CSR 1987

(74)

DISTRICT HOSPITAL

KALGOORLIE

JMcH/LF

Date 29th January 1959

Dr. [illegible] Letham,
Physician,
Dept. of Public Health,
57 Murray Street,
PERTH

Dear Dr. Letham,

Asbestosis

My experience in obtaining accounts of patient's symptoms from Practitioners in regard to industrial disease has not been very satisfactory. However I wrote to Dr. Oxer, and to the workers requesting chest X Rays and clinical examinations. I will also forward sputum containers which will be returned by air to you for disposal.

Three specimen bottles, one first thing in the morning, one in the morning coming off shift work and perhaps one at 3 in the evening should be sufficient. Please ring me at say, 9.30 a.m. Monday, 2nd February, if you can add anything, before I post the letters.

The absence of real response to my letters from the workers concerned suggests there cannot be much disability, and the urgency of the problem has lessened now that the new Mill is in operation. For these reasons I feel that the problem should wait until the Unit has X-Rayed the working population, when there may be more cases, and who knows the classical signs in the established cases may be less obvious.

If on our next visit we find more cases, deterioration in the established cases, or an obvious dust hazard persisting, we will be justified in issuing a joint statement to Dr. Henzell, with copies, etc. etc. etc.

Yours faithfully,

J. McHENZELL
CHEST PHYSICIAN

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