

**Revocation and Determination**  
of  
**Statement of Principles**  
concerning  
**INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE**

**ICD CODES: 555, 556**

*Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*

1. The Repatriation Medical Authority under subsection **196B(3)** of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act):
  - (a) revokes Instrument No.102 of 1996; and
  - (b) determines the following Statement of Principles.

**Kind of injury, disease or death**

2. (a) This Statement of Principles is about **inflammatory bowel disease** and **death from inflammatory bowel disease**.  
  
(b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, "**inflammatory bowel disease**" means a group of chronic inflammatory disorders involving the gastrointestinal tract, attracting ICD code 555 or 556, the most common of which are ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease, but does not include bowel inflammation secondary to vascular insufficiency, radiation, infection or known toxins.

**Basis for determining the factors**

3. On the sound medical-scientific evidence available, the Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that it is more probable than not that **inflammatory bowel disease and death from inflammatory bowel disease** can be related to relevant service rendered by veterans or members of the Forces.

### **Factors that must be related to service**

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

### **Factors**

5. The factors that must exist before it can be said that, on the balance of probabilities, **inflammatory bowel disease** or **death from inflammatory bowel disease** is connected with the circumstances of a person's relevant service are:
  - (a) for Crohn's disease only, smoking at least one pack-year of cigarettes or other tobacco products, before the clinical onset of Crohn's disease, and where smoking has ceased, the clinical onset has occurred within four years of cessation; or
  - (b) for Crohn's disease only, smoking at least one pack-year of cigarettes or other tobacco products, before the clinical worsening of Crohn's disease, and where smoking has ceased, the clinical worsening has occurred within four years of cessation; or
  - (c) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for inflammatory bowel disease.

### **Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation**

6. Paragraphs **5(b) to 5(c)** apply only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, inflammatory bowel disease where the person's inflammatory bowel disease was suffered or contracted before or during (but not arising out of) the person's relevant service; paragraph 8(1)(e), 9(1)(e) or 70(5)(d) of the Act refers.

### **Other definitions**

7. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

**“Crohn's disease”** means a type of inflammatory bowel disease affecting any part of the gastrointestinal tract, which is characterized by chronic inflammation which may extend through all layers of the gastrointestinal tract wall, and is also known as regional enteritis, attracting ICD code 555;

**“ICD code”** means a number assigned to a particular kind of injury or disease in the Australian Version of The International Classification of Diseases, 9th revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM), effective date of 1 July 1996, copyrighted by the National Coding Centre, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney, NSW, and having ISBN 0 642 24447 2;

“**pack-year**” means 7 300 cigarettes, or 1 460 cigars, or 7.3 kg of pipe tobacco;

“**relevant service**” means:

- (a) eligible war service (other than operational service); or
- (b) defence service (other than hazardous service).

**Application**

8. This Instrument applies to all matters to which section 120B of the Act applies.

Dated this *Twenty-sixth* day of *September*  
1996

The Common Seal of the )  
Repatriation Medical Authority )  
was affixed to this instrument )  
in the presence of: )

KEN DONALD  
CHAIRMAN