



Australian Government
Repatriation Medical Authority

Statement of Principles
concerning

PSORIATIC ARTHROPATHY

No. 5 of 2012

for the purposes of the

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986
and

Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004

Title

1. This Instrument may be cited as Statement of Principles concerning psoriatic arthropathy No. 5 of 2012.

Determination

2. The Repatriation Medical Authority under subsection **196B(2)** and **(8)** of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the VEA):
 - (a) revokes Instrument No. 27 of 1998 concerning psoriatic arthropathy; and
 - (b) determines in its place this Statement of Principles.

Kind of injury, disease or death

3.
 - (a) This Statement of Principles is about **psoriatic arthropathy** and **death from psoriatic arthropathy**.
 - (b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, "**psoriatic arthropathy**" means a seronegative chronic inflammatory arthritis characterised by synovitis, enthesitis, dactylitis and spondylitis, occurring in association with skin or nail psoriasis.
 - (c) Psoriatic arthropathy attracts ICD-10-AM code M07.0 to M07.3.
 - (d) In the application of this Statement of Principles, the definition of "**psoriatic arthropathy**" is that given at paragraph 3(b) above.

Basis for determining the factors

4. The Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **psoriatic arthropathy** and **death from psoriatic arthropathy** can be related to relevant service rendered by veterans, members of Peacekeeping Forces, or members of the Forces under the VEA, or members under the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (the MRCA).

Factors that must be related to service

5. Subject to clause 7, at least one of the factors set out in clause 6 must be related to the relevant service rendered by the person.

Factors

6. The factor that must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting **psoriatic arthropathy** or **death from psoriatic arthropathy** with the circumstances of a person's relevant service is:
 - (a) having psoriasis at the time of the clinical onset of psoriatic arthropathy; or
 - (b) having a discrete injury to the affected joint, sufficient to warrant medical consultation, in the one month before the clinical onset of psoriatic arthropathy; or
 - (c) being treated with efalizumab at the time of clinical onset of psoriatic arthropathy; or
 - (d) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for psoriatic arthropathy.

Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation

7. Paragraph **6(d)** applies only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, psoriatic arthropathy where the person's psoriatic arthropathy was suffered or contracted before or during (but not arising out of) the person's relevant service.

Inclusion of Statements of Principles

8. 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 as in force from time to time.

Other definitions

9. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

"death from psoriatic arthropathy" in relation to a person includes death from a terminal event or condition that was contributed to by the person's psoriatic arthropathy;

"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), Seventh Edition, effective date of 1 July 2010, copyrighted by the National Centre for Classification in Health, Sydney, NSW, and having ISBN 978 1 74210 154 5;

"relevant service" means:

- (a) operational service under the VEA;
- (b) peacekeeping service under the VEA;
- (c) hazardous service under the VEA;
- (d) British nuclear test defence service under the VEA;
- (e) warlike service under the MRCA; or
- (f) non-warlike service under the MRCA;

"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

10. This Instrument applies to all matters to which section 120A of the VEA or section 338 of the MRCA applies.

Date of effect

11. This Instrument takes effect from 11 January 2012.

Dated this *twenty-second* day of *December* 2011

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRPERSON