FILE NAME: Colonial Sugar Refinery (CSR)

DATE: 1961

DOC#: CSR108

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: CSR & Medical Correspondence RE Health of O.A. Allan, Manager of Wittenoom & his Diagnosis of Lung Damage from Asbestos

521

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3C(i) + 6.B

COPY/

DISTRICT HOSPITAL

KALGOORLIE.

JMcN:MKV

16th March, 1961.

Mr. O. A. Allan,
Manager,
Australian Blue Asbestos Ltd.,
WITTENOOM.

Dear Sir,

The lung function and other tests carried out at the Chest Hospital, confirm that your lungs have suffered some damage attributable to the inhalation of asbestos dust and that the damage is not severe. In fact, apart from what can be shown by X-Ray, tests etc., your health cannot be considered to be adversely affected.

3C(i)(a)

You will appreciate that our experience of chest disease caused by asbestos is limited and indeed the various international experts publishing articles on it do not seem to know much more. This lessens the value of any advice which I can give. Unfortunately, with the numbers of men involved in a very few years, I shall soon be an expert on the course and prognosis of the disease. There are a few salient points on which I can enlighten you.

1. There is no immediate treatment.

2. Further exposure to asbestos or silica dust must cease (other than that experienced during short inspection trips to the mill and mine)

3. There is no guarantee that your health will remain good, although with the slight damage that you have suffered, I would hope that there will be no or insignificant deterioration.

4. Annual chest x-rays are advisable and with the passage of time, a more definite opinion can be given.

I shall be visiting Wittenoom again after the Mobile Unit complete its survey in August - September and look forward to seeing you. In the meantime, if you wish any further information, please write.

Kind regards,

Sgd. Jim McNulty. CHEST PHYSICIAN.

B 21 + 2

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT 10483.0
PENGAD-Bayonne, N. J.

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H. MAYNARD RENNIE
F.R.C.P. (Lond.) F.R.A.C.P.

Telephone: BW 7711
(after 4 p.m.) XL 2940

MACQUARIE CHAMBERS,
183 MACQUARIE STREET,
SYDNEY

8th May, 1961.

The Staff Manager,
Colonial Sugar Refining Co.,
1 O'Connell Street,
SYDNEY.

Dear Mr. McAlister,

Re: Mr. O.A. Allan.

Following your letter to me of the 11th April concerning the above named and my conversation with you, I saw Mr. Allan during my recent visit to Perth in the office of the General Superintendent, Australian Blue Asbestos Ltd., St. George's Terrace.

Mr. Allan is aged 45 years, weighs 14 stone, and is a very active person, but he complains of shortness of breath on effort in the last two or three years, mostly on going up stairs and walking up hills. This has become worse gradually, and whilst it is not disabling, it is a constant complaint. There is some heaviness in the front of his chest after effort, but he does not regard this as a definite pain.

Dr. J. McNulty had supplied further clinical notes and the x-rays of chest as requested.

There is no doubt that this man is suffering from some degree of silicosis or possibly asbestosis, but I am not convinced that this condition is giving rise to the present symptoms. For this reason it is necessary for him to be examined by a general physician who has knowledge of the possible legal implications of the pulmonary condition. I made arrangements for Mr. Allan to consult Dr. B.A. Hunt of 37 Ord Street, West Perth as being the most helpful physician in this category. I have asked Dr. Hunt to let me have his full report as soon as it is available.

I shall communicate with you again as soon as I hear from Dr. Hunt.

Yours sincerely,

H. Maynard Rennie.

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT 104250

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H. MAYNARD RENNIE
F.R.C.P. (Lond.) F.A.A.C.P.

TELEPHONE: BW 7711

MACQUARIE CHAMBERS,
183 MACQUARIE STREET,
SYDNEY

28 JUL 1961

17th July, 1961.

The Staff Manager,
Colonial Sugar Refining Co. Ltd.
1 O'Connell Street,
SYDNEY.

Dear Mr. McAllister,

Re: Osborne Angus ALLAN.
Australian Blue Asbestos

I have now received a report from Dr. Bruce Hunt of Perth whose opinion was sought as indicated in my letter to you on the 8th May 1961. Accompanying the report is the opinion expressed by Dr. Arthur A. Merritt on a further series of X-Ray films of the Chest. These reports are, I think, self explanatory and Dr. Hunt tells me that he had discussed the whole problem with the patient and indicated that he is a very healthy person apart from being slightly overweight.

39(1)(c)

I would like to express appreciation of the co-operation of Mr. P. Thomas, Superintendent of Australian Blue Asbestos Ltd., Perth, and also Dr. J. McNulty of the District Hospital, Kalgoorlie. I have not informed them of Dr. Hunt's report as my opinion was asked for by you.

Yours sincerely,

H. MAYNARD RENNIE.

C1+B2+4

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