Statement of Principles
centering
OTOSCLEROSIS
(Reasonable Hypothesis)
(No. 61 of 2016)

The Repatriation Medical Authority determines the following Statement of Principles under subsection 196B(2) of the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986.

Dated 24 June 2016

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

[Signature]

Professor Nicholas Saunders AO
Chairperson
1 **Name**

This is the Statement of Principles concerning *otosclerosis (Reasonable Hypothesis)* (No. 61 of 2016).

2 **Commencement**

This instrument commences on 25 July 2016.

3 **Authority**

This instrument is made under subsection 196B(2) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*.

4 **Revocation**

The Statement of Principles concerning otosclerosis No. 119 of 2007 made under subsection 196B(2) of the VEA is revoked.

5 **Application**

This instrument applies to a claim to which section 120A of the VEA or section 338 of the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* applies.

6 **Definitions**

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

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

(1) This Statement of Principles is about otosclerosis and death from otosclerosis.

*Meaning of otosclerosis*

(2) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, otosclerosis means a disorder of the bone of the labyrinthine capsule, characterised by new bone formation commonly involving the footplate of the stapes.

(3) While otosclerosis attracts ICD-10-AM code H80, in applying this Statement of Principles the meaning of otosclerosis is that given in subsection (2).

Death from otosclerosis

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

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

8 Basis for determining the factors

The Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that otosclerosis and death from otosclerosis 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 MRCA.

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

9 Factors that must exist

At least one of the following factors must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting otosclerosis or death from otosclerosis with the circumstances of a person's relevant service:

(1) being infected with measles virus before the clinical onset of otosclerosis;

Note: being infected with measles virus is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

(2) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for otosclerosis.

10 Relationship to service

(1) The existence in a person of any factor referred to in section 9, must be related to the relevant service rendered by the person.

(2) The factor set out in subsection 9(2) applies only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, otosclerosis where the person's otosclerosis was suffered or contracted before or during (but did not arise out of) the person's relevant service.

11 Factors referring to an injury or disease covered by another Statement of Principles

In this Statement of Principles:

(1) if a factor referred to in section 9 applies in relation to a person; and

(2) that factor refers to an injury or disease in respect of which a Statement of Principles has been determined under subsection 196B(2) of the VEA;
then the factors in that Statement of Principles apply in accordance with the terms of that Statement of Principles as in force from time to time.
Schedule 1 - Dictionary

Note: See Section 6

1 Definitions

In this instrument:

*being infected with measles virus* means having evidence of a clinical infection with measles virus, excluding measles vaccination.

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

*otosclerosis*—see subsection 7(2).

*relevant service* means:

- (a) operational service under the VEA;
- (b) peacekeeping service under the VEA;
- (c) hazardous service under the VEA;
- (d) British nuclear test defence service under the VEA;
- (e) warlike service under the MRCA; or
- (f) non-warlike service under the MRCA.

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

*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.*