The Secretary for Native Affairs,
P.O. Box 384,
PRETORIA.

Dear Sir,

On behalf of Mr. Rheinallt Jones I wish to thank you for your letter of the 31st March, 1947, enclosing a copy of Mr. Muller's reply to Mr. Mears' letter.

I shall reply later to some of the points raised by Mr. Muller.

Yours faithfully,

Quintin Whyte
ACTING DIRECTOR
Silicosis Act, 1946.

On behalf of Mr. Mears I am enclosing for your information a copy of Mr. Muller's reply to his letter of the 6th December, 1946.

You will recollect that following upon the discussion on the Silicosis Act by the Committee on the 5th December, 1946, Mr. Mears wrote to Muller regarding proposals for a pension scheme for Native silicotics and forwarded to you a copy of his letter.

Yours sincerely,

J.D. Rheinallt Jones, Esq.,
P.O. Box 97,
JOHANNESBURG.
G. Mears, Esq.,
Secretary for Native Affairs,
CAPE TOWN.

Dear Mr. Mears,

The points raised by you in your letter No. 33/315 of the 6th December, 1946, regarding the data required to enable consideration to be given to proposals for a pension scheme for Natives and the question of the provision of containers of viscera have been referred for consideration to Messrs. McPhail and Fraser, Actuaries to the Silicosis Board, and the Chairman, Silicosis Medical Bureau, respectively, and I am now in receipt of replies from both quarters.

The Actuaries state that at present there is insufficient information concerning Native labourers on which to base any estimates and that to make even approximate estimates the following data are required:

(a) the mortality among native labourers,
(b) the incidence of silicosis among native labourers in the three stages of the disease,
(c) the mortality among silicotic or tuberculotic native labourers in the three stages of the disease,
(d) the progression of the disease among native labourers from one stage to the next,
(e) the usual records in respect of each native labourer giving his age, date of commencement of work as a native labourer, periods of work since the date he first commenced work as a native labourer, etc.

The Actuaries point out that it will necessarily be some time before sufficient data will be available to enable reliable estimates to be made and add that it would be inadvisable to make use of the information available for European underground workers, as a basis in the meantime, as the two classes of lives are so different and the conditions applicable to them are also so very different.

As regards your suggestion that containers for the transmission of viscera to Johannesburg for examination should be provided, Dr. Smith points out that since 1942 South African Police jars have, with the permission of the Commissioner of Police, been used for the conveyance of lungs of native labourers to the Bureau and that when jars are not available to District Surgeons tin containers are used for the purpose. He agrees, however, that this arrangement is not very satisfactory and in view of its temporary nature has recommended that the Bureau provide its own containers for distribution amongst Magistrates, Native Commissioners and others by whom organs are forwarded to the Bureau. I am in agreement with this recommendation and steps are now being taken to obtain an appropriate number of boxes and jars.

Yours sincerely,
Sgd. J. F. Noller
The Acting Director,
South African Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 97,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir,

I am directed by the Honourable the Minister of Native Affairs to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. QW/DAR of the 23rd instant regarding pensions for Native Mineworkers and to advise you that it has been referred to the Secretary for Native Affairs for attention.

Yours faithfully,

PRIVATE SECRETARY.
The Hon. the Minister of Native Affairs,  
Native Affairs Department,  
CAPE TOWN.

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of the copy of the letter from the Secretary for Mines to your Secretary for Native Affairs, and I thank you most sincerely for forwarding the information.

My Committee read the letter with great interest particularly in view of the suggestion made by Mr. Rheinallt Jones at the Conference in December, 1946, that pensions for African mineworkers could in the meantime be paid on the basis of European life-tables which are admittedly higher than those of Africans. Despite the opinion of the Actuaries consulted, my Committee would most respectfully urge that European life-tables should nevertheless and in the meantime be used until such information as the Actuaries regard as necessary is collected.

