Statement of Principles concerning
SCHEUERMANN'S DISEASE
(Balance of Probabilities)
(No. 76 of 2016)

The Repatriation Medical Authority determines the following Statement of Principles under subsection 196B(3) of the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986.

Dated 26 August 2016

The Common Seal of the Repatriation Medical Authority was affixed to this instrument at the direction of:

Professor Nicholas Saunders AO
Chairperson
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Statement of Principles concerning Scheuermann's Disease (Balance of Probabilities) (No. 76 of 2016) Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986
1 Name

This is the Statement of Principles concerning Scheuermann's disease (Balance of Probabilities) (No. 76 of 2016).

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on 26 September 2016.

3 Authority

This instrument is made under subsection 196B(3) of the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986.

4 Application

This instrument applies to a claim to which section 120B of the VEA or section 339 of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 applies.

5 Definitions

The terms defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary have the meaning given when used in this instrument.

6 Kind of injury, disease or death to which this Statement of Principles relates

(1) This Statement of Principles is about Scheuermann's disease and death from Scheuermann's disease.

Meaning of Scheuermann's disease

(2) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, Scheuermann's disease (also known as juvenile osteochondrosis of the spine) means:

(a) a disease of children and adolescents involving necrosis and regeneration in the growth centres of the thoracic or thoracolumbar vertebrae. It is characterised by a rigid hyperkyphosis due to anterior wedging of at least 5° in one or more consecutive vertebrae. This condition may be accompanied by back pain and, in severe cases, respiratory or neurological complications; and

(b) excludes postural kyphosis.

(3) While Scheuermann's disease attracts ICD-10-AM code M42.0, in applying this Statement of Principles the meaning of Scheuermann's disease is that given in subsection (2).

(4) For subsection (3), a reference to an ICD-10-AM code is a reference to the code assigned to a particular kind of injury or disease in The International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems.

Death from Scheuermann's disease

(5) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, Scheuermann's disease, in relation to a person, includes death from a terminal event or condition that was contributed to by the person's Scheuermann's disease.

Note: terminal event is defined in the Schedule 1 – Dictionary.

7 Basis for determining the factors

On the sound medical-scientific evidence available, the Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that it is more probable than not that Scheuermann's disease and death from Scheuermann's disease can be related to relevant service rendered by veterans or members of the Forces under the VEA, or members under the MRCA.

Note: relevant service is defined in the Schedule 1 – Dictionary.

8 Factor that must exist

The factor that must exist before it can be said that, on the balance of probabilities, Scheuermann's disease or death from Scheuermann's disease is connected with the circumstances of a person's relevant service is inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for Scheuermann's disease.

9 Relationship to service

The existence in a person of the factor referred to in section 8, applies only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, Scheuermann's disease where the person's Scheuermann's disease was suffered or contracted before or during (but did not arise out of) the person's relevant service.
Schedule 1 - Dictionary

Note: See Section 5

1 Definitions

In this instrument:

**MRCA** means the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004*.

**relevant service** means:

(a) eligible war service (other than operational service) under the VEA;
(b) defence service (other than hazardous service and British nuclear test
defence service) under the VEA; or
(c) peacetime service under the MRCA.

Note: **MRCA** and **VEA** are also defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

**Scheuermann's disease**—see subsection 6(2).

**terminal event** means the proximate or ultimate cause of death and includes
the following:

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

**VEA** means the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*. 