

NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986

The Repatriation Medical Authority (the Authority) gives notice that it intends to carry out an investigation under section 196B(7) of the *Veterans Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act) in terms of the directions of the Specialist Medical Review Council as set out in Declaration No. 9 dated 25 September 2003, which was made under section 196W of the Act as appeared in the Australian Government Notices Gazette of 1 October 2003, concerning **chronic lymphoid leukaemia**.

In the conduct of this investigation the Authority will inquire in particular to find out whether there is sound medical-scientific evidence to justify the inclusion of exposure to radio frequency radiation; or smoking tobacco cigarettes or pipe-smoking or exposure to environmental tobacco smoke; or benzene as a factor or factors in relevant Statement of Principles number 67 of 2001.

The Authority invites the following persons and organisations to make written submissions to the Authority in respect of the investigation:

- any person eligible to make a claim for pension under Part II or Part IV of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*;
- any organisation representing veterans, Australian mariners, members of the Forces, members of the Peacekeeping Forces or their dependants;
- the Repatriation Commission; and
- any person having expertise in a field relevant to the investigation.

The Authority will hold its first meeting for the purposes of this investigation on **15 March 2004**.

Under the Act, the Authority is required to find out whether there is new information available about how **chronic lymphoid leukaemia** may be contracted or death from **chronic lymphoid leukaemia** may occur; and the extent to which **chronic lymphoid leukaemia** or death from **chronic lymphoid leukaemia** may be war-caused or defence-caused. Persons and organisations wishing to make a submission should obtain from the Repatriation Medical Authority Secretariat (at the address and phone number below) a copy of the *Repatriation Medical Authority Submission Guidelines*.

All submissions must be in writing and received by the Authority at the address below no later than **1 March 2004**.

It should also be noted that this investigation will be conducted in conjunction with the investigation under section 196B(7) of the Act to review the contents of Statements of Principles concerning **chronic lymphoid leukaemia** (Instrument Nos.67 and 68 of 2001) advertised by the Authority in the Australian Government Notices Gazette of 16 July 2003.

The Common Seal of the
Repatriation Medical Authority
was affixed in the presence of

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KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN

9/12/2003

The Repatriation Medical Authority
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