NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION

Section 196G of the
Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986

The Repatriation Medical Authority (the Authority) gives notice under section 196G of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the VEA) that it intends to carry out an investigation pursuant to subsection 196B(7) of the VEA to find out whether Statements of Principles may be determined in respect of **Gulf War syndrome**.

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 person eligible to make a claim for compensation under section 319 of the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (the MRCA);
- an organisation representing veterans, Australian mariners, members of the Forces, members of the Peacekeeping Forces, members within the meaning of the MRCA, or their dependants;
- the Repatriation Commission or the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation 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 **9 April 2013**.

In 2003, following an investigation the Authority declared that it would not make a Statement of Principles concerning Gulf War syndrome for the purposes of subsection 196B(2) or (3) of the VEA, as the available sound medical-scientific evidence led the Authority to conclude that there was no unique Gulf War syndrome that could be a "disease" or "injury" as defined in section 5D of the VEA.

In 2010, following a review of their 2003 decision, the Authority concluded that available sound medical-scientific evidence continued to support the 2003 decision and re-affirmed that Gulf War syndrome is not a "disease" or "injury" as defined in section 5D of the VEA.

The Authority has decided to undertake a further review under 196B(7) to see if there is new information available to enable it to make a Statement of Principles in respect of "a particular kind of injury, disease or death".

Persons and organisations wishing to make a submission should obtain a copy of the *RMA Submission Guidelines* from the RMA website [***www.rma.gov.au***] or by contacting the RMA Secretariat at the address or telephone number below.

All submissions must be in writing and received by the Authority at the address below no later than **5 April 2013**.

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

PROFESSOR NICHOLAS SAUNDERS AO

The Repatriation Medical Authority
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CHAIRPERSON 22/10/2012