

REVOKED

Statement of Principles
concerning
SOFT TISSUE SARCOMA

ICD CODE: 164.1, 171

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986
subsection 196B(2)

1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **soft tissue sarcoma and death from soft tissue sarcoma** can be related to operational service rendered by veterans, peacekeeping service rendered by members of Peacekeeping forces and hazardous service rendered by members of the Forces, the Repatriation Medical Authority determines, under subsection 196B(2) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*, that the factors that must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting **soft tissue sarcoma or death from soft tissue sarcoma** with the circumstances of that service, are:
 - (a) being exposed to herbicides in Vietnam before the clinical onset of soft tissue sarcoma; or
 - (b) in relation to Kaposi's sarcoma, being infected with HIV before the clinical onset of soft tissue sarcoma; or
 - (c) having a course of therapeutic radiation before the clinical onset of soft tissue sarcoma to the area in which the sarcoma develops; or
 - (d) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for the soft tissue sarcoma.

2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraphs **1(a) to (d)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.
3. The factor set out in paragraph **1(d)** applies only where:
 - (a) the person's **soft tissue sarcoma** was contracted prior to a period, or part of a period, of service to which the factor is related; and
 - (b) the relationship suggested between the **soft tissue sarcoma** and the particular service of a person is a relationship set out in paragraph 8(1)(e), 9(1)(e), 70(5)(d), or 70(5A)(d) of the Act.
4. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

"a course" means five or more episodes of treatment within a 125 day period;

"being exposed to herbicides in Vietnam" may be said to have occurred only if the person had:

- (a) rendered more than 30 days service on land in Vietnam; or
- (b) regularly eaten fish, fish products, crustaceans, shellfish, or meat from Vietnam; or
- (c) regularly eaten food cooked with water from Vietnam discoloured by sediment, or regularly drunk water from Vietnam discoloured by sediment; or
- (d) regularly inhaled dust in a defoliated area in Vietnam or regularly inhaled herbicide fog in Vietnam; or
- (e) sprayed or decanted herbicides in Vietnam as an occupational requirement;

"being infected with HIV" means serological evidence of infection with human Immunodeficiency Virus, attracting an ICD code in the range 42 to 44;

"ICD code" means a number assigned to a particular kind of injury or disease in the tenth edition of the *International Classification of Diseases* 9th Revision, effective date of 1 October 1993, copyrighted by the US Commission on Professional and Hospital Activities, and having the Library of Congress number 77-94472;

"ICD morphology code" means a number assigned to the morphology of a particular neoplasm in Appendix A of the tenth edition of the *International Classification of Diseases 9th Revision*, effective date of 1 October 1993, copyrighted by the US Commission on Professional and Hospital Activities, and having the Library of Congress number 77-94472;

"Kaposi's sarcoma" means a neoplastic disorder of mesenchymal origin, with interweaving bands of spindle cells and vascular clefts or slits, attracting an ICD morphology code of M9140\3;

"soft tissue sarcoma" means a diverse group of malignant neoplasms of mesodermal origin which arise in the soft somatic tissues that occur within and between organs, attracting ICD code 164.1 or 171;

"therapeutic radiation" means electromagnetic radiation, including gamma rays, alpha particles and beta particles, deliberately applied for the purposes of medical treatment.

Dated this _____ day of _____ 1994

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN