



**Australian Government**  
**Repatriation Medical Authority**

**Statement of Principles**  
**concerning**  
**ANOSMIA**  
**(Reasonable Hypothesis)**  
**(No. 19 of 2021)**

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The Repatriation Medical Authority determines the following Statement of Principles under subsection 196B(2) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*.

Dated 24 December 2020

The Common Seal of the  
Repatriation Medical Authority  
was affixed to this instrument  
at the direction of:

Professor Nicholas Saunders AO  
Chairperson

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**1 Name**

This is the Statement of Principles concerning *anosmia (Reasonable Hypothesis)* (No. 19 of 2021).

**2 Commencement**

This instrument commences on 25 January 2021.

**3 Authority**

This instrument is made under subsection 196B(2) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*.

**4 Repeal**

The Statement of Principles concerning anosmia No. 118 of 2011 (Federal Register of Legislation No. F2011L01751) made under subsection 196B(2) of the VEA is repealed.

**5 Application**

This instrument applies to a claim to which section 120A of the VEA or section 338 of the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* applies.

**6 Definitions**

The terms defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary have the meaning given when used in this instrument.

**7 Kind of injury, disease or death to which this Statement of Principles relates**

(1) This Statement of Principles is about anosmia and death from anosmia.

*Meaning of anosmia*

(2) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, anosmia means an acquired, total and permanent loss of the ability to smell, due to a defect in the olfactory neuroepithelium, olfactory nerves or olfactory neural pathways in the brain.

Note: Loss of the ability to smell includes loss of the ability to detect odours, discriminate between odours or to identify odours.

(3) While anosmia attracts ICD-10-AM code R43.0, in applying this Statement of Principles the meaning of anosmia is that given in subsection (2).

- (4) For subsection (3), a reference to an ICD-10-AM code is a reference to the code assigned to a particular kind of injury or disease in *The International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision, Australian Modification (ICD-10-AM)*, Tenth Edition, effective date of 1 July 2017, copyrighted by the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority, ISBN 978-1-76007-296-4.

*Death from anosmia*

- (5) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, anosmia, in relation to a person, includes death from a terminal event or condition that was contributed to by the person's anosmia.

Note: *terminal event* is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

## 8 Basis for determining the factors

The Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that anosmia and death from anosmia can be related to relevant service rendered by veterans, members of Peacekeeping Forces, or members of the Forces under the VEA, or members under the MRCA.

Note: *MRCA*, *relevant service* and *VEA* are defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

## 9 Factors that must exist

At least one of the following factors must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting anosmia or death from anosmia with the circumstances of a person's relevant service:

- (1) having sinusitis for at least the two years before the clinical onset of anosmia;
- (2) having perennial allergic rhinitis for at least the two years before the clinical onset of anosmia;

Note: *perennial allergic rhinitis* is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

- (3) having an autoimmune disease from the specified list of autoimmune diseases at the time of the clinical onset of anosmia;

Note: *specified list of autoimmune diseases* is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

- (4) having sarcoidosis at the time of the clinical onset of anosmia;
- (5) having Paget's disease of bone affecting the skull at the time of the clinical onset of anosmia;
- (6) having a neurological disease from the specified list of neurological diseases at the time of the clinical onset of anosmia;

Note: *specified list of neurological diseases* is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

- (7) having hepatic encephalopathy at the time of the clinical onset of anosmia;
- (8) having chronic renal failure at the time of the clinical onset of anosmia;  
Note: *chronic renal failure* is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.
- (9) having diabetes mellitus before the clinical onset of anosmia;
- (10) having a disorder of mental health from the specified list of disorders of mental health at the time of the clinical onset of anosmia;  
Note: *specified list of disorders of mental health* is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.
- (11) having a condition or procedure from the specified list of conditions and procedures, which damages the olfactory neuroepithelium, the olfactory bulb or the olfactory neural pathways in the brain at the time of the clinical onset of anosmia;  
Note: *specified list of conditions and procedures* is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.
- (12) being treated with a drug which is associated in the individual with:
- (a) the development of anosmia within three weeks of commencing drug therapy, in the absence of clinical or laboratory evidence of anosmia prior to commencing drug therapy; and
  - (b) the persistence of anosmia after discontinuing drug therapy;
- (13) undergoing a course of therapeutic radiation for cancer, where the olfactory neuroepithelium, olfactory bulb, or olfactory neural pathways in the brain were in the field of radiation, within the 30 days before the clinical onset of anosmia;
- (14) receiving an intranasal application of a preparation containing zinc gluconate or zinc sulphate within the 48 hours before the clinical onset of anosmia;
- (15) taking intranasal cocaine such that there is destruction of the nasal septum, palate or paranasal sinuses before the clinical onset of anosmia;
- (16) inhaling fumes from a metal from the specified list of metals, or a compound containing a metal from the specified list of metals, for a cumulative period of at least 5,000 hours before the clinical onset of anosmia and where that exposure has ceased, the clinical onset of anosmia has occurred within one year of cessation;  
Note: *fumes* and *specified list of metals* are defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

- (17) inhaling fumes from a volatile substance from the specified list of volatile substances for a cumulative period of at least 5,000 hours before the clinical onset of anosmia and where that exposure has ceased, the clinical onset of anosmia has occurred within one year of cessation;

Note: *fumes* and *specified list of volatile substances* are defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

- (18) experiencing acute, symptomatic poisoning from a neurotoxic substance from the specified list of neurotoxic substances within the 30 days before the clinical onset of anosmia;

Note: *specified list of neurotoxic substances* is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

- (19) where smoking has not ceased prior to the clinical onset of anosmia, having smoked at least 20 pack-years of tobacco products before the clinical onset of anosmia;

Note: *pack-year of tobacco products* is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

- (20) having pellagra at the time of the clinical onset of anosmia;

Note: *pellagra* is defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

- (21) having vitamin B12 deficiency at the time of the clinical onset of anosmia;

- (22) having envenomation by the Australian mulga snake (*Pseudoechis australis*) or the South African Berg adder (*Bitis atropos*) at the time of the clinical onset of anosmia.

## **10 Relationship to service**

The existence in a person of any factor referred to in section 9, must be related to the relevant service rendered by the person.

## **11 Factors referring to an injury or disease covered by another Statement of Principles**

In this Statement of Principles:

- (1) if a factor referred to in section 9 applies in relation to a person; and
- (2) that factor refers to an injury or disease in respect of which a Statement of Principles has been determined under subsection 196B(2) of the VEA;

then the factors in that Statement of Principles apply in accordance with the terms of that Statement of Principles as in force from time to time.

# Schedule 1 - Dictionary

Note: See Section 6

## 1 Definitions

In this instrument:

***anosmia***—see subsection 7(2).

***chronic renal failure*** means:

- (a) having a glomerular filtration rate of less than 15 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup> for a period of at least three months; or
- (b) a need for renal replacement therapy (dialysis or transplantation) for treatment of complications of decreased glomerular filtration rate which would otherwise increase the risk of morbidity and mortality; or
- (c) undergoing chronic dialysis.

***fumes*** means combustion products, aerosols, vapours or dust arising through industrial processes or from workplace practices that involve the refining, manufacture or use of the stated material.

***MRCA*** means the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004*.

***organic solvents*** means oxygenated, aliphatic or aromatic solvents.

***pack-year of tobacco products*** means:

- (a) 20 cigarettes per day for a period of one calendar year; or
- (b) 7,300 cigarettes in a period of one calendar year; or
- (c) 7,300 grams of smoking tobacco by weight, either in cigarettes, pipe tobacco or cigars, or a combination of same, in a period of one calendar year.

***pellagra*** means chronic nicotinic acid deficiency, characterised by skin changes, nervous dysfunction and diarrhoea.

***perennial allergic rhinitis*** means chronic or frequently recurrent rhinitis as distinct from rhinitis that is purely seasonal.

***relevant service*** means:

- (a) operational service under the VEA;
- (b) peacekeeping service under the VEA;
- (c) hazardous service under the VEA;
- (d) British nuclear test defence service under the VEA;
- (e) warlike service under the MRCA; or
- (f) non-warlike service under the MRCA.

Note: ***MRCA*** and ***VEA*** are also defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

***specified list of autoimmune diseases*** means:

- (a) Behcet disease;
- (b) eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis (Churg-Strauss syndrome);
- (c) granulomatosis with polyangiitis (Wegener granulomatosis);

- (d) IgG4-related disease;
- (e) rheumatoid arthritis;
- (f) Sjogren syndrome;
- (g) systemic lupus erythematosus; or
- (h) systemic sclerosis.

***specified list of conditions and procedures*** means:

- (a) a head injury;
- (b) an infection;
- (c) an injury to the cribriform plate;
- (d) a primary or secondary neoplasm; or
- (e) a surgical procedure.

***specified list of disorders of mental health*** means:

- (a) alcohol-induced major neurocognitive disorder, amnesic-confabulatory type, persistent;
- (b) alcohol use disorder; or
- (c) anorexia nervosa.

***specified list of metals*** means:

- (a) cadmium;
- (b) chromium;
- (c) lead;
- (d) mercury;
- (e) nickel; or
- (f) zinc.

***specified list of neurological diseases*** means:

- (a) Alzheimer disease;
- (b) cerebrovascular accident;
- (c) frontotemporal dementia;
- (d) migraine;
- (e) multiple sclerosis;
- (f) myasthenia gravis;
- (g) neurocognitive disorder with Lewy bodies;
- (h) neuromyelitis optica;
- (i) Parkinson's disease or secondary parkinsonism;
- (j) subarachnoid haemorrhage; or
- (k) temporal lobe epilepsy.

***specified list of neurotoxic substances*** means:

- (a) ammonia;
- (b) barbituric acid;
- (c) chlorine; or
- (d) formaldehyde.

***specified list of volatile substances*** means:

- (a) acetone;
- (b) acetophenone;
- (c) acrylate;



- (d) ammonia;
- (e) benzene;
- (f) butyl acetate;
- (g) carbon disulphide;
- (h) carbon monoxide;
- (i) chlorine;
- (j) chloromethane;
- (k) ethyl acetate;
- (l) fluoride;
- (m) formaldehyde;
- (n) hydrazine;
- (o) hydrogen selenide;
- (p) hydrogen sulphide;
- (q) methylacrylate;
- (r) methyl ethyl ketone;
- (s) organic solvents;
- (t) petroleum;
- (u) phosphorous oxychloride;
- (v) sulphur dioxide;
- (w) toluene;
- (x) trichloroethylene; or
- (y) xylene.

Note: *organic solvents* is also defined in the Schedule 1 - Dictionary.

***terminal event*** means the proximate or ultimate cause of death and includes the following:

- (a) pneumonia;
- (b) respiratory failure;
- (c) cardiac arrest;
- (d) circulatory failure; or
- (e) cessation of brain function.

***VEA*** means the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*.