

NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION

Section 196G of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*

Following a number of formal and specific requests for review under section 196E(1)(f) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act) the Repatriation Medical Authority (the Authority) gives notice under section 196G of the Act, that it intends to carry out an investigation in respect of **the possible causative role of psychosocial stress (particularly war or service related stressors) in the development of ischaemic heart disease (including coronary atherosclerosis), hypertension, cerebrovascular accident and psoriasis.**

This investigation will be carried out in the context of the following Statements of Principles:

- Instrument No.140 of 1996 and Instrument No.141 of 1996, Statements of Principles concerning ischaemic heart disease;
- Instrument No.83 of 1995 and Instrument No.84 of 1995, Statements of Principles concerning hypertension;
- Instrument No.142 of 1996 and Instrument No.143 of 1996, as amended by Instrument No.195 of 1996 and Instrument No.196 of 1996, Statements of Principles concerning cerebrovascular accident;
- Instrument No.7 of 1996 and Instrument No.8 of 1996, Statements of Principles concerning psoriasis.

In May 1997, the Authority intends to organise a preliminary (small) Workshop of acknowledged experts in the field of stress to examine the sound medical-scientific evidence regarding a number of definitional and other issues related to this investigation. It is envisaged that after these issues have been clarified to the satisfaction of the Authority, a second stage meeting or conference will be held in the latter half of 1997 to further examine the sound medical-scientific evidence regarding a range of identified issues related to psychosocial stress and disease.

The Authority invites the following persons and organisations to make written submissions to the Authority in respect of the investigation:

- any person eligible to make a claim for pension under Part II or Part IV of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*;
- any organisation representing veterans, Australian mariners, members of the Forces, members of the Peacekeeping Forces or their dependants;
- the Repatriation Commission; and
- any person having expertise in a field relevant to the investigation.

Persons and organisations wishing to make a submission should obtain from the RMA Secretariat (at the address and phone number below) a copy of the *RMA Submission Guidelines*.

All submissions must be in writing and received by the Authority at the address below no later than **4 April 1997**.

The Common Seal of the)
Repatriation Medical Authority)
was affixed in the presence of)
KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN

10/1/97

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