

Revocation

of

Statement of Principles
concerning

MULTIPLE MYELOMA

and

Determination

of

Statement of Principles
concerning

MYELOMA

ICD-10-AM CODE: C90

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.134 of 1996; and
 - (b) determines in its place the following Statement of Principles.

Kind of injury, disease or death

2. (a) This Statement of Principles is about **myeloma** and **death from myeloma**.
- (b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, **“myeloma”** means a form of plasma cell malignancy derived from a single

clone of plasma cells, attracting ICD-10-AM code C90. This definition includes plasma cell leukaemia, multiple myeloma and solitary plasmacytoma of bone or extramedullary site.

Basis for determining the factors

3. The Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **myeloma and death from myeloma** 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, at least one of the factors set out 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 **myeloma** or **death from myeloma** with the circumstances of a person's relevant service are:
 - (a) having been within four kilometres of the epicentre of the atomic bomb explosions on either Hiroshima or Nagasaki within the seven days immediately following the explosion on either of those cities, before the clinical onset of myeloma; or
 - (b) being occupationally required to work as a painter for an average of three or more days per week over any two year period, or working as a painter for a period or periods of time totalling at least 312 days before the clinical onset of myeloma, and where that occupational exposure has ceased, the clinical onset of myeloma has occurred within 20 years of cessation; or
 - (c) spraying or decanting a herbicide containing 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D) or 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T), in circumstances likely to result in inhalation or absorption of the herbicide, at least five years before the clinical onset of myeloma; or
 - (d) being on land in Vietnam or at sea in Vietnamese waters, for at least 30 days, at least five years before the clinical onset of myeloma; or
 - (e) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for myeloma.

Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation

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

Inclusion of Statements of Principles

7. In this Statement of Principles if a relevant factor applies and that factor includes an injury or disease in respect of which there is a Statement of Principles then the factors in that last mentioned Statement of Principles apply in accordance with the terms of that Statement of Principles.

Other definitions

8. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

“being on land in Vietnam or at sea in Vietnamese waters” means service in at least one of the areas and at the times described in Items 4 and 8 of Schedule 2 of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*;

“death from myeloma” in relation to a person includes death from a terminal event or condition that was contributed to by the person's myeloma;

“ICD-10-AM code” means a number assigned to a particular kind of injury or disease in The International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th revision, Australian Modification (ICD-10-AM), effective date of 1 July 1998, copyrighted by the National Centre for Classification in Health, Sydney, NSW, and having ISBN 1 86451 340 3;

“relevant service” means:

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

“terminal event” means the proximate or ultimate cause of death and includes:

- a) pneumonia;
- b) respiratory failure;
- c) cardiac arrest;
- d) circulatory failure; or
- e) cessation of brain function.

Application

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

Dated this *Twenty-eighth* day of *October* 1999

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN