

Revocation and Determination

of

Statement of Principles
concerning

**MALIGNANT NEOPLASM OF THE
THYROID GLAND**

ICD CODE: 193

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986

1. The Repatriation Medical Authority under subsection **196B(2)** of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the Act):
 - (a) revokes Instrument No.23 of 1997; and
 - (b) determines in its place the following Statement of Principles.

Kind of injury, disease or death

2. (a) This Statement of Principles is about **malignant neoplasm of the thyroid gland** and **death from malignant neoplasm of the thyroid gland**.
- (b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, “**malignant neoplasm of the thyroid gland**” means a primary malignant neoplasm arising from the cells of the thyroid gland, attracting ICD code 193. This definition includes papillary, follicular, medullary, and anaplastic thyroid carcinomas, but excludes soft tissue sarcoma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and Hodgkin's disease.

Basis for determining the factors

3. The Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **malignant neoplasm of the thyroid gland** and **death from malignant neoplasm of the thyroid**

gland 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, at least one of the factors set out 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 **malignant neoplasm of the thyroid gland** or **death from malignant neoplasm of the thyroid gland** with the circumstances of a person's relevant service are:

- (a) for papillary, follicular and anaplastic thyroid carcinomas only,
 - (i) undergoing a course of therapeutic radiation to the head or neck region before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the thyroid gland, where the first exposure to therapeutic radiation occurred at least five years before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the thyroid gland; or
 - (ii) having been within four kilometres of the epicentre of the atomic bomb explosions on either Hiroshima or Nagasaki within the seven days immediately following the explosion on either of those cities, before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the thyroid gland; or
 - (iii) suffering from a thyroid adenoma before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the thyroid gland; or
 - (iv) suffering from a goitre before the clinical onset of malignant neoplasm of the thyroid gland; or
- (b) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for malignant neoplasm of the thyroid gland

Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation

6. Paragraph 5(b) applies only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, malignant neoplasm of the thyroid gland where the person's malignant neoplasm of the thyroid gland 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:

“a course of therapeutic radiation” means one or more fractions (treatment portions) of ionising radiation administered with the aim of achieving palliation or cure with gamma rays, x-rays, alpha particles or beta particles;

“goitre” means an enlargement of the thyroid gland, typically causing swelling in the front part of the neck, attracting ICD codes 240, 241, 242.0, 242.1, 242.2, or 242.3;

“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;

“thyroid adenoma” means a benign epithelial tumour of the thyroid in which the cells form recognisable glandular structures or in which cells are clearly derived from glandular epithelium, attracting ICD code 226.

Application

8. This Instrument applies to all matters to which section 120A of the Act applies.

Dated this *Fifth* day of *May* 1998

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN