

REVOKED

Statement of Principles concerning **PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE ABUSE OR DEPENDENCE**

ICD CODES: 303, 304

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986
subsection 196B(3)

1. Being of the view that, on the sound medical-scientific evidence available to the Repatriation Medical Authority, it is more probable than not that **psychoactive substance abuse or dependence and death from psychoactive substance abuse** can be related to eligible war service (other than operational service) rendered by veterans and defence service (other than hazardous service) rendered by members of the Forces, the Repatriation Medical Authority determines, under subsection 196B(3) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*, that the factors that must exist before it can be said that, on the balance of probabilities, **psychoactive substance abuse or dependence or death from psychoactive substance abuse or dependence** is connected with the circumstances of that service, are:
 - (a) a severely stressful event immediately prior to the clinical onset of psychoactive substance abuse or dependence, and maintaining the abuse or dependence post-service; or
 - (b) a psychiatric condition prior to the clinical onset of psychoactive substance abuse or dependence; or

- (c) a severely stressful event immediately prior to the clinical worsening of psychoactive substance abuse or dependence, and maintaining the abuse or dependence post-service; or
 - (d) a psychiatric condition prior to the clinical worsening of psychoactive substance abuse or dependence; or
 - (e) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for psychoactive substance abuse or dependence.
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraphs **1(a) to 1(e)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.
3. The factors set out in paragraphs **1(c) to 1(e)** apply only where:
- (a) the person's **psychoactive substance abuse or dependence** 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 the **psychoactive substance abuse or dependence** and the particular service of a person is a relationship set out in paragraph 8(1)(e), 9(1)(e) or 70(5)(d) of the Act.
4. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

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

“ICD code” means a number assigned to a particular kind of injury or disease in the *International Classification of Diseases* 9th Revision, US Department of Health and Human Services, Pub. No 80-1260;

“psychiatric condition” means any psychiatric illness that would attract a diagnosis under DSM-IV;

“psychoactive substance abuse or dependence” means a maladaptive pattern of use, attracting ICD code 303 or 304, that is indicated by either:

- (a) continued use of the substance despite knowledge of having a persistent or recurrent social, occupational, psychological or physical problem that is caused or exacerbated by use of the substance; or
- (b) recurrent use of the substance when use is physically hazardous (eg driving while intoxicated);

