

FILE NAME: Colonial Sugar Refinery (CSR)

DATE: 1948 June 6

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Excerpt - Letter to Perth Dept of Health
RE Evidence of Asbestos Absorbed in Lungs with Handwritten Note
by Dept of Health

PORT HEDLAND
June 6th, 1948

Dr C E Cook
Dept of Public Health
57 Murray Street
PERTH

Dear Dr Cook

Moreover, I've an eye on the future - the asbestos mill at Wittenoom, off the record operates without any sort of dust extraction whatsoever; and since the "incubation period" of asbestos is so much less than SiO_2 , in a year or two ABA will produce the richest and most lethal crop of cases of asbestosis in the world's literature. I've looked at two spits and found asbestos bodies, not evidence indeed that fibrosis is actually present, but clearly proving the absorption of the toxic agent. Naturally, I think some of these chests should be looked into.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully

Eric G. Saint

District Medical Officer.....

Date.....

I've seen two lumbar discs that should have been radiologically examined; two renal calices that need flat X-ray examinations & about half a dozen chests that need investigating carefully. It's impossible to do good medicine just cough medicine when you don't know whether you're dealing with a chronic bronchitis, tubercle or carcinoma of the (R) main bronchus. However, I've an eye on the future & the asbestos will at well known, at the second squares without any sort of dust collection whatsoever; and since the "incubation period" of asbestos is so much less than SiO_2 , in a year or two ABA will produce the richest & most lethal crop of cases of asbestosis in the world's literature. I've looked at two spots & found asbestos bodies, but evidence indeed that fibrosis is actually present, but clearly proving