

Determination
of
Statement of Principles
concerning
PSORIATIC ARTHROPATHY

ICD CODE: 696.0

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986

1. This Statement of Principles is determined by the Repatriation Medical Authority under subsection **196B(2)** of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act).

Kind of injury, disease or death

2. (a) This Statement of Principles is about **psoriatic arthropathy and death from psoriatic arthropathy**.

(b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, "**psoriatic arthropathy**" means a chronic inflammatory arthritis, with specific clinical and radiological signs, occurring with psoriasis, attracting ICD code 696.0.

Basis for determining the factors

3. The Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **psoriatic arthropathy and death from psoriatic arthropathy** can be related to relevant service rendered by veterans, members of Peacekeeping Forces, or members of the Forces.

Factors that must be related to service

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

Factors

5. The factors that must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting **psoriatic arthropathy** or **death from psoriatic arthropathy** with the circumstances of a person's relevant service are:
 - (a) suffering from psoriasis at the time of the clinical onset of psoriatic arthropathy; or
 - (b) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for psoriatic arthropathy.

Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation

6. Paragraph 5(b) applies only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, psoriatic arthropathy where the person's psoriatic arthropathy was suffered or contracted before or during (but not arising out of) the person's relevant service; paragraph 8(1)(e), 9(1)(e), 70(5)(d) or 70(5A)(d) of the Act refers.

Other definitions

7. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

“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;

“psoriasis” means a chronic recurrent papulosquamous skin disorder, associated with hyperproliferation of the epidermis, attracting ICD code 696.1;

“relevant service” means:

- (a) operational service; or
- (b) peacekeeping service; or
- (c) hazardous service.

Dated this *Fifth* day of *May* 1998

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN