



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

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

The Repatriation Medical Authority (the 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 the Statements of Principles in force under the Act concerning **rheumatoid arthritis**. The investigation related to "anxiety spectrum disorders" and the Notice of Investigation was published in the Government Notices Gazette of 29 April 2009.

The Authority declares that it does not propose to amend the Statements of Principles, Instrument Nos. 68 & 69 of 2008, concerning **rheumatoid arthritis** 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 **rheumatoid arthritis**.

One cohort study, one case-control study and three cross-sectional studies concerning the association between anxiety spectrum disorders and rheumatoid arthritis were identified. No cohort studies examining the onset of rheumatoid arthritis in patients with prior anxiety spectrum disorders were identified. The available evidence suggested that anxiety is a response to the pain and disability associated with rheumatoid arthritis. For these reasons, the Authority considered that there is insufficient SMSE to raise a reasonable hypothesis concerning anxiety spectrum disorders as a cause of rheumatoid arthritis.

The Common Seal of the  
Repatriation Medical Authority  
was affixed in the presence of )  
)  
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KEN DONALD  
CHAIRPERSON 19/08/2009