



Australian Government
Repatriation Medical Authority

Statement of Principles concerning

ESSENTIAL THROMBOCYTHAEMIA

No. 16 of 2013

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 essential thrombocythaemia No. 16 of 2013.

Determination

2. This Statement of Principles is determined by the Repatriation Medical Authority under subsection **196B(3)** of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the VEA).

Kind of injury, disease or death

3.
 - (a) This Statement of Principles is about **essential thrombocythaemia** and **death from essential thrombocythaemia**.
 - (b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, "**essential thrombocythaemia**" means a myeloproliferative neoplasm characterized by a sharp increase in the number of circulating platelets, with repeated spontaneous haemorrhages either externally or into the tissues. This definition excludes reactive (secondary) thrombocythaemia.
 - (c) Essential thrombocythaemia attracts ICD-10-AM code D47.3.
 - (d) In the application of this Statement of Principles, the definition of "**essential thrombocythaemia**" is that given at paragraph 3(b) above.

Basis for determining the factors

4. After examining the available sound medical-scientific evidence the Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that it is more probable than not on the sound medical-scientific evidence available, that the only factor that can be related to the cause of or material contribution to or aggravation of **essential thrombocythaemia** or **death from essential thrombocythaemia** and which can be related to relevant service rendered by veterans or members of the Forces under the VEA, or members under the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (the MRCA) is that set out in clause 5.

Factors that must be related to service

5. The factor that must exist before it can be said that, on the balance of probabilities, in relation to the circumstances of a person's relevant service causing or materially contributing to or aggravating **essential thrombocythaemia** or **death from essential thrombocythaemia** is inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for essential thrombocythaemia.

Other definitions

6. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

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

"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) eligible war service (other than operational service) under the VEA;
- (b) defence service (other than hazardous service and British nuclear test defence service) under the VEA; or
- (c) peacetime 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.

Date of effect

7. This Instrument takes effect from 13 March 2013.

Dated this **fourth** day of **March** 2013

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

PROFESSOR NICHOLAS SAUNDERS AO
CHAIRPERSON