

REVOKED

Determination

of

Statement of Principles concerning

DEMENTIA PUGILISTICA

ICD CODE: 294.1

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986

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

Kind of injury, disease or death

2. (a) This Statement of Principles is about **dementia pugilistica** and **death from dementia pugilistica**.

(b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, “**dementia pugilistica**” means a chronic and progressive clinical syndrome characterised by neurological evidence of damage to pyramidal, extrapyramidal, and cerebellar systems with associated psychosis, dementia, personality change and impaired social functioning and prominent signs/symptoms of Parkinsonism (tremors, dysarthria, rigidity, bradykinesia, other extra-pyramidal signs). It is also known as “slap-happy syndrome”, “punch drunk syndrome”, “chronic traumatic encephalopathy” or “chronic progressive traumatic encephalopathy of boxers”, attracting ICD code 294.1.

Basis for determining the factors

3. The Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **dementia pugilistica and death from dementia pugilistica** 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, the factors set out in at least one of the paragraphs 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 **dementia pugilistica** or **death from dementia pugilistica** with the circumstances of a person's relevant service are:
 - (a) sustaining repeated and frequent blows to the head during at least 20 bouts of competitive boxing, where the first bout occurred at least ten years before the clinical onset of dementia pugilistica; or
 - (b) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for dementia pugilistica.

Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation

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

Other definitions

7. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

“ICD code” means a number assigned to a particular kind of injury or disease in the Australian Version of The International Classification of Diseases, 9th revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM), effective date of 1 July 1996, copyrighted by the National Coding Centre, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney, NSW, and having ISBN 0 642 24447 2;

“relevant service” means:

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

Dated this *Twentieth* day of *February* 1997

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN