



Australian Government
Repatriation Medical Authority

Amendment Statement of Principles
concerning
CHRONIC MULTISYMPTOM ILLNESS
(Balance of Probabilities)
(No. 49 of 2026)

The Repatriation Medical Authority determines the following Amendment Statement of Principles under subsections 196B(3) and (8) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*.

Dated 16 June 2026

Professor Terence Campbell AM
Chairperson
by and on behalf of
The Repatriation Medical Authority

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1 Name

This is the Amendment Statement of Principles concerning *chronic multisymptom illness (Balance of Probabilities)* (No. 49 of 2026).

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on **23 June 2026**.

3 Authority

This instrument is made under subsections 196B(3) and (8) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*.

4 Amendment

The Statement of Principles concerning *chronic multisymptom illness (Balance of Probabilities)* (No. 4 of 2020) (Federal Register of Legislation No. F2020L00209) is amended in the following manner:

Section	Amendment
4	<i>Delete the existing note in section 4</i>
7(2)	<p><i>Replace the existing definition in subsection 7(2) with the following:</i></p> <p>For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, chronic multisymptom illness means a condition characterised by multiple somatic symptoms which has been diagnosed by a specialist physician or a psychiatrist and which meets the following criteria:</p> <p>A. There are one or more current symptoms from 2 of the following 3 categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) fatigue;(ii) mood-cognition: feeling depressed, difficulty remembering or concentrating, feeling moody, feeling anxious, trouble finding words or difficulty sleeping; or(iii) musculoskeletal: joint pain, joint stiffness or muscle pain; and <p>B. The collection of symptoms relied upon to make the diagnosis is distressing and results in significant disruption of social and occupational functioning; and</p>

	<p>C. The collection of symptoms relied upon to make the diagnosis must have persisted for at least 6 consecutive months; and</p> <p>D. The symptoms are not better explained by another medical condition, including but not limited to, moderate to severe traumatic brain injury, chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, Gulf War Illness, somatic symptom disorder or posttraumatic stress disorder.</p>
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