



Australian Government  
Repatriation Medical Authority

## Statement of Principles concerning

# CHRONIC MULTISYMPPTOM ILLNESS

## No. 56 of 2014

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 chronic multisymptom illness No. 56 of 2014.

### 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 **chronic multisymptom illness** and **death from chronic multisymptom illness**.  
(b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, "**chronic multisymptom illness**" means a condition characterised by multiple somatic symptoms which has been diagnosed by a specialist physician or a psychiatrist and which meets the following criteria:
  - A. There are one or more current symptoms from two of the following three categories and at least one symptom in each of the categories must be rated as severe:

- (i) fatigue;
  - (ii) mood-cognition: feeling depressed, difficulty remembering or concentrating, feeling moody, feeling anxious, trouble finding words or difficulty sleeping; or
  - (iii) musculoskeletal: joint pain, joint stiffness or muscle pain; and
- B. The collection of symptoms relied upon to make the diagnosis is distressing and results in severe disruption of social and occupational functioning; and
- C. The collection of symptoms relied upon to make the diagnosis must have persisted for at least six consecutive months; and
- D. Any or all of the symptoms are not better explained by another medical or psychiatric condition.

#### **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 **chronic multisymptom illness** or **death from chronic multisymptom illness** 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 **chronic multisymptom illness** or **death from chronic multisymptom illness** is inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for chronic multisymptom illness.

#### **Other definitions**

6. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:
- death from chronic multisymptom illness"** in relation to a person includes death from a terminal event or condition that was contributed to by the person's chronic multisymptom illness;
- "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 14 May 2014.

Dated this **eighth** day of **May** 2014

The Common Seal of the )  
Repatriation Medical Authority )  
was affixed at the direction of: )



PROFESSOR NICHOLAS SAUNDERS AO  
CHAIRPERSON