DECLARATION UNDER SUBSECTION 196B(9)
OF THE VETERANS' ENTITLEMENTS ACT 1986

The Repatriation Medical Authority, under subsection 196B(9) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act), makes the following declaration in respect of an investigation to review the contents of a Statement of Principles in force under the Act concerning **chronic lymphoid leukaemia**. The investigation related to "**dioxin exposure** and **dioxin contaminated herbicide exposure** as a factor/s in chronic lymphoid leukaemia" and the Notice of investigation was published in the Government Notices Gazette of 12 September 2007.

DECLARATION

The Repatriation Medical Authority (the Authority) declares that it does not propose to amend the Statements of Principles concerning **chronic lymphoid leukaemia** being Instrument Nos. 9 & 10 of 2005, for the reason that the new sound medical-scientific evidence (SMSE) available is not sufficient to justify an amendment to the Statements of Principles already determined in respect of **chronic lymphoid leukaemia**.

The new SMSE that was examined by the Authority comprised eleven review studies concerning the carcinogenicity of dioxin or dioxin-contaminated herbicides; five cohort studies of health outcomes in Australian and US Vietnam veterans; one occupational cohort study of production workers and sprayers; one community-based case-control study of chronic lymphoid leukaemia; one ecological study of cancer incidence at a production facility; two cross-sectional studies of gene expression in dioxin-exposed subjects; three agricultural cohort studies and two cohort studies of occupational exposure to dioxin-like substances.

This new evidence does not identify a statistically significant increase in the relative risk of chronic lymphoid leukaemia in individuals with documented dioxin exposure and does not report a dose-response relationship. The new SMSE is consistent with the Authority's previous determination that the available SMSE does not raise a reasonable hypothesis concerning a causal link between dioxin exposure or dioxin-contaminated herbicide exposure and chronic lymphoid leukaemia.

The Common Seal of the)
Repatriation Medical Authority)
was affixed in the presence of:) 14/04/2008

KEN DONALD
CHAIRPERSON