



**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 the review of the contents of the Statements of Principles in force under the Act concerning **hypertension**, Instrument Nos. 63 and 64 of 2013.

The investigation related to "exposure to phenoxyherbicides/dioxin (Agent Orange)". The Notice of Investigation was published in the Government Notices Gazette of 8 January 2019.

Following the investigation, the Authority declares that it does not propose to amend Statement of Principles, Instrument No. 64 of 2013, to include factors relating to exposure to phenoxyherbicides/dioxin (Agent Orange). The reason is that the sound medical-scientific evidence available to the Authority, including the new sound medical-scientific evidence, cannot, on the balance of probabilities, connect hypertension with exposure to phenoxyherbicides/dioxin (Agent Orange) related to the circumstances of the relevant service referred to in subsection 196B(3) of the Act. That sound medical-scientific evidence is not sufficient to justify an amendment to the Statement of Principles, No. 64 of 2013, already determined in respect of hypertension, to include factors relating to exposure to phenoxyherbicides/dioxin (Agent Orange).

The Authority proposes to determine an amendment to Statement of Principles, Instrument No. 63 of 2013, concerning hypertension, to include factors relating to exposure to phenoxyherbicides/dioxin (Agent Orange). The Authority is of the view that the sound medical-scientific evidence available to it, including the new sound medical-scientific evidence, raises a reasonable hypothesis connecting hypertension with exposure to phenoxyherbicides/dioxin (Agent Orange) related to the circumstances of relevant service referred to in subsection 196B(2) of the Act. That sound medical-scientific evidence justifies an amendment of the Statement of Principles, Instrument No. 63 of 2013, concerning hypertension, to include factors relating to exposure to phenoxyherbicides/dioxin (Agent Orange).

The Common Seal of the  
Repatriation Medical Authority )  
was affixed at the direction of: )

PROFESSOR NICHOLAS SAUNDERS AO  
CHAIRPERSON 23 / 08 / 2019