



## *Media Statement*

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### **Boost for Burns**

Burns patients at Royal Perth Hospital (RPH) will have enhanced rehabilitation and less pain thanks to one of Western Australia's leading resource companies.

Rio Tinto Minerals raised \$8000 during a recent leadership workshop and generously donated this money to the RPH State Adult Burns Unit.

Rio Tinto Minerals Operations Manager for the Dampier salt operation Steve Campbell said it was his personal story about a burns accident that influenced the RTM team's decision to donate the money to RPH.

"As a patient in the Royal Brisbane Hospital burns unit I know how tough it is, and my experiences helped the RTM team to make their decision to forward the money to this very worthwhile cause," Mr Campbell said.

RPH Burns Senior Physiotherapist Dale Edgar said the Hospital was extremely grateful for the donation as it enabled them to purchase a mobile hand CPM.

"A massive thank you must go to Rio Tinto as the mobile hand CPM (continuous passive motion) is an excellent treatment option for acute burn patients as it reduces pain, tightness and swelling in burn patients," Mr Edgar said.

The CPM machine wraps around the wrist of the patient and moves the hand and fingers in long, slow movements.

This treatment provides flexibility to rehabilitation as it can be used for long periods of time, particularly for patients in intensive care where they are sedated and cannot actively cooperate with the rehabilitation program.

“Over 80 per cent of our patients have upper limb injuries and many of them have issues of hypersensitivity and pain which limits their hand and upper limb function,” Mr Edgar said.

“The CPM is a useful way to increase their hand range of motion through reducing movement resistance and adding extra force to pain inhibited or weak muscles.

“Research has shown that the CPM alone may positively assist in the manipulation of scar formation.

“This is an area of research that has not been explored fully and Rio Tinto have now provided us with the opportunity to develop this research and be the first group to seriously investigate the early use of CPM for burn patients. ”

Rio Tinto Minerals operates four sites in Western Australia - three salt operations at Dampier, Port Hedland and Lake MacLeod (near Carnarvon) and a talc mine at Three Springs near Geraldton.

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