(81)

DISTRICT HOSPITAL

KALGOORLIE

JMcN:EI.
Ref. 1/815/59.

Date 6th April, 1960.

Dr. D.D. Letham,
Physician,
Department of Public Health,
57 Murray Street,
PERTH.

Dear Dr. Letham,

Midget-Impinger.

Enclosed are details concerning this instrument. I was keeping them in the hope that some-one would enquire and copies were sent by the General Secretary of the Chamber of Mines to the Manager, Australian Blue Asbestos and the Senior Inspector of Mines.

The present method of dealing with these matters is unsatisfactory to me because I do not know who has been consulted or not. For example, has the Under Secretary for Mines or the State Mining Engineer expressed any comments. I feel that:

1) the Mines Department should obtain such an instrument.

2) that an operator should remain at Wittenoom for a reasonable period taking regular counts underground and in the Mill.

3) the operator should be employed by either the Company as a ventilation officer or the Mines Department as an assistant Inspector.

4) the details of the dust counts should be supplied to all interested parties, including myself, giving the laboratory Number of any man working permanently in any dusty position.

5) the least that should be done for a worker in a dusty position, which cannot be relieved, is to rotate him regularly to a less dusty job.

6) Dust counts underground and in the Mill should show levels of asbestos fibres and silica particles separately (as you know some workers appear to have developed a mixture of Silicosis and Asbestosis).

7) It is important to stress that the short exposure which gave rise to the diagnosed cases was scandalous but that the improvements so far made may have lessened the hazard.

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
WV-04076

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10333.0

However, without proper dust counts it is impossible to know whether new cases will not appear after a relatively short exposure, say 10-15 years. It would appear that even with the highest standards of ventilation Asbestosis is still a hazard overseas.

I could go on, but perhaps these few ideas will show you how my mind is running.

Please return the enclosures. ~~Perhaps you could~~ have photostats made.

Yours faithfully,

CHEST PHYSICIAN &
MINES MEDICAL OFFICER.