

REVOKED

Revocation and Determination

of

Statement of Principles concerning

DEPRESSIVE DISORDER

ICD CODES: 296.3, 300.4, 311

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986

1. The Repatriation Medical Authority under subsection **196B(2)** of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act):
 - (a) revokes Instrument No.3 of 1994; and
 - (b) determines the following Statement of Principles.

Kind of injury, disease or death

2. (a) This Statement of Principles is about **depressive disorder** and **death from depressive disorder**.
 - (b) 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;
attracting ICD code 296.3, 300.4 or 311.

Basis for determining the factors

3. The Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **depressive disorder** can be related to relevant service rendered by veterans, members of Peacekeeping Forces, or members of the Forces.

Factors that must be related to service

4. Subject to clause 6, the factors set out in at least one of the paragraphs in clause 5 must be related to any relevant service rendered by the person.

Factors

5. 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 a person's relevant service are:
- (a) being a prisoner of war before the clinical onset of depressive disorder; or
 - (b) experiencing a severe psychosocial stressor or stressors within the two years immediately before the clinical onset of depressive disorder; or
 - (c) having a psychiatric condition within the two years immediately before the clinical onset of depressive disorder; or
 - (d) having a major illness or injury within the two years immediately before the clinical onset of depressive disorder; or
 - (e) experiencing a severe psychosocial stressor or stressors within the two years immediately before the clinical worsening of depressive disorder; or
 - (f) having a major illness or injury within the two years immediately before the clinical worsening of depressive disorder; or
 - (g) having a psychiatric condition within the two years immediately before the clinical worsening of depressive disorder; or

- (h) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for depressive disorder.

Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation

- 6. Paragraphs **5(e) to 5(h)** apply only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, depressive disorder where the person's depressive disorder was suffered or contracted before or during (but not arising out of) the person's relevant service; paragraph 8(1)(e), 9(1)(e), 70(5)(d) or 70(5A)(d) of the Act refers.

Other definitions

- 7. 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 Australian Version of The International Classification of Diseases, 9th revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM), effective date of 1 July 1995, copyrighted by the National Coding Centre, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney, NSW, and having ISBN 0 642 22235 5;

“major illness or injury” means a serious illness or injury that is life-threatening, or involves damage to the body;

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

“relevant service” means:

- (a) operational service; or
- (b) peacekeeping service; or
- (c) hazardous service;

“severe psychosocial stressor” means an identifiable occurrence that evokes feelings of substantial anxiety in an individual or which is perceived as stressful, for example, being shot at, experiencing a loss such as divorce, separation, severe illness or injury, assault, legal problems, loss of employment, major financial problems, death or serious injury in a close friend or relative.

Application

8. This Instrument applies to all matters to which section 120A of the Act applies.

Dated this **Eighteenth** day of **April**
1996

The Common Seal of the)
Repatriation Medical Authority)
was affixed to this instrument)
in the presence of:)

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN