

Determination
of
Statement of Principles
concerning
ACOUSTIC NEUROMA

ICD CODE: 225.1

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986

1. This Statement of Principles is determined by the Repatriation Medical Authority under subsection **196B(2)** of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act).

Kind of injury, disease or death

2. (a) This Statement of Principles is about **acoustic neuroma** and **death from acoustic neuroma**.

(b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, “**acoustic neuroma**” means a sporadic, progressively enlarging benign tumour, that arises within the internal auditory canal from Schwann cells of the vestibular division of the eighth cranial nerve and is also known as acoustic Schwannoma or vestibular Schwannoma, attracting ICD code 225.1. This definition excludes acoustic neuromas associated with neurofibromatosis.

Basis for determining the factors

3. The Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **acoustic neuroma** 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 **acoustic neuroma** or **death from acoustic neuroma** with the circumstances of a person's relevant service are:
 - (a) undergoing a course of therapeutic radiation to the affected region of the affected vestibular nerve at least 10 years before the clinical onset of acoustic neuroma; or
 - (b) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for acoustic neuroma.

Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation

6. Paragraph 5(b) applies only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, acoustic neuroma where the person's acoustic neuroma 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:

“course of therapeutic radiation” means one or more fractions (treatment portions) of therapeutic radiation given with the aim of achieving palliation or cure with ionising radiation;

“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;

“relevant service” means:

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

“therapeutic radiation” means medical treatment by irradiation to the person with gamma rays, x-rays, alpha particles or beta particles.

Dated this *Twenty-first* day of *May* 1996

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN