



Friday, 11 March 2022

Newmont Tanami Operations
Tanami Clinics
Brett Pascoe Superintendent

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
- 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.
- Met "Jonesy" who provided handover and left some material for me that would help.
- Completed the Drug check and everything was correct.
- Signed off for Light Vehicle driving around site with Luke.
- Emailed qualifications to Teagan for Poisons Permit requirement.

Wednesday 2nd Feb 2022: - Met Andrea and let her know about my ADHD.

- Advised I will produce a "non negative" due to prescribed Lisdexampfetamine.
- Completed Random Drug Urine Screen and declared prescription and provided photos of labels. Produced a Non Negative that was sent off for testing.
- Awkward conversation with Andrea explained I get nervous and uncomfortable because some people are not so understanding.
- Shortly after Tanya comes in quickly to ask for my Police Check. I explained I submitted everything to Matt.
- Tanya "You would never have made it to site without a Police check certificate."
- Phoned Matt at 07:14 and asked for advice. Advised provide old Police Check and he would still back me.
- Emailed Management Team at 09:38
 - o Contents explained the entries that exist
 - o Brief summary of chronic exposure to family violence by ex wife and the manner in which offences took place and mitigating factors.

- Provided copy of receipt of new one ordered and a copy from Mar 2021.
- Txt to Matt,
 “Justin said all good he running it past security for clearance.” 10:19
- Conversation with Justin, Just checking in on how the email was received. Asked for feedback on my performance, anything I could do better. States the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.
- Treated and documented a Chronic Knee presentation.
- Txt to Matt
- “Spoke to him and he was just as understanding as you were, and when I said the check is fair and asked if they really were just looking for dishonesty he said yeah totally. Ill just continue to do what I do best and see what happens, they are really desperate for staff and would have been *** had they not got onto you.” 16:18
- Received order containing S8 medication
 - Tramadol 50 mg x 2 box of 20 caps
 - Entered into Imprest photographed entry and order emailed to Clinic email address.

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: - Test 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
- **From:** Contractor Tanami Clinic
- **To:** Jessica Simpson
- **Subject:** Classification of IP Case for comments
- **Date:** Saturday, February 5, 2022 2:14:00 PM

Completed classification referring to manual. Sent to Jess for comment. Response, decision and rationally make no sense and reverted to Non Work Related. Didn’t question and advised happy to refer classification to her.

- 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 - Chemical 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 too early to tell for sure.
-

Wednesday 9th Feb 2022:

From: [Contractor Tanami Clinic](#)
To: mgli@occumed.com.au
Subject: Occumed Consult 2022 02 07
Date: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 6:54:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[002.jpg](#)
[003.jpg](#)
[001.jpg](#)
[2022 02 07 - Fit To Fly.pdf](#)
[2022 02 07 - Paramedic Patient Care Record.pdf](#)
[2022 02 07 - OccuMED Consult 001.pdf](#)

Thursday 10th Feb 2022:

Jess vocal about previous Job in Workers Comp. Very skewed opinions towards the worker scamming the business. "We are here to protect the business." "NT Workers comp will accept anything" "The bonus system works half for performance and half for safety bonus. Mine is 9% of annual salary. Managers would be on way more." "I worked hard to get my registration. People get it for free doing the degree. You can buy a Cert IV." Or words to this effect.



Raised the concept of conflict of interest in the context of providing healthcare and receiving a financial incentive for internal reporting of NWR injuries and presentations. Immediately became defensive “are you saying that I don’t care about my patients? Cos if you are ill come after you!.” Or words to that effect.

“They don’t declare any injuries and then expect the company to pay for it.” It was this belief that caused Jess to destroy the report I had with a patient who presented with an offsite cut that had scabbed over that was now infected. Her tone and words were accusatory and caused the patient to say “See this is why I don’t come here.” He proceeded to put on his boots and attempt to leave. I managed to de-escalate the situation by acknowledging he was upset, reassured him that I believe him to be genuine, hardworking and would never manipulate the system like that. Congratulated him on his best efforts to keep the wound clean and provided education on how wounds get infected, the environments they thrive in etc.

He left the clinic with a positive experience and said to him if there is that belief out there then it is on us to fix that. Please let the guys know I we are here to help them and please educate them about cuts at the next pre-start.

To Jess’ credit she was thankful for the input and seemed genuine about the explanation that her work in compensation and judgements influenced her non-verbal communication that resulted in aggravating the patients worries and beliefs prior to coming to the clinic. When these beliefs were confirmed it triggered a higher than normal emotional response in the context of extended separation from wife and children.

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.

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.”