My Committee is also anxious to know what steps are being taken to obtain the information required by the Actuaries and will be most grateful for any information on the subject. It also noted with appreciation what arrangements were being made for the transmission of viscera to the Silicosis Medical Bureau.

Yours faithfully,

Quintin Whyte  
ACTING DIRECTOR.
Mrs. M. Ballinger,
House of Assembly,
CAPE TOWN.

Dear Mrs. Ballinger,

With reference to your letter dated 18th April 1946 I write to thank you most sincerely for the Analysis of the "Silicosis Bill" which was prepared for the United Party. It was very good of you to send it and I return it as requested by Miss Sheppard.

Yours sincerely,

(Quintin Whyte)
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.
Q. Whyte Esq.,
S.A. Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 97,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir,

As requested in your letter (Ref. QW/SRH.) of 25th February, 1946, I sent you at Mrs. Ballinger's direction on the 5th March an analysis of the "Silicosis Bill" prepared by the United Party. As Mrs. Ballinger has need of this analysis, and is unable to obtain another copy at present she would be grateful if you could return it at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,

T.B. Sheppard

PRIVATE SECRETARY.
Mrs. M. Ballinger, M.P.
The House of Parliament,
CAPE TOWN.

Dear Mrs. Ballinger,

"SILICOSIS BILL"

You will remember that at our Executive Meetings you said that you had an analysis of the Bill prepared by the United Party which you would be glad to give to the Institute. I shall be very grateful if you could let us have it. The Executive also agreed to ask you to inform the Director whether it would be advisable to make a study of the Bill, presumably after you had found out what was going to happen to the original Bill.

I have asked Mr. Rheinault Jones to take up the matter with the Minister of Mines and to present the Institute's views to him after he has seen you.

Yours sincerely,

QUINTIN WHYTE.
14th March, 1946.

Quinton White Esq.,
S.A. Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 97,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Mr. White,

We now know that the Department of Mines intends to go on with the propositions of Colonel Stallard's Bill as they relate to Native miners' phthisis sufferers.

We shall fight these proposals but we know that there are no estimates of the cost of a pension system. That we regard as a failure in itself.

We shall lose our case of course but we shall try to get at least a promise of an enquiry into this matter and a reconsideration of the Native side of this year's legislation in the light of the findings of that enquiry.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

[Stamp: 18 MAR 1946]
13th March 1946.

Mrs. W. C. Ballinger, M.P.,
P.O. Box 4118,
Johannesburg.

Dear Mrs. Ballinger,

Thank you very much indeed for sending the memorandum on miners' phthisis. I hope that Mr. Runcallt Jones has discussed the matter with you and that you have come to some decision as to what the Institute should do in the matter. Mr. Jones is returning to Johannesburg on the 17th.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

(Quintin Whyte)
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.
5th March 1946.

Mr. Quinton Whyte,
South African Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 97,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir,

I am directed by Mrs. Ballinger to forward to your office the enclosed memorandum.

Yours truly,

J. B. Sheppard

PRIVATE SECRETARY.
No. 33/315.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. QW/DAR of the 23rd April, 1947, addressed to the Honourable the Minister of Native Affairs and referred to this office for attention, I have the honour to inform you that my file of correspondence dealing with this matter is unfortunately in Cape Town but I shall let you have a reply as soon as I can possibly do so.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

[Signature]

The Acting Director,
South African Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 97,
JOHANNESBURG.
Dear Mr. Blaxall,

Just a little note to ask whether it would be possible for you to have something roughly framed for the Committee on Deviate Children before the 27th of this month. I do not wish to rush you but I do feel we should move in the matter as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Quintin Whyte
ACTING DIRECTOR
MEMO.

THE TRANSVAAL SOCIETY FOR THE CARE OF NON-EUROPEAN BLIND.

Rev. A. W. BLAXALL,
SUPERINTENDENT.

Telephone 61-1397.

P.O. Box 42.

Roodepoort,
TRANSVAAL, SOUTH AFRICA.

