

amount of circumstantial evidence¹ 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 Oxe

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