

# Specialist Medical Review Council

## Declaration

*Section 196W  
Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*

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**Re: Statement of Principles No. 67 of 2001  
In Respect of Chronic Lymphoid Leukaemia**  
Matter No. 2002/3  
Requests for Review Declaration No. 9

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1. In relation to the Repatriation Medical Authority (the RMA) Statement of Principles No. 67 of 2001 in respect of chronic lymphoid leukaemia and death from chronic lymphoid leukaemia, made under subsection 196B(2) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the VEA), the Specialist Medical Review Council (the Council) declares under subsection 196W(4) of the VEA, that it is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence on which the RMA could have relied to amend Statement of Principles No. 67 of 2001 by including as a factor exposure to extremely low frequency electro-magnetic radiation at an exposure level, duration of exposure and period of time from exposure to onset of disease to be ascertained by the RMA.
2. The Council accordingly directs the RMA to:
  - (a) amend Statement of Principles No. 67 of 2001 by including as a factor exposure to extremely low frequency electro-magnetic radiation at an exposure level, duration of exposure and period of time from exposure to onset of disease to be ascertained by the RMA; and
  - (b) conduct a new investigation to ascertain if there is new information available about:
    - (i) how chronic lymphoid leukaemia may be contracted, or death from chronic lymphoid leukaemia occur; and

- (ii) the extent to which chronic lymphoid leukaemia or death from chronic lymphoid leukaemia may be war-caused;

and in particular, to find out whether there is sound medical-scientific evidence to justify the inclusion in Statement of Principles No. 67 of 2001 as a factor or factors exposure to:

- (A) radio frequency radiation;
- (B) smoking tobacco cigarettes or pipe-smoking or exposure to environmental tobacco smoke; and
- (C) benzene.
- (c) take into account in that investigation the sound medical-scientific evidence previously considered by the RMA, the articles identified in Appendices E-H of Council's Reasons for Decisions (Re: Statements of Principles Nos. 67 and 68 of 2001 in respect of Chronic Lymphoid Leukaemia) as being of potential relevance (but not before the RMA at the relevant times) together with any new body of sound medical-scientific evidence disclosed by the investigation.

Jonathan Phillips	Charles Stuart Guest	David John Longstaff Joske	Timothy Peter Hughes	Michael Anthony Izard
Convener	Councillor	Councillor	Councillor	Councillor

The Common Seal of the )  
Specialist Medical Review )  
Council was affixed to this )  
document by authority of the )  
Council in the presence of: )

Kevin O'Sullivan  
Registrar

Dated this **25<sup>th</sup>** day of **Sept** 2003

The Council's Reasons for Decisions in relation to this Declaration can be obtained on request by writing to the Specialist Medical Review Council Secretariat, PO Box 895, Woden ACT 2606 or by telephoning (03) 9284 6784.