May 2/47

Dear Mr. Whyte —

If I do not write this now it will be forgotten —

Minutes of S.P.C. item 10: — Why confine this to Silicosis sufferers? There are many African miners who are permanently injured, receive lump sum compensation with unsatisfactory consequences. I can give at least one example of a blinded African miner in this category, but as nothing will happen at this stage it is not necessary to weary you — it only occurred to me that the main subject might be widened.

Item 19(d), this will also come up at the meeting of the Christian Council in Johannesburg, May 14th.
may I suggest that any action they take be in consultation with the Institution.

What do you think of an appeal propaganda?

J. King

A.W. Blaxall

This calls for no reply— we may discuss it when I come to see you about the deviate children's Commission.
BECOME

EYE CONSCIOUS

OUR PROGRAMME FOR ALL EYE SUFFERERS IN SOUTH AFRICA INCLUDES THESE

1. PREVENT BLINDNESS
2. CONSERVE SIGHT
3. EDUCATION
4. EMPLOYMENT
5. CARE-FREE OLD AGE

"IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY: ONLY YOU CAN SOLVE IT."

YOU CAN SOLVE IT."
1. PREVENT BLINDNESS

NUMBER OF BLIND IN THE UNION

WORLD AVERAGE

CANADA

UNITED STATES

EACH SYMBOL REPRESENTS 50 BLIND PER 100,000

Our Blind Day—May 3rd, 1947
Reef Organiser: Rev. A. W. Blaxall,
61-1397 Box 42, Roodepoort.

2. CONSERVE SIGHT

SOUTH AFRICA'S BLIND NEED

MORE FACILITIES FOR TREATMENT

TRAINED NURSES AND DOCTORS

EYE CLINICS

AN EDUCATED PUBLIC
SPECIAL CLASSES
FOR
PARTIALLY SIGHTED
IN SOUTH AFRICA
IS
NIL

For full information at any time write:
S.A. National Council for the Blind,
P.O. Box 1343, Pretoria.

THOSE ALREADY BLIND NEED

3
EDUCATION
GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES
NUMBER OF BLIND CHILDREN NOT IN SCHOOL
EUROPEANS 363
NON EUROPEANS ?
"Work is light to the blind."
THE COUNCIL SUPPORTS CENTRES FOR:

- Old-age
- Sick ness
- Holiday homes
- Multiple disabilities

There are people:
- Blind and crippled
- Blind and epileptic
- Blind, deaf, and dumb

The council ensures they are not neglected, but we need your help.
No. 33/315.

Sir,

Miners' Phthisis.

With further reference to your letter JRA/DAR of the 22nd May, 1947, I have been advised by the Secretary for Health that as soon as the necessary X-ray equipment is obtained from overseas and adequate personnel engaged the matter referred to by you in your letter will receive consideration.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

The Director,
South African Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 97,
Johannesburg.
No. 33/315.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. JRA/DAR of the 22nd May, 1947, and to inform you that the matter is receiving attention.

A further communication will be addressed to you in due course.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

[Signature]

SECRETARY FOR NATIVE AFFAIRS.

The Director,
South African Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 97,
Johannesburg.
Dear Sir,

MINERS' PHTHISIS.

With reference to your letter addressed to Mr. Rheinallt Jones, I beg to draw your attention to the press report (see the "Star" 2/5/47) that the Union Health Department has purchased 20 Mass X ray plants, and to suggest that to make the fullest use of these, mobile units might be instituted for use in the Native Areas, to trace, send for treatment, and compensate Native mine workers who are suffering from silicosis and/or tuberculosis. I hope it will be possible for your Department to take this matter up.

Yours faithfully,

QUINTIN WHYTE.

ACTING DIRECTOR.
Sir,

With further reference to your letter QW/DAH of the 25th April, 1947, in regard to the payment of pensions to Native silicotics, I have the honour to inform you that in the absence at present of sufficient data concerning Native labourers to enable the actuaries to the Silicosis Board to frame reliable estimates in connection with any possible pension scheme for Natives it is felt that your Institute should accept the position that its proposal for the establishment of such a pension scheme at this stage presents major problems and difficulties which cannot be overcome in a matter of months.

