



Wednesday, 16 February 2022

HOST Safety and Training
Matt Keating

Position Held: Rescue Paramedic
Arrival: Tuesday 1st Feb 2022

OUTLINE OF EVENTS:

Sunday 30th Jan 2022: Contacted by Matt Keating inquiring if I was interested in work.
Assignment Newmont Tanami in Northern Territory Rescue Paramedic
"Commencement Date: Tuesday 1st Feb 2022
Roster: 14 days on, 7 off

- *Access Type: Short Term Worker"*

Confirmed I was willing to accept assignment

Monday 31st Jan 2022: Completed paper work, General Induction, submitted Statutory Declaration
in lieu of a police check certificate.

- Advised of ADHD and Entries on Police check.
- Advised I was accepted for entry to site and received itinerary from Newmont (attached).

Travel Itinerary for Newmont:

Chartered Flight QQ371 Tue, 01-Feb-2022 , **Flights booked until end of May 2022.**

- Booked Flight to Brisbane, departing 20:30. PCR Completed.
- "You are booked on QQ371 from BNE to GTS. Your booking reference is: A0QUXA..." Text message @ 19:35

Tuesday 1st Feb 2022: - PCR test negative

- -ve RAT Test at BNE Airport

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- Arrived to site and picked up by "Brycey" drove to site and drove the vehicle as well. Good conversation and I didn't know at the time it was Justin my reporting supervisor.

Thursday 3rd Feb 2022:

- Acute Muscle strain/tear presentation
- Andrea quickly visited the Granites clinic to advise that the feedback has all been positive. She is flying out for R&R Tomorrow morning.

Friday 4th Feb 2022: - Text msg from Matt:

"Morning mate. Quick email to say the feedback on you is continuing to be extremely positive. I'm very happy with how you are being received up there mate. Credit to you, thanks again!" 08:16

Txt to Matt:

"Thank you for looking at the person present and not the past. It is actually pretty rare so I am just so lucky to have crossed paths with you at the right time.

This place is also rare with how down to earth they are and am really enjoying it here. Andrea the HSS Manager came in to let me know the positive feedback before she left so I am just so lucky to be here. Here's to never judging a book by its cover." 10:34

Saturday 5th Feb 2022:

Justin visited clinic to advise everything is going well. Asked "how flexible are you?" I said that I can do whatever they needed up to 2 weeks straight as my son doesn't cope very well longer than that. Justin advised I would stay an extra week and go over to "Dead Bollocks Soak" (DBS) Clinic to go on rotation there. Justin "We're going to need you."

- Justin Asked to provide training session to ERT on a medical topic
- Completed Session on DRSABC but more in depth and with real life examples. Feedback was extremely positive for the session.



Sunday 6th Feb 2022: Completed More induction Modules

- Sodium Cyanide Awareness
- Fatality Risk
- Processing (Mill)

Monday 7th Feb 2022:

One presentation of ? Heat Rash L Wrist of Processing Mill Fitter and Turner

One presentation of ? Contact Dermatitis with two large blisters.

When Supervisor returned, stated

“that’s the same thing we had two weeks ago. They were working knee deep in water.”

Review Clinic presentation list and noted multiple presentations some clusters on same day for heat rash/dermatitis/Cellulitis

Review chemicals in area of particular note, Calcium Oxide or Calcium Hydroxide.

Presentations consistent with chemical burns and noted white crystals remained from evaporated rain or flood water. Worker noting area was wet hence gumboots.

Text msg to Matt:

- ‘Hey matt. It looks like I may have discovered what could be a major incident here at site as there have been medical presentations that have links to each other consistent with an exposure to a hazardous chemical. It appears to be either Calcium Hydroxide, Sodium Hydroxide or an acid/base that has caused burns to several personnel over the past two months.” 21:06
- “I have explained to Justin and a supervisor here verbally and the evidence continues to point to lime. Typically my experience in resources if you do anything that anyone in management doesn’t like the sound of you’re blocked from site. So far they have been awesome



- but I thought I would give yourself and the other guys coming a heads up.” 21:11
- Verbal conversation with Justin about presentations, rationale and comparison photos. A lot to take in and apologised for the nature of the information. Expressed desire to work with and help company as much as I could.
- Still had documentation to do and finish notification email to Management team about Possible clusters of chemical burns. Completed and sent approx. 0200.

