

Revocation and Determination
of
Statement of Principles
concerning
ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS

for the purposes of the

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986
and
Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004

1. The Repatriation Medical Authority under subsection **196B(2) and (8)** of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the VEA):
 - (a) revokes Instrument No. 261 of 1995; 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 **ankylosing spondylitis and death from ankylosing spondylitis**.
- (b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, “**ankylosing spondylitis**” means a chronic, progressive, inflammatory disease of unknown aetiology which involves the sacroiliac joints and the axial skeleton and may also involve peripheral joints and have extra-articular manifestations.

- (c) Extra-articular manifestations of ankylosing spondylitis include the following:
 - (i) uveitis;
 - (ii) aortic incompetence;
 - (iii) heart block;
 - (iv) upper pulmonary lobe fibrobullous disease;
 - (v) spinal fractures, with or without cord compression;
 - (vi) cauda equina syndrome;
 - (vii) renal amyloidosis;
 - (viii) IgA nephropathy; and
 - (ix) osteoporosis.

Basis for determining the factors

- 3. After examining the available sound medical-scientific evidence the Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that the only factor that may be related to the cause of or material contribution to or aggravation of **ankylosing spondylitis** or **death from ankylosing spondylitis** and which can be related to relevant service rendered by veterans, members of Peacekeeping Forces, or members of the Forces under the VEA, or members under the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (the MRCA) is that set out in clause 4.

Factors that must be related to service

- 4. The factor that must as a minimum exist in relation to the circumstances of a person's relevant service causing or materially contributing to or aggravating **ankylosing spondylitis** or **death from ankylosing spondylitis** is inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for ankylosing spondylitis.

Other definitions

- 5. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

“death from ankylosing spondylitis” in relation to a person includes death from a terminal event or condition that was contributed to by the person's ankylosing spondylitis;

“relevant service” means:

- (a) operational service under the VEA; or
- (b) peacekeeping service under the VEA; or
- (c) hazardous service under the VEA; or
- (d) warlike service under the MRCA; or
- (e) non-warlike service under the MRCA;

“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

- 6. This Instrument applies to all matters to which section 120A of the VEA or section 338 of the MRCA applies.

Date of effect

- 7. This Instrument takes effect from 20 July 2005.

Dated this *eighth* day of *July* 2005

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRPERSON