health) to undertake its full-time, day-to-day direction.

The budgetary requirements for this, with supporting staff and maintenance funds, are set out on the attached sheet.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Hobbs

MICHAEL HOBBS,
Associate Professor,
Social and Preventive Medicine.

*what proportion of funds
required for "base data for 2"
What required for 1 alone.*



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PROPOSED RESEARCH BUDGET FOR THE DETERMINATION OF THE INCIDENCE OF
ASBESTOS CAUSED DISEASE IN FORMER EMPLOYEES OF AUSTRALIAN BLUE ASBESTOS

	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>TOTAL 3 YEARS</u>
SENIOR RESEARCH OFFICER*	17,378	18,325	18,957	
Plus 10% allowance National				
Wage increase	<u>1,737</u>	<u>1,832</u>	<u>1,895</u>	
TOTAL PER YEAR	<u>19,115</u>	<u>20,157</u>	<u>20,852</u>	60,124
CLERICAL ASSISTANT*				
1 full-time W.A. 3 years	6,846	7,267	7,583	
Plus 10% allowance National				
Wage increase	<u>684</u>	<u>726</u>	<u>758</u>	
TOTAL PER YEAR	<u>7,530</u>	<u>7,993</u>	<u>8,341</u>	23,864
CLERICAL ASSISTANT*				
1 full-time Eastern States				
2 years	6,846	7,267		
Plus 10% allowance National				
Wage increase	<u>684</u>	<u>726</u>		
	<u>7,530</u>	<u>7,993</u>		15,523
TRAVEL FOR SENIOR RESEARCH OFFICER				
If appointed from overseas, fare				
and removal to Australia	1,950			1,950
Travel within Australia, per				
annum	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000
MAINTENANCE	500	500	500	1,500
COMPUTING TIME	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000
PROGRAMMING ASSISTANCE	3,000	3,000	3,000	9,000
				<u>\$117,961</u>

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* Salaries include 0.3% Employer's liability insurance; 5% Payroll tax.