

Statement of Principles
concerning

VASCULAR DEMENTIA

No. 22 of 2006

for the purposes of the

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986
and

Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004

Title

1. This Instrument may be cited as Statement of Principles concerning vascular dementia No. 22 of 2006.

Determination

2. This Statement of Principles is determined by the Repatriation Medical Authority under subsection **196B(3)** of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the VEA).

Kind of injury, disease or death

3. (a) This Statement of Principles is about **vascular dementia** and **death from vascular dementia**.
(b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, “**vascular dementia**” means a dementia that is characterised by the development of multiple cognitive deficits, focal neurological signs and symptoms, and associated evidence of impaired blood supply in the brain. Neuroimaging shows cerebral lesions which are identified as being strategically located and which may reasonably be judged to be aetiologically related to the dementia.
(c) Vascular dementia attracts ICD-10-AM code F01.
(d) In the application of this Statement of Principles, the definition of “**vascular dementia**” is that given at paragraph 3(b) above.

Basis for determining the factors

4. On the sound medical-scientific evidence available, the Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that it is more probable than not that **vascular dementia** and **death from vascular dementia** can be related to relevant service rendered by veterans or members of the Forces under the VEA, or members under the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (the MRCA).

Factors that must be related to service

5. Subject to clause 7, at least one of the factors set out in clause 6 must be related to the relevant service rendered by the person.

Factors

6. The factor that must exist before it can be said that, on the balance of probabilities, **vascular dementia** or **death from vascular dementia** is connected with the circumstances of a person's relevant service is:
 - (a) having a cerebrovascular accident before the clinical onset of vascular dementia; or
 - (b) having cerebrovascular disease before the clinical onset of vascular dementia; or
 - (c) having a cerebrovascular accident before the clinical worsening of vascular dementia; or
 - (d) having cerebrovascular disease before the clinical worsening of vascular dementia; or
 - (e) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for vascular dementia.

Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation

7. Paragraphs **6(c) to 6(e)** apply only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, vascular dementia where the person's vascular dementia was suffered or contracted before or during (but not arising out of) the person's relevant service.

Inclusion of Statements of Principles

8. In this Statement of Principles if a relevant factor applies and that factor includes an injury or disease in respect of which there is a Statement of Principles then the factors in that last mentioned Statement of Principles apply in accordance with the terms of that Statement of Principles as in force from time to time.

Other definitions

9. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

“cerebrovascular disease” means any abnormality of the brain resulting from a pathologic process of the cerebral blood vessels, including cerebral ischaemia, intracerebral haemorrhage or cerebral infarction;

“death from vascular dementia” in relation to a person includes death from a terminal event or condition that was contributed to by the person’s vascular dementia;

“ICD-10-AM code” means a number assigned to a particular kind of injury or disease in The International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th revision, Australian Modification (ICD-10-AM), Fourth Edition, effective date of 1 July 2004, copyrighted by the National Centre for Classification in Health, Sydney, NSW, and having ISBN 1 86487 594 1;

“relevant service” means:

- (a) eligible war service (other than operational service) under the VEA; or
- (b) defence service (other than hazardous service) under the VEA; or
- (c) peacetime service under the MRCA;

“terminal event” means the proximate or ultimate cause of death and includes:

- (a) pneumonia;
- (b) respiratory failure;
- (c) cardiac arrest;
- (d) circulatory failure; or
- (e) cessation of brain function.

