

AUSTRALASIAN FACULTY OF OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE

HUNTER REGIONAL COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF AFOM TRAINEE REVIEW MEETING

DATE: Thursday, 21 August, 2003

**VENUE: NEWCASTLE HSA OFFICE
13 Darby Street, Newcastle. 2300**

TIME: 4.30pm - 5.45pm
Chair: Dr. Steve Rabone

Trainees: Dr. Deon Viljoen and Dr. Sandra McBurnie

Question: An employer seeks your advice. He wants verbal advice initially, then a formal report that he can send to Head Office.

He owns the franchise for a travel agency that consists of a reception/Interview room, as well as a second room used for typing and some storage. He has a staff of 8 people. Three work part time. Two usually work from the back room. The office space is on the bottom floor of a 3 story office block. His business has only been in this building for 5 months. It is now winter.

His concern is that one of his younger employees has been hospitalised for a respiratory complaint. He has received some staff feedback of concern about the infection. The employee is very sick with pneumonia. This employee travelled to Asia some 2 months ago for two weeks doing a hotel tour for business reasons.

The current staff includes one female who has just reached 2 months in her second pregnancy. Another has asthma that has required daily bronchodilator use this winter. They want assurance that they will not be affected by the illness.

A basis for concern is mould growth on the rear wall of the building. It is visible on the inside. This rear wall is cut into an embankment. Water flows onto the rear wall above the level of the ground floor, then goes to an open drain. The space between the embankment and rear wall is narrow and damp. The building, according to staff, feels moist and damp. The building is air-conditioned using wall air conditioners with the main unit outside. How would you advise the employer?