

Revocation and Determination

of

Statement of Principles concerning

HODGKIN'S DISEASE

ICD-10-AM CODE: C81

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986

1. The Repatriation Medical Authority under subsection **196B(2)** of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act):
 - (a) revokes Instrument No.77 of 1994; and
 - (b) determines in its place the following Statement of Principles.

Kind of injury, disease or death

2. (a) This Statement of Principles is about **Hodgkin's disease and death from Hodgkin's disease**.
- (b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, "**Hodgkin's disease**" means a malignant neoplastic disease arising from the lymphoid components of the immune system and characterised by Reed-Sternberg cells, attracting ICD-10-AM code C81.

Basis for determining the factors

3. The Repatriation Medical Authority is 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 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 **Hodgkin's disease** or **death from Hodgkin's disease** with the circumstances of a person's relevant service are:
 - (a) being infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) before the clinical onset of Hodgkin's disease; or
 - (b) spraying or decanting a herbicide containing 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D) or 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T), in circumstances likely to result in inhalation or absorption of the herbicide, at least five years before the clinical onset of Hodgkin's disease; or
 - (c) being on land in Vietnam or at sea in Vietnamese waters, for at least 30 days, at least five years before the clinical onset of Hodgkin's disease; or
 - (d) being infected with Epstein-Barr virus before the clinical onset of Hodgkin's disease; or
 - (e) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for Hodgkin's disease.

Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation

6. Paragraph 5(e) applies only to material contribution to, or aggravation of Hodgkin's disease where the person's Hodgkin's 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), 70(5)(d) or 70(5A)(d) of the Act refers.

Inclusion of Statements of Principles

7. In this Statement of Principles if a relevant factor applies and that factor includes an injury or disease in respect of which there is a Statement of Principles then the factors in that last mentioned Statement of Principles apply in accordance with the terms of that Statement of Principles.

Other definitions

8. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

“being infected with Epstein-Barr virus” means serological evidence of infection with Epstein-Barr virus;

“being infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)” means serological evidence of infection with Human Immunodeficiency Virus;

“being on land in Vietnam or at sea in Vietnamese waters” means service in at least one of the areas and at the times described in Items 4 and 8 of Schedule 2 of the *Veterans’ Entitlements Act 1986*;

“death from Hodgkin’s disease” in relation to a person includes death from a terminal event or condition that was contributed to by the person’s Hodgkin’s disease;

“ICD-10-AM code” means a number assigned to a particular kind of injury or disease in The International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th revision, Australian Modification (ICD-10-AM), Second Edition, effective date of 1 July 2000, copyrighted by the National Centre for Classification in Health, Sydney, NSW, and having ISBN 1 86487 271 3;

“relevant service” means:

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

“terminal event” means the proximate or ultimate cause of death and includes:

- a) pneumonia;
- b) respiratory failure;
- c) cardiac arrest;
- d) circulatory failure; or
- e) cessation of brain function.

Application

9. This Instrument applies to all matters to which section 120A of the Act applies.

Dated this *Twenty-seventh* day of *September* 2000

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN