

REVOKED

Statement of Principles
concerning
DEPRESSIVE DISORDER

ICD CODES: 296.3, 300.4, 311

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986
subsection 196B(2)

1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **depressive disorder and death from depressive disorder** can be related to operational service rendered by veterans, peacekeeping service rendered by members of Peacekeeping forces and hazardous service rendered by members of the Forces, the Repatriation Medical Authority determines, under subsection 196B(2) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*, that the factors that must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting **depressive disorder or death from depressive disorder** with the circumstances of that service, are:
 - (a) having been a prisoner of war; or
 - (b) experience of a stressor not more than two years prior to the clinical onset of depressive disorder; or
 - (c) having a psychiatric condition not more than two years prior to the clinical onset of depressive disorder; or
 - (d) having a major illness or injury not more than two years prior to the clinical onset of depressive disorder; or

- (e) experience of a stressor not more than two years prior to the clinical worsening of depressive disorder; or
 - (f) having a major illness or injury not more than two years prior to the clinical worsening of depressive disorder; or
 - (g) having a psychiatric condition not more than two years prior to the clinical worsening of depressive disorder; or
 - (h) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for depressive disorder.
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraphs **1(a) to 1(h)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.
3. The factors set out in paragraphs **1(e) to 1(h)** apply only where:
- (a) the person's **depressive disorder** was contracted prior to a period, or part of a period, of service to which the factor is related; and
 - (b) the relationship suggested between **depressive disorder** and the particular service of a person is a relationship set out in paragraphs 8(1)(e), 9(1)(e), 70(5)(d), or 70(5A)(d) of the Act.
4. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

“depressive disorder” means that:

- (a) the person has had two or more major depressive episodes, as defined in DSM-IV, separated by an interval of at least two months; and
- (b) the person's major depressive episodes:
 - (i) are not better accounted for by schizoaffective disorder, as defined in DSM-IV; and
 - (ii) are not superimposed on schizophrenia, schizophreniform disorder, delusional disorder, or psychotic disorder not otherwise specified, as those conditions are defined in DSM-IV; and
- (c) the person has never had a manic episode, a mixed episode, or a hypomanic episode unless all of the manic-like, mixed-like, or hypomanic-like episodes are substance or treatment induced or are due to the direct physiological effects of a general medical condition;

“DSM-IV” means the fourth edition of the American Psychiatric Association's *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*;

