

Specialist Medical Review Council

Declaration

*Section 196W
Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*

**Re: Statement of Principles No. 68 of 2001
In Respect of Chronic Lymphoid Leukaemia**

Matter No. 2002/3

Requests for Review Declaration No. 10

1. In relation to the RMA Statement of Principles No. 68 of 2001 in respect of chronic lymphoid leukaemia and death from chronic lymphoid leukaemia, made under subsection 196B (3) of the VEA, the Council declares under subsection 196W (5) of the VEA, that it is of the view that the sound medical-scientific evidence available to the RMA at the time it determined, amended or last amended the Statement of Principles was insufficient to justify an amendment of Statement of Principles No. 68 of 2001 by including as a factor or factors exposure to:

- (a) Radiation;
 - (i) Extremely low frequency radiation;
 - (ii) Radio frequency radiation;
 - (iii) Ionizing radiation; and
 - (iv) DC Batteries;

- (b) Smoking tobacco cigarettes or pipe-smoking or exposure to environmental tobacco smoke;
- (c) Asbestos;
- (d) Benzene;
- (e) Petroleum Additives;
- (f) Chromosomal Aberration;
- (g) Viral and Bacterial Infection;
- (h) Chemicals (particularly cleaning fluids and solvents); and
- (i) Acetone

2. The Council is of the view that there is a considerable body of relevant sound medical-scientific evidence which was not before the RMA at the relevant times. Accordingly, the Council recommends that the RMA carry out an investigation to find out if there is new information available about:

- (a) how chronic lymphoid leukaemia may be contracted, or death from chronic lymphoid leukaemia occur; and
- (b) the extent to which chronic lymphoid leukaemia or death from chronic lymphoid leukaemia may be defence-caused;

and in particular, to find out whether there is sound medical-scientific evidence to justify the inclusion in Statement of Principles No. 68 of 2001 as a factor or factors exposure to:

- (i) extremely low frequency electromagnetic radiation;
- (ii) radio frequency radiation;
- (iii) smoking tobacco cigarettes or pipe-smoking or exposure to environmental tobacco smoke; and
- (iv) benzene.

3. Any investigation should take into account the sound medical-scientific evidence previously considered by the RMA, the articles identified in Appendices E-H of Council's Reasons for Decisions (Re: Statements of Principles Nos. 67 and 68 of 2001 in respect to Chronic Lymphoid Leukaemia) as being of potential relevance (but not before the RMA at the relevant times) together with any new body of sound medical-scientific evidence disclosed by that investigation.

Jonathan Phillips	Charles Stuart Guest	David John Longstaff Joske	Timothy Peter Hughes	Michael Anthony Izard
Convener	Councillor	Councillor	Councillor	Councillor

The Common Seal of the)
Specialist Medical Review)
Council was affixed to this)
document by authority of the)
Council in the presence of:)

Kevin O'Sullivan
Registrar

Dated this **25th** day of **Sept** 2003

The Council's Reasons for Decisions in relation to this Declaration can be obtained on request by writing to the Specialist Medical Review Council Secretariat, PO Box 895, Woden ACT 2606 or by telephoning (03) 9284 6784.