As regards the final paragraph of your letter I have the following observations to make on the question of obtaining the information required by the Actuaries to enable them to give consideration to the proposals for the pension scheme for Natives:—

(a) Mortality among Native Labourers.

It is not possible to obtain reliable information under this heading until a system of registering the deaths of Natives in general is introduced. This Department is at present occupied with the framing of the necessary regulations for the introduction of the compulsory registration of Native births and deaths and it is hoped that these regulations will come into operation in the near future. The Silicosis Board is concerned only with the class of labourer who is found to have tuberculosis or silicosis, and in regard to this class it is not possible to compile any data relating to mortality since there is no "follow up" of the cases once they have been compensated. It would, of course, be possible to follow up compensated cases so far as Union Natives are concerned in order to ascertain whether they have died, but such follow up would not be entirely satisfactory as experience in dealing with ex-gratia cases has shown that many of the beneficiaries have simply disappeared into the blue and not even their closest relatives have been able to say what has happened to them. With regard to extra-Union Natives the follow up would be almost impossible, especially in regard to those Natives who come from Portuguese East Africa and the other Northern Territories.

(b) Incidence

The Director,
South African Institute of Race Relations,
P. O. Box 97,
JOHANNESBURG.
(b) **Incidence of Silicosis among Native Labourers in the three stages of the disease.**

Particulars under this head are being collected both by the office of the Silicosis Board and the Medical Bureau at present and a summary of the data will be available for use by the Actuary when it is required.

(c) **Mortality among Silicotic or Tuberculotic Native Labourers in the three stages of the disease.**

In addition to the remarks under (a) above it is pointed out that in each case it would be necessary for the heart and lungs of the deceased to be sent to the Bureau in order to ascertain whether the disease has progressed or not and, if so, to what extent.

(d) **The progression of the disease among Native Labourers from one stage to the next.**

As there is no adequate provision for the periodical re-examination of labourers who have been found to be silicotic it is not possible to take any steps towards compiling satisfactory information under this head. This applies especially in the case of extra-Union Natives. But even in the case of Natives resident in the Union great difficulty is experienced in contacting them for the purpose of having them re-examined under the Ex-Gratia Scheme, and in a large number of cases it is found necessary to have them sent all the way to Johannesburg for examination owing to lack of adequate X-Ray facilities in or near their home districts.

The Secretary for Health has informed me that, as soon as the necessary X-Ray equipment is obtained from overseas and adequate personnel engaged, the suggestion of your Institute, that mobile units be equipped for use in Native Areas, will be given consideration.

(e) **The usual records in respect of each Native Labourer giving his age, date of commencement of work as a Native labourer, periods of work since the date he first commenced work as a Native Labourer etc.**

Discussions have taken place between the various parties concerned with a view to bringing about a system of registration of Native underground employees at scheduled mines, which will result in records being maintained in accordance with the Actuary's requirements. Any such system will, however, depend on the proper identification of each individual underground labourer. To rely on names alone will be impracticable because Natives do not adhere to one name, because young men frequently impersonate their brothers, fathers, uncles or others for reasons of their own, and because even when the same name is used it is spelt in different ways and there is no assurance that it refers to the same person.

The only ...
The only certain way of identifying individuals and collating information regarding those individuals is by the use of their fingerprints. This involves the setting up of a finger impression record bureau which will ultimately exceed in size the bureau maintained by the South African Police. The difficulty in the way of setting up such a bureau is lack of staff and a complete absence of accommodation to house such staff and the exceedingly large volume of records involved. The Department is now investigating the possibility of training Native staff and is making enquiries in regard to the possibility of acquiring temporary hired accommodation.

In any event some years will have to elapse after the system has been introduced before reliable statistics resulting therefrom will be available.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

[Signature]

[Stamp: Secretary for Native Affairs]