

## Revocation and Determination

of

## Statement of Principles concerning

# TINNITUS

ICD CODE: 388.3

### *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*

1. The Repatriation Medical Authority under subsection **196B(2)** of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act):
  - (a) revokes Instrument No.324 of 1995; and
  - (b) determines the following Statement of Principles.

#### **Kind of injury, disease or death**

2. (a) This Statement of Principles is about **tinnitus** and **death from tinnitus**.  
  
(b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, "**tinnitus**" means an abnormal and persistent auditory perception of endogenous noise heard in the ear, which may be a symptom of a number of different conditions affecting the auditory system and the result of varying pathologies, attracting ICD code 388.3.

#### **Basis for determining the factors**

3. The Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **tinnitus** 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 **tinnitus** or **death from tinnitus** with the circumstances of a person's relevant service are:
  - (a) being exposed to at least one bout of acoustic trauma sufficient to have caused hearing loss before the clinical onset of tinnitus; or
  - (b) suffering trauma to the auditory apparatus immediately before the clinical onset of tinnitus; or
  - (c) undergoing a course of treatment with at least one of the ototoxic drugs from the specified list of ototoxic drugs immediately before the clinical onset of tinnitus; or
  - (d) undergoing a course of treatment with salicylate or quinine derivatives, for a condition for which the drug cannot be ceased or substituted, at the time of the clinical onset of tinnitus; or
  - (e) suffering from at least one of the sources of vascular sound in and around the affected ear from the specified list of sources of vascular sound before the clinical onset of tinnitus; or
  - (f) suffering from a primary or a secondary intracranial neoplasm before the clinical onset of tinnitus; or
  - (g) suffering from otosclerosis before the clinical onset of tinnitus; or
  - (h) suffering from Meniere's disease before the clinical onset of tinnitus; or
  - (j) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for the tinnitus.

### **Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation**

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

**“acoustic trauma”** means a condition of sudden aural damage resulting from short term intense exposure, or a single exposure, to loud noise such as that made, at close quarters, by:

- (a) fireworks; or
- (b) small arms fire; or
- (c) gunfire; or
- (d) grenade fire; or
- (e) exploding mines; or
- (f) major explosions;

**“a primary or a secondary intracranial neoplasm”** means a benign or malignant neoplasm affecting the brain, meninges, skull or cranial nerves, attracting ICD code 160.1, 170.0, 191, 192.0, 192.1, 198.3, 198.4, 213.0, 225.0, 225.1, 225.2, 237.5 or 239.6;

**“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;

**“Meniere's disease”** means a condition characterised by sudden and recurring episodes of vertigo with nausea and vomiting, together with hearing loss and tinnitus, attracting ICD code 386.0;

**“otosclerosis”** means the formation of spongy bone in front of and behind the footplate of the stapes resulting in conductive hearing loss or sensorineural hearing loss, attracting ICD code 387;

**“relevant service”** means:

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

**“specified list of ototoxic drugs”** means the following:

- (a) gentamicin; or
- (b) kanamycin; or
- (c) neomycin; or
- (d) amikacin; or
- (e) netilmicin; or
- (f) vancomycin; or

- (g) viomycin; or
- (h) ethacrynic acid; or
- (j) frusemide; or
- (k) cisplatin, or
- (m) Nitrogen Mustard; or
- (n) 6-amino nicotinamide; or
- (o) misonidazole;

**“specified list of sources of vascular sound in and around the ear”**  
means the following:

- (a) acquired arteriovenous fistulae, attracting ICD code 437.3 or 900;  
or
- (b) glomus jugulare tumour, attracting ICD code 194.6; or
- (c) Paget's disease, attracting ICD code 731.0; or
- (d) benign intracranial hypertension, attracting ICD code 348.2; or
- (e) carotid stenosis/occlusion, attracting ICD code 433; or
- (f) cerebral atherosclerosis, attracting ICD code 437.0; or
- (g) intracranial aneurysm, attracting ICD code 437.3;

**“trauma to the auditory apparatus”** means direct or indirect injury to the tympanic membrane, ear ossicles, cochlea or acoustic nerve caused by blunt trauma over the ear canal, penetrating ear trauma, blast injury or blunt trauma to the head, attracting ICD code 872.1, 872.6 872.7, or 951.5.

**Application**

- 8. This Instrument applies to all matters to which section 120A of the Act applies.

Dated this *Fourteenth* day of *March* 1996

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