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DISTRICT HOSPITAL

KALGOORLIE

MEM:FG

Date 9th March, 1952

The Branch Manager,
State Government Insurance Office,
P.O. Box 101,
KALGOORLIE.

Dear Sir,

Claim NP/2058 - E.P. Mercer:

Thank you for the loan of this man's file. I am more pleased than surprised to hear that he is in full-time employment despite my gloomy prognosis but it is, unfortunately, too early to even suspect that his condition has been arrested. 20 months is a very short time in the natural history of any industrial chest disease and one should not draw too firm a conclusion from one or two cases of asbestosis which retrogressed rapidly.

I have no reason to believe that my assessment now would be any less than 65%, although it is a great pity that he is in the process of using up his compensation whilst still working and will have very little to fall back on when his condition progresses so that he cannot work at all.

Your office does well to be concerned about the fate of these men from Wittenoom. The Mines and Public Health Departments and the Australian Blue Asbestos have co-operated closely over the last 6 months and it is sincerely hoped that men will never have to work again in conditions which ruined Mercer and Markovic and many others.

Yours faithfully,

MINES MEDICAL OFFICER.