From: [Contractor Tanami Clinic](#)
To: [Brett Pascoe](#); [Andrea Kittel](#); [Alan Tulloch](#); [Tanya Modic](#); [AUS-TA-Tanami Medical](#); [Justin Bryce](#); ["Matthew Turner"](#)
Subject: Urgent Notification **Confidential**
Date: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 1:56:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[2022 02 08 - Checmical Exposure medical case Clusters.pdf](#)
Importance: High

Tuesday 8th Feb 2022: - Start at DBS Clinic today. Drive over with Jess.

- Throughout day noticed significant shift in demeanour and report with management staff.
- Feels familiar to previous work sites, same cold and “ghosting” behaviour... still to early to tell for sure.

Thursday 10th Feb 2022:

IP: Transported "Pods" filled with a liquid from Refrigeration Shed to "Repat" area. IP has opened valve to drain contents. Flow was minimal so IP has unscrewed lid on top of Pod. IP returned to Shed work area and experienced fast onset nausea followed by x1 vomit, lethargy, 2x diarrhoea episodes and presented. Hypoxia secondary to unknown respiratory condition or exposure.

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From: Contractor Tanami Clinic To: Brett Pascoe Bcc:

Reece.Storme@protonmail.com Subject: *Urgent* IP Presenting ? Unkown
Chem Exposure *Confidential*

Date: Thursday, February 10, 2022 5:30:34 PM

Evening Brett, I have been treating and assessing the current IP here. On consultation with Dr Townsend it appears that the IP may have been exposed to a chemical in the form of a gas while draining storm water contaminated with Refridgerant oil from a "pod" out near the ? recovery pond ?. The advice provided was that it should be escalated in the context of several chem burns presentations over the past several weeks.

Conversation with Brett Pascoe:

Frustrated and dismissive. Essentially requesting to stay out of our business and just treat the patients. "Im trying my best to be respectful... This is not pleasant for me, I have been agonising over this for two hours to make this as accurate as possible..."

Friday 11th Feb 2022:

Checked INX Flight Itinerary – ALL flights gone.

Roster finishes Tuesday 15th Feb 2022

No other shifts scheduled.

Text message to Justin:

"I booked my flight home from Bris to Melb. I was wondering if there are plans on having me come back after Tuesday? My roster ends on Tuesday hence the question."

- No reply
- Upsetting as I had sacrificed my place in the Masters Program for Paramedic Practitioner at Deakin to continue with Newmont in this position.

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- Sunday 13th Feb 2022:**
- Another presentation of similar symptoms to Thursday's presentation, hypoxia 88% oxygen on room air, decreased conscious state, abnormal ecg, moderate dehydration, unwell.
 - 20 mins later second presentation headache, nausea, dizziness, light headed, metallic taste, Oxygen 93% Shot Creter, -ve RAT. Teagen discharged from clinic without assessment.
 - Concerns continue about ? chemical gas exposure, chronic cyanide ultimately a larger question mark was emerging.
 - Admitted "Im stressed" to Dr Townsend. Dismissed chemical exposure and asked to speak to supervisor. Short time later while patient still unstable.
 - Matt Pascoe presented to clinic to advise I was relieved of duty on Dr Townsends recommendation. Complied with request.

Reece:

"I hope I'm wrong but If Im not would you call me and apologise?"

Matt Pascoe

"Yeah I have been wrong before... But it wont change the decision."

Several attempts to contact Host safety and training to discuss workplace matters were ignored and Host did not reply.

Please provide in writing:

1. While not contractually required, please provide a reason the contractual agreement was terminated by Host Safety and Training. You may choose not to give a reason. In the absence of a reason it will be inferred that termination was retaliation and adverse action for exercising a protected workplace right under Work Health and Safety legislation which is applicable to employees and independent contractors as per the Fair Work Act 2004.
2. I reserve the right to pursue an adverse action case in the fair work commission in due course.
3. I also note, Newmont has engaged the services of an independent investigator.

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4. If you disagree with any of the facts listed above, please provide a correction.

Please respond as soon as practicable.

Regards,

Reece Ferrara

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