

**Determination**  
of  
**Statement of Principles**  
concerning

**LEPTOSPIROSIS**

for the purposes of the

*Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*  
and  
*Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004*

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

**Kind of injury, disease or death**

2. (a) This Statement of Principles is about **leptospirosis** and **death from leptospirosis**.  
(b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, "**leptospirosis**" means a clinical illness caused by infection with pathogenic *Leptospira* species. This definition includes Weil's syndrome, but excludes leptospiral uveitis.  
(c) Leptospirosis attracts ICD-10-AM code A27.  
(d) In the application of this Statement of Principles, the definition of "**leptospirosis**" is that given at paragraph 2(b) above.

**Basis for determining the factors**

3. The Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **leptospirosis** and **death from leptospirosis** can be related to relevant service rendered by veterans, members of Peacekeeping Forces, or members of the Forces under the VEA, or members under the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (the MRCA).

### **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 the relevant service rendered by the person.

### **Factors**

5. The factor that must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting **leptospirosis** or **death from leptospirosis** with the circumstances of a person's relevant service is:
  - (a) having direct contact with:
    - (i) water, soil, food, or other material contaminated with a pathogenic leptospire; or
    - (ii) urine, blood or tissue contaminated with a pathogenic leptospire; or
    - (iii) an animal infected with a pathogenic leptospire,  
within the thirty days before the clinical onset of leptospirosis; or
  - (b) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for leptospirosis.

### **Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation**

6. Paragraph **5(b)** applies only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, leptospirosis where the person's leptospirosis was suffered or contracted before or during (but not arising out of) the person's relevant service.

### **Inclusion of Statements of Principles**

7. In this Statement of Principles if a relevant factor applies and that factor includes an injury or disease in respect of which there is a Statement of Principles then the factors in that last mentioned Statement of Principles apply in accordance with the terms of that Statement of Principles.

### **Other definitions**

8. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

**“a pathogenic leptospire”** means a disease-producing bacteria belonging to the genus *Leptospira*;

**“death from leptospirosis”** in relation to a person includes death from a terminal event or condition that was contributed to by the person's leptospirosis;

**“direct contact”** means physical contact where no protective or impermeable barrier is used;

**“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), Fourth Edition, effective date of 1 July 2004, copyrighted by the National Centre for Classification in Health, Sydney, NSW, and having ISBN 1 86487 594 1;

**“relevant service”** means:

- (a) operational service under the VEA; or
- (b) peacekeeping service under the VEA; or
- (c) hazardous service under the VEA; or
- (d) warlike service under the MRCA; or
- (e) non-warlike 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
- (f) cessation of brain function;

Dated this *sixteenth* day of *December* 2004

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

KEN DONALD  
CHAIRMAN