

amount of circumstantial evidence<sup>1</sup> to date, is that this antivenom offers acute analgesia only for the pain resulting from the sting of *Chironex fleckeri*. It should not be used for the treatment of any other jellyfish sting.

John Williamson

## REFERENCE

- 1 Fenner P.J., Rodgers D., Williamson J. Box Jellyfish Antivenom and "Irukandji" stings. *Med. J. Aust.* 1986; 144: 665.

## HYPERBARIC MEDICINE UNIT FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Fremantle Hospital,  
Fremantle,  
Western Australia 6160.

Dear Sir,

A new clinical hyperbaric unit is being built at last for Western Australia, after almost 10 years seeking funds.

Construction of the chambers will be financed from a Commonwealth grant, and the unit will be funded by the Health Department of Western Australia as the State referral unit for Hyperbaric Medicine.

The chamber is to be located at Fremantle Hospital, which has for the last ten years been the designated centre through which the management of all diving accidents in Western Australia were coordinated. Until now the State has asked the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) to provide recompression facilities for most of the diving problems, and recently some acute medical problems, usually carbon monoxide poisoning.

The contract was won in fierce competition by a Scottish firm, HYOX Ltd., and is to be constructed in Western Australia. The chambers are planned to be moved into the building during March 1989, and first patients are planned for 1st of July 1989. Fremantle Hospital have already commenced advertising for Technical and Nursing staff.

The unit will have two walk-in compartments, one with a 3 ATA capability, and the other of 6 ATA. The two are to be joined by a common entrance lock, and the 6 ATA chamber will, of course, have a transfer-under-pressure flange for use if necessary.

The unit will be available as an information resource for sports and professional divers, and for physicians interested in diving medicine.

We are grateful for the support of many diving medicine friends both here and overseas, in the long years leading up to the decision to fund this exciting facility. The Fremantle chamber will be another link in the ring of Hyperbaric Units which is spreading around Australia, and we plan to work closely together with others in this field.

Harry Oxer

## NAUI ACTS ON DIVER SAFETY

80 Wellington Parade,  
East Melbourne,  
Victoria 3002,  
Australia.

Dear Sir,

It is encouraging to see that at least one of the instructor organisations is willing to grasp the nettle of disciplining its members when they fail to meet the minimum standards laid down by the organisation and to publicise the event. As in medicine there is a need in the diving industry for periodical checks on the state of the instructor's (or doctor's) knowledge and performance. As far as I know only the Federation of Australian Underwater Instructors (FAUI) (and the Royal Australasian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists) insists on periodic requalification as a condition of membership. It would be in the interests of trainee divers (and of patients) if this periodic requalification was adopted by all the instructor organisations (and medical colleges and regulatory bodies). The statements below are from the press release.

The National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI) has announced, in a press release dated 10 October 1988, that it recently suspended two instructors in relation possible breaches of NAUI Diver Training Standards.

The matters, one in Victoria and the other in Queensland, are currently being considered by the NAUI Ethics Committee.

Gregory Blackburn, the President of NAUI Australia, stated "NAUI Instructors throughout the world have the highest reputation as quality educators. This reputation is maintained only through NAUI's willingness to ensure that the flexible but uncompromising NAUI Training Standards are maintained".

Where reasonable doubt exists on serious matters of diver safety, NAUI will continue to take firm action to resolve such matters.

"Determined responsible action on the part of all concerned", said Mr. Blackburn, "will allow the diving industry to be fully self-regulating. This will maximise diver safety and minimise the risk of poorly considered legislation

being rushed into place. Emotional calls for restrictive legislation often ignore the real issues in favour of political point-scoring which has harmful rather than constructive long-term effects".

John Knight

**STANDARDS ASSOCIATION  
COMMITTEE CS/83  
RECREATIONAL UNDERWATER DIVING**

Standards Association of Australia,  
Standards House,  
80 Arthur Street,  
North Sydney,  
NSW 2059  
Telephone: (02) 963 4111

7 December 1988

The Secretary,  
South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society,

Dear Sir/Madam,

In 1984 Standards Australia received a request from the Australian Underwater Federation for preparation of an Australian Standard for recreational scuba diving. The request was widely supported when Standards Australia surveyed many government departments, divers, diving associations, and diving medical services in 1985.

This project was handled initially by Committee SF/17 - Work in Compressed Air, the committee which has responsibility for standards concerning commercial diving. After the release of DR 88026 - Training and certification of recreational divers, Part 1: Minimum entry level scuba diving, a large amount of public comment was received. Most of the comments were from recreational and sports divers requesting increased input in the preparation of the proposed standard. As this standard's aim is to protect consumers rather than commercial divers it was proposed to set up a separate project in the Consumer Standards section of Standards Australia. This proposal has been reviewed by Standards Australia's Consumer Standards Advisory Board and Safety Standards Board, both of which have endorsed the proposal.

It is envisaged that the proposed standard will deal primarily with the basic course syllabus contents and minimum training activities required for training and accreditation of recreational scuba divers. Other aspects which may be included are medical examinations for candidates, basic first aid and rescue procedures, equipment requirements and underwater communication signals.

A new standards committee is being formed to take over responsibility for the preparation of this standard. A copy of the proposed constitution of committee CS/83 is enclosed (page 34) and you will note that provision is made for your organisation to be represented by the number of persons shown. I would be grateful if you would consider whether you wish to take part in this work, and advise me as soon as possible of the name of your nominee(s) and the address(es) for documents.

The first meeting will be held in Sydney around March 1989 and subsequent meetings at locations according to the wishes of the committee. Obviously for effective participation in the preparation of the standard, it is desirable that committee members be able to attend meetings; however, it is understood that it is not always possible.

Should you require any further information regarding the nature of the proposed standard or the kind of work the committee will be involved in, could you please contact Ms. Carol Foster at this office.

Peter N Walsh  
Director-Standards

South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society.

18th January, 1989

Mr. P. Walsh,  
Standards Association of Australia,

Dear Sir,

This Society is pleased to be invited to participate on the Committee to discuss the formulation of DR 88206 concerning the training and certification of recreational divers.

SPUMS was constituted to promote the cause of safe diving, to educate divers and doctors in the problems that divers incur and to encourage the dissemination of knowledge about diving medicine in the diving community. It is obvious that the aims of the Standard Association and SPUMS are the same in this field.

Our representative on the Committee will be Dr John Knight of 80 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne, Victoria, 3002. All communication should be addressed to him.

If we can be of any further service to your organisation, please contact me again.

David E.Davies  
Secretary SPUMS