



CONSTRUCTION, FORESTRY, MINING & ENERGY UNION
MINING & ENERGY DIVISION
VICTORIAN DISTRICT BRANCH



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28 July, 2015

Dear CFMEU Member

HAZELWOOD MINE FIRE UPDATE

You're probably aware that the Mine Fire Enquiry reopened on 26 May this year.

Separate and apart from the actual enquiry the Minister for Health, Jill Hennessy, announced the following initiatives;

- *The establishment of the Public Lung Function Clinic at the Latrobe Regional Hospital,*
- *The establishment the Mine Fire Health Clinic at the Latrobe Community Health Service and,*
- *The establishment of the Hazelwood Health Study.*

Public Lung Function Clinic

The clinic is staffed by Respiratory Specialist and is located at the Latrobe Regional Hospital. In order to access the services of the clinic a referral from your General Practitioner (GP) is required.

The test will measure lung capacity and the effectiveness of distribution of oxygen into the bloodstream.

At this stage the service is operating Wednesday and Thursday but if required hours of operation will be extended. For information you can contact the clinic on ██████████

Mine Fire Health Clinic

The Health Clinic is a nurse operated service that will provide health assessments for locals who have concerns about the effect of the mine fire on their health. The clinic has the capacity to both, offer advice about health concerns, and provide referrals to other health services.

It is located at Latrobe Community Health Service in Buckley Street, Morwell.

The clinic operates during business hours five (5) days a week and visits are by appointment. To make an appointment call ██████████

Hazelwood Health Study

The department of Health in conjunction with Monash University is also undertaking a substantial study into the potential health impacts of the Hazelwood Mine Fire. This study will take place over a period of at least 20 years.

If you're interested in participating in this study you can access information and participation details via the following web address;

<http://hazelwoodhealthstudy.org.au/website-launched-for-hazelwood-health-study/>

Due to the nature of the Mine Fire and the, as yet, largely unknown health consequences, I am writing on behalf of the Executive and Board of the CFMEU Mining & Energy, Victorian District to strongly urge you, our member, to avail yourself of these services.

It's important that you take all and any actions that can assess your health and possibly identify any problems post the Mine Fire. Just to reinforce the point, we already have a number of members reporting illnesses post the fire, one suffering severe and permanent respiratory problems resulting in emergency admissions to hospital on a number of occasions.

We believe that this illness is attributable to him being exposed during the fires.

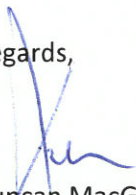
Who's to know if there are any other members who, to this point, are suffering unknowingly and remain undiagnosed?

I re-iterate, the consequences of the fire and its' effect on the health of people within Latrobe Valley remain largely unrecognised, make sure you use these services, we don't want another asbestos scenario where we find out about the health effects years later!!

“Be assessed - It's Important.”

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding these services please give me a call?

Regards,



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