

Revocation and Determination
of
Statement of Principles
concerning
CHRONIC MYELOID LEUKAEMIA

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.7 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 **chronic myeloid leukaemia** and **death from chronic myeloid leukaemia**.
- (b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, “**chronic myeloid leukaemia**” means a haematological neoplasm characterised by the clonal proliferation and accumulation of mature myeloid cells and their progenitors in the peripheral blood and bone marrow, and which is typically associated with the presence of the Philadelphia chromosome on cytogenetic analysis or the presence of BCR-ABL fusion gene on molecular analysis. This definition of chronic myeloid leukaemia includes chronic monocytic leukaemia, chronic leukaemia of unspecified cell type, chronic granulocytic leukaemia, chronic myeloblastic leukaemia, chronic myelocytic leukaemia and chronic myelogenous leukaemia.

- (c) Chronic myeloid leukaemia attracts ICD-10-AM code C92.1, C93.1 or C95.1.
- (d) In the application of this Statement of Principles, the definition of “**chronic myeloid leukaemia**” is that given at para 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 **chronic myeloid leukaemia** and **death from chronic myeloid leukaemia** 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 **chronic myeloid leukaemia** or **death from chronic myeloid leukaemia** with the circumstances of a person’s relevant service are:
 - (a) smoking at least 15 pack years of cigarettes or the equivalent thereof in other tobacco products before the clinical onset of chronic myeloid leukaemia and where smoking has ceased the clinical onset occurred within 10 years of cessation; or
 - (b) undergoing a course of therapeutic radiation before the clinical onset of chronic myeloid leukaemia where the first exposure occurred more than one year before the clinical onset of chronic myeloid leukaemia; or
 - (c) having received a cumulative equivalent dose of 0.01 Sievert (Sv) of atomic radiation to the bone marrow where this dose was accumulated at least two years before the clinical onset of chronic myeloid leukaemia; or
 - (d) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for chronic myeloid leukaemia.

Factors that apply only to material contribution or aggravation

- 6. Paragraph 5(d) applies only to material contribution to, or aggravation of, chronic myeloid leukaemia where the person’s chronic myeloid

leukaemia 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.

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 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;

“atomic radiation” means ionising radiation excluding;

- (i) natural background radiation;
- (ii) therapeutic radiation; and
- (iii) radiation from diagnostic procedures;

“cumulative equivalent dose” means the total equivalent dose of atomic radiation from all types of radiation (eg alpha, gamma). It accounts for the differences in biological effectiveness of various types of radiation and allows doses from different radiations to be combined. Each component is calculated by multiplying the absorbed dose in a particular tissue or organ for a given type of radiation by the radiation weighting factor for that radiation. The unit of equivalent dose is the Sievert (Sv);

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

“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), Third Edition, effective date of 1 July 2002, copyrighted by the National Centre for Classification in Health, Sydney, NSW, and having ISBN 1 86487 413 9;

“pack years of cigarettes or the equivalent thereof in other tobacco products” means a calculation of consumption where one pack year of cigarettes equals twenty tailor made cigarettes per day for a period of one calendar year, or 7 300 cigarettes. One tailor made cigarette approximates one gram of tobacco or one gram of cigar or pipe tobacco by weight. One pack year of tailor made cigarettes equates to 7 300 cigarettes, or 7.3kg of smoking tobacco by weight. Tobacco products means either cigarettes, pipe tobacco or cigars smoked, alone or in any combination;

“relevant service” means:

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

“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.

Application

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

Dated this **Twenty-ninth** day of **May**
2003

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

KEN DONALD
CHAIRMAN