



**Australian Government**  
**Repatriation Medical Authority**

**Statement of Principles**  
**concerning**  
**MATURE B-CELL LYMPHOID**  
**LEUKAEMIA AND SMALL LYMPHOCYTIC**  
**LYMPHOMA**  
**(Balance of Probabilities)**  
**(No. 79 of 2022)**

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

Dated 23 August 2022

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

Professor Terence Campbell AM  
Chairperson

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**1 Name**

This is the Statement of Principles concerning mature B-cell lymphoid leukaemia and small lymphocytic lymphoma (*Balance of Probabilities*) (No. 79 of 2022).

**2 Commencement**

This instrument commences on 19 September 2022.

**3 Authority**

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

**4 Repeal**

The Statement of Principles concerning chronic lymphocytic leukaemia/small lymphocytic lymphoma No. 85 of 2014 (Federal Register of Legislation No. F2014L01147) made under subsection 196B(3) of the VEA is repealed.

**5 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.

**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 mature B-cell lymphoid leukaemia and small lymphocytic lymphoma and death from mature B-cell lymphoid leukaemia and small lymphocytic lymphoma.

*Meaning of mature B-cell lymphoid leukaemia and small lymphocytic lymphoma*

- (2) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, mature B-cell lymphoid leukaemia and small lymphocytic lymphoma:
- (a) means a malignant neoplasm characterised by the clonal proliferation of small morphologically mature, non-functioning lymphoid cells of B-cell origin, which can present clinically as either a leukaemia or a lymphoma; and
  - (b) includes:

- (i) B-cell prolymphocytic leukaemia;
  - (ii) chronic lymphocytic leukaemia/small lymphocytic lymphoma; and
  - (iii) hairy cell leukaemia; and
- (c) excludes non-Hodgkin lymphoma other than small lymphocytic lymphoma.

Note: Small lymphocytic lymphoma and chronic lymphocytic leukaemia are tumours of the same lymphoid cell type, and are considered to be a single disease entity with two clinical presentations.

### ***Death from mature B-cell lymphoid leukaemia and small lymphocytic lymphoma***

- (3) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, mature B-cell lymphoid leukaemia and small lymphocytic lymphoma, in relation to a person, includes death from a terminal event or condition that was contributed to by the person's mature B-cell lymphoid leukaemia and small lymphocytic lymphoma.

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

## **8 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 mature B-cell lymphoid leukaemia and small lymphocytic lymphoma and death from mature B-cell lymphoid leukaemia and small lymphocytic lymphoma can be related to relevant service rendered by veterans 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 exist before it can be said that, on the balance of probabilities, mature B-cell lymphoid leukaemia and small lymphocytic lymphoma or death from mature B-cell lymphoid leukaemia and small lymphocytic lymphoma is connected with the circumstances of a person's relevant service:

- (1) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for mature B-cell lymphoid leukaemia and small lymphocytic lymphoma.

## **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(1) applies only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, mature B-cell lymphoid leukaemia and small lymphocytic lymphoma where the person's mature B-cell

lymphoid leukaemia and small lymphocytic lymphoma 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(3) 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:

***mature b-cell lymphoid leukaemia and small lymphocytic lymphoma*** - see subsection 7(2).

***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.

***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*.