



Australian Government
Repatriation Medical Authority

Statement of Principles
concerning
DENGUE VIRUS INFECTION
(Reasonable Hypothesis)
(No. 78 of 2020)

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

Dated 30 October 2020

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Saunders'.

Professor Nicholas Saunders AO
Chairperson

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1 Name

This is the Statement of Principles concerning *dengue virus infection (Reasonable Hypothesis)* (No. 78 of 2020).

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on 30 November 2020.

3 Authority

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

4 Repeal

The Statement of Principles concerning dengue fever No. 13 of 2012 (Federal Register of Legislation No. F2012L00443) made under subsection 196B(2) of the VEA is repealed.

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 dengue virus infection and death from dengue virus infection.

Meaning of dengue virus infection

- (2) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, dengue virus infection means an illness caused by infection with dengue virus.

Note 1: Typical clinical manifestations of uncomplicated dengue virus infection include fever, headache, eye pain, muscle ache, joint pain, nausea, vomiting and a rash.

Note 2: Complicated forms of dengue virus infection are known as dengue with warning signs and severe dengue, or may be alternatively classified as dengue haemorrhagic fever and dengue shock syndrome. Clinical manifestations of complicated forms of dengue virus infection include a low platelet count, severe bleeding, plasma leakage, fluid accumulation in the lungs and abdomen, shock, impaired consciousness and organ failure.

- (3) While dengue virus infection attracts ICD-10-AM code A90 or A91, in applying this Statement of Principles the meaning of dengue virus infection 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, Tenth Revision, Australian Modification (ICD-10-AM)*, Tenth Edition, effective date of 1 July 2017, copyrighted by the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority, ISBN 978-1-76007-296-4.

Death from dengue virus infection

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

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 dengue virus infection and death from dengue virus infection 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: *MRCA*, *relevant service* and *VEA* are 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 dengue virus infection or death from dengue virus infection with the circumstances of a person's relevant service:

- (1) being exposed to dengue virus within the 14 days before the clinical onset of dengue virus infection;

Note: *being exposed to dengue virus* is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

- (2) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for dengue virus infection.

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, dengue virus infection where the person's dengue virus infection 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 exposed to dengue virus means:

- (a) being bitten by a mosquito infected with dengue virus;
- (b) being in a country or an area of a country at a time when there is dengue virus transmission;
- (c) having percutaneous or mucocutaneous exposure to blood infected with dengue virus;
- (d) having sexual contact with a person infected with dengue virus; or
- (e) receiving a blood transfusion, blood products, a stem cell transplant or an organ transplant infected with dengue virus.

dengue virus infection—see subsection 7(2).

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

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*.