



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 **diabetes mellitus**. 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. 11 & 12 of 2004 as amended by Instrument Nos. 9 & 10 of 2008, concerning **diabetes mellitus** 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 **diabetes mellitus**.

Cross-sectional studies have found an association between self-reported panic attacks and glycaemic control (Ludman et al 2006), self-reported PTSD and self-reported diabetes (Goodwin and Davidson 2005) and self-reported unspecified anxiety and glycaemic control (meta-analysis of 12 studies). In the study by Goodwin and Davidson, there were multiple comparisons and no adjustment for BMI. In the study by Ludman et al, the response rate was poor (56%). Boscarino (2004) found no significant association between current or comorbid PTSD and diabetes mellitus in a cross-sectional study of Vietnam veterans. In the meta-analysis of glycaemic control and anxiety, the effect size was small to moderate and there was low to moderate evidence of publication bias. The endpoint in this study was intermediate, and may not reflect long term worsening of diabetes. In all studies the direction of effect could not be determined, and it is possible that having a medical condition may increase the risk of anxiety or exposure to traumatic life events. For these reasons, the Authority considered that there is insufficient SMSE to raise a reasonable hypothesis concerning anxiety disorders as a cause of diabetes mellitus.

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