



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 **inflammatory bowel disease**. 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. 21 & 22 of 2001, concerning **inflammatory bowel disease** 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 **inflammatory bowel disease**.

Two cohort studies, one case-control study and three cross-sectional studies concerning the association between anxiety spectrum disorders and inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) were identified. The results are inconsistent, and conclusions about anxiety as a cause of IBD are difficult to draw because there are insufficient, well-designed prospective studies that examine the association between prior anxiety and subsequent onset of IBD. The available evidence suggests that anxiety is a response to symptoms of IBD, rather than a cause of IBD. For these reasons, the Authority considered that there is insufficient SMSE to raise a reasonable hypothesis concerning anxiety spectrum disorders as a cause of inflammatory bowel disease.

The Common Seal of the)
Repatriation Medical Authority)
was affixed in the presence of)



KEN DONALD
CHAIRPERSON 19/08/2009