

Statement of Principles
concerning
HODGKIN'S DISEASE

ICD CODE: 201

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986
subsection 196B(2)

1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **Hodgkin's disease and death from Hodgkin's disease** can be related to operational service rendered by veterans, peacekeeping service rendered by members of Peacekeeping forces and hazardous service rendered by members of the Forces, the Repatriation Medical Authority determines, under subsection 196B(2) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*, that the factors that must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting **Hodgkin's disease or death from Hodgkin's disease** with the circumstances of that service, are:
 - (a) being exposed to herbicides in Vietnam before the clinical onset of Hodgkin's disease; or
 - (b) being infected with HIV before the clinical onset of Hodgkin's disease; or
 - (c) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for the Hodgkin's disease.
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraphs **1(a) to (c)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.

3. The factor set out in paragraph 1(c) applies only where:
- (a) the person's **Hodgkin's disease** was contracted prior to a period, or part of a period, of service to which the factor is related; and
 - (b) the relationship suggested between the **Hodgkin's disease** and the particular service of a person is a relationship set out in paragraph 8(1)(e), 9(1)(e), 70(5)(d), or 70(5A)(d) of the Act.
4. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

“being exposed to herbicides in Vietnam” may be said to have occurred only if the person had:

- (a) rendered more than 30 days service on land in Vietnam; or
- (b) regularly eaten fish, fish products, crustaceans, shellfish, or meat from Vietnam; or
- (c) regularly eaten food cooked with water from Vietnam discoloured by sediment, or regularly drunk water from Vietnam discoloured by sediment; or
- (d) regularly inhaled dust in a defoliated area in Vietnam or regularly inhaled herbicide fog in Vietnam; or
- (e) sprayed or decanted herbicides in Vietnam as an occupational requirement;

"being infected by HIV" means serological evidence of infection with human Immunodeficiency Virus, attracting an ICD code in the range 42 to 44;

“Hodgkin's disease” means a neoplastic disease of the human lymphoid tissues, characterised by the histological presence of Reed-Sternberg cells and symptoms such as fever, night sweats and weight loss, and attracting ICD code 201;

“ICD code” means a number assigned to a particular kind of injury or disease in the tenth edition of the *International Classification of Diseases* 9th Revision, effective date of 1 October 1993, copyrighted by the US Commission on Professional and Hospital Activities, and having the Library of Congress number 77-94472;

