

**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(3)** and **(8)** of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the VEA):
  - (a) revokes Instrument No. 262 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 it is more probable than not on the sound medical-scientific evidence available, that the only factor that can 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 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 exist before it can be said that, on the balance of probabilities, 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) eligible war service (other than operational service) under the VEA; or
- (b) defence service (other than hazardous service) under the VEA; or
- (c) peacetime 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 120B of the VEA or section 339 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