



Australian Government
Repatriation Medical Authority

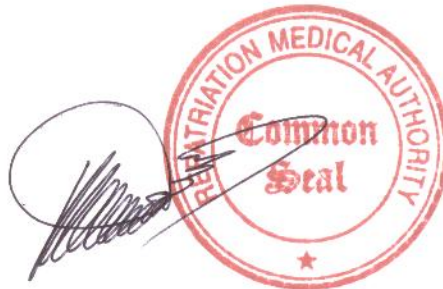
**DECLARATION UNDER SUBSECTION 196B(9)
OF THE VETERANS' ENTITLEMENTS ACT 1986**

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 **polymyalgia rheumatica**. 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. 23 & 24 of 2008, concerning **polymyalgia rheumatica** 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 **polymyalgia rheumatica**.

Although there is information available relating to a possible effect of stress on the immune system, no studies concerning the possible association between anxiety spectrum disorders and polymyalgia rheumatica could be identified. For this reason, the Authority considered that there is insufficient SMSE to raise a reasonable hypothesis concerning anxiety spectrum disorders as a cause of polymyalgia rheumatica.

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