



Australian Government
Repatriation Medical Authority

REPLACEMENT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

**AMENDMENT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES CONCERNING
PARKINSON'S DISEASE AND SECONDARY PARKINSONISM
(BALANCE OF PROBABILITIES) (NO. 104 OF 2023)**

VETERANS' ENTITLEMENTS ACT 1986
MILITARY REHABILITATION AND COMPENSATION ACT 2004

1. This is the Replacement Explanatory Statement to the *Amendment Statement of Principles concerning Parkinson's disease and secondary parkinsonism (Balance of Probabilities)* (No. 104 of 2023).

Background

2. The Repatriation Medical Authority (the Authority) has determined, under subsections 196B(3) and (8) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the VEA), Amendment Statement of Principles concerning **Parkinson's disease and secondary parkinsonism** (Balance of Probabilities) (No. 104 of 2023).
3. This Instrument amends Statement of Principles concerning **Parkinson's disease and secondary parkinsonism** (Balance of Probabilities) (No. 56 of 2016) (Federal Register of Legislation No. F2016L00570) by:
 - inserting a new factor in subsection 9(1A) concerning 'For Parkinson's disease only: having moderate to severe traumatic brain injury more than 15 years before the clinical onset of Parkinson's disease'.

Day of Commencement

4. This Instrument also specifies a day of commencement for the amendment in accordance with subsection 12(3) of the *Legislation Act 2003*.

Consultation

5. Prior to determining this Instrument, the Authority advertised its intention to undertake an investigation in relation to exposure as a factor in Parkinson's disease and secondary parkinsonism in the Government Notices Gazette of 3 July 2023, and circulated a copy of the notice of intention to investigate to a wide range of organisations representing veterans, service personnel and their dependants. The Authority invited submissions from the Repatriation Commission, the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission, organisations and persons referred to in section 196E of the VEA, and any person having expertise in the field. On the 25th of September 2023 a written submission was received by the Authority for consideration by the Authority in relation to the investigation. That submission concerned mild traumatic brain injury as a factor for Parkinson's disease and secondary parkinsonism. The submission provided details of reference material in support of the submission. The written submission and accompanying references were considered by the Authority at its meeting in October

2023. The Authority decided that there was insufficient evidence to support a factor for mild traumatic brain injury.

Human Rights

6. This instrument is compatible with the Human Rights and Freedoms recognised or declared in the International Instruments listed in Section 3 of the *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011*. A Statement of Compatibility with Human Rights follows.

Finalisation of Investigation

7. The determining of this Instrument finalises the investigation in relation to exposure as a factor in Parkinson's disease and secondary parkinsonism as advertised in the Government Notices Gazette of 3 July 2023.

References

8. A list of references relating to the above condition is available on the Authority's website at: www.rma.gov.au. Any other document referred to in this Statement of Principles is available on request to the Repatriation Medical Authority at the following address:

Email: info@rma.gov.au

Post: The Registrar
Repatriation Medical Authority
GPO Box 1014
BRISBANE QLD 4001



Australian Government
Repatriation Medical Authority

Statement of Compatibility with Human Rights

(Prepared in accordance with Part 3 of the Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011)

Instrument No.: **Amendment Statement of Principles No. 104 of 2023**

Kind of Injury, Disease or Death: **Parkinson's disease and secondary parkinsonism**

This Legislative Instrument is compatible with the human rights and freedoms recognised or declared in the international instruments listed in section 3 of the *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011*.

Overview of the Legislative Instrument

1. This Legislative Instrument is determined pursuant to subsection 196B(3) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the VEA) for the purposes of the VEA and the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (the MRCA). Part XIA of the VEA requires the determination of these instruments outlining the factors connecting particular kinds of injury, disease or death with service such being determined solely on the available sound medical-scientific evidence.
2. This Legislative Instrument:-
 - facilitates claimants in making, and the Repatriation Commission and the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission in assessing, claims under the VEA and the MRCA respectively, by specifying the circumstances in which medical treatment and compensation can be extended to eligible persons who have Parkinson's disease and secondary parkinsonism;
 - facilitates the review of such decisions by the Veterans' Review Board and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal;
 - includes exposure as a new factor which the current sound medical-scientific evidence indicates must exist before it can be said that, on the balance of probabilities, Parkinson's disease and secondary parkinsonism is connected with the circumstances of eligible service rendered by a person;
 - amends Instrument No. 56 of 2016; and
 - reflects developments in the available sound medical-scientific evidence concerning Parkinson's disease and secondary parkinsonism which have occurred since that earlier instrument was determined.
3. The Instrument is assessed as being a technical instrument which improves the medico-scientific quality of outcomes under the VEA and the MRCA.

Human Rights Implications

4. This Legislative Instrument does not derogate from any human rights. It promotes the human rights of veterans, current and former Defence Force members as well as other persons such as their dependents, including:
- the right to social security (Art 9, *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*; Art 26, *Convention on the Rights of the Child* and Art 28, *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*) by helping to ensure that the qualifying conditions for the benefit are 'reasonable, proportionate and transparent'¹;
 - the right to an adequate standard of living (Art 11, ICESCR; Art 27, CRC and Art 28, CRPD) by facilitating the assessment and determination of social security benefits;
 - the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health (Art 12, ICESCR and Art 25, CRPD), by facilitating the assessment and determination of compensation and benefits in relation to the treatment and rehabilitation of veterans and Defence Force members;
 - the rights of persons with disabilities by facilitating the determination of claims relating to treatment and rehabilitation (Art 26, CRPD); and
 - ensuring that those rights "will be exercised without discrimination of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status" (Art 2, ICESCR).

Conclusion

This Legislative Instrument is compatible with human rights as it does not derogate from and promotes a number of human rights.

Repatriation Medical Authority

¹ In General Comment No. 19 (The right to social security), the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights said (at paragraph 24) this to be one of the elements of ensuring accessibility to social security.