



Specialist Medical Review Council

**Declaration and Reasons for Decisions**

*Section 196W  
Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*

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**Re: Statements of Principles Nos. 50 and 51 of 2017  
concerning rheumatoid arthritis**

Request for Review Declaration No. 35

**APPENDICES**

**APPENDIX A: THE CONSTITUTED COUNCIL AND LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK OF THE REVIEW**

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## APPENDIX A: THE CONSTITUTED COUNCIL AND LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK OF THE REVIEW

### *The Specialist Medical Review Council*

80. The composition of each Review Council changes from review to review depending on the issues relevant to the particular Statement/s of Principles under review. When a review is undertaken three to five Councillors selected by the Convener constitute the Council.
81. The Minister must appoint one of the Councillors to be the Convener. If the Council does not include the Convener, the Convener must appoint one of the Councillors selected for the review to preside at all meetings as Presiding Councillor.
82. **Professor Lin Fritschi** was the Presiding Councillor for this review. She is a John Curtin Distinguished Professor at Curtin University. Her research interests include cancer epidemiology, occupational causes of cancer, and exposure assessment in epidemiological studies.
83. The other members of the Council were:
  - **Professor Lyn March** who is the Liggins Professor of Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Epidemiology at the University of Sydney and Royal North Shore Hospital. She has been involved in teaching, research and practice as a rheumatologist and epidemiologist for over 25 years.
  - **Dr John Edwards** who is a Consulting Toxicologist with over 30 years background in the University sector and is a Ministerially appointed Chair of the Australian Advisory Committee on Chemicals Scheduling.

### *The Legislation*

84. The legislative scheme for the making of Statements of Principles is set out in Parts XIA and XIB of the VEA. Statements of Principles operate as templates. They are determined by the RMA, and set out those criteria (conditions or exposures), known as factors, that must as a minimum exist before it can be said that an injury, disease or death can be connected with service, on either or both of the two statutory tests the reasonable hypothesis test and the balance of probabilities test. Statements of Principles are ultimately applied by decision-makers in determining individual claims for benefits under the VEA and the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (the MRCA).

**APPENDIX B:**

**B1: MATERIAL BEFORE THE RMA**



**Australian Government**  
**Repatriation Medical Authority**

**RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS**

<b>RMA ID Number</b>	<b>Reference List for #RMA264-5 as at 2 August 2017</b>
72527	Abasolo L, Tobias A, Leon L, et al (2013). Weather conditions may worsen symptoms in rheumatoid arthritis patients: The possible side effect of temperature. <i>Reumatologia Clinica</i> , 9(4): 226-8.
27749	Abdel-Nasser AM, Rasker JJ, Valkenburg HA (1997). Epidemiological and clinical aspects relating to the variability of rheumatoid arthritis. <i>Semin Arthritis Rheum</i> , 27: 123-40.
79249	Abella V, Perez T, Scotcece M, et al (2016). Pollutants make rheumatic diseases worse: facts on polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) exposure and rheumatic diseases. <i>Life Sciences</i> , 157: 140-4.
46717	Adams A, Lehman TJA (2005). Update on the pathogenesis and treatment of systemic onset juvenile rheumatoid arthritis. <i>Curr Opin Rheumatol</i> ,
46534	Adams A, Lehman TJA (2005). Update on the pathogenesis and treatment of systemic onset juvenile rheumatoid arthritis. <i>Curr Opin Rheumatol</i> ,
46464	Adams KM, Yan Z, Stevens AM, Nelson JL (2007). The changing maternal "self" hypothesis: a mechanism for maternal tolerance of the fetus. <i>Placenta</i> , 28:378-82.
27868	Adebajo AO, Hazleman BL (1996). Malaria and rheumatoid arthritis in West Africa. <i>Clinical &amp; Experimental Rheumatology</i> , Vol 14 : 346.
46527	Adlesic M, Verdrengh M, Bokarewa M, Dahlberg L, et al (2007). Histamine in rheumatoid arthritis. <i>Scand J Immunol</i> , 65:530-7.
30493	Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (1996). Update: Vaccine side effects, adverse reactions, contraindications, and Precautions. Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). <i>MMWR</i> , 45(RR-12): 1-35.
78836	Afridi HI, Kazi TG, Talpur FN, et al (2014). Relationship between toxic metals exposure via cigarette smoking and rheumatoid arthritis. <i>Clin Lab</i> , 60(10): 1735-45.
78835	Afridi HI, Kazi TG, Kazi N, et al (2012). Evaluation of status of zinc, copper, and iron levels in biological samples of normal and arthritis patients in age groups 46 - 60 and 61 - 75 years. <i>Clin Lab</i> , 58(7-8): 705-
80554	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) (2011). Addendum to the toxicological profile for polychlorinated biphenyls. . Retrieved 30 January 2017, from <a href="https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/pcbs_addendum.pdf">https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/pcbs_addendum.pdf</a>
80562	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) (2014). Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) toxicity. What are the adverse health effects of PCB exposure? . Retrieved 1 February 2017, from <a href="https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/csem/csem.asp?csem=30&amp;po=10">https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/csem/csem.asp?csem=30&amp;po=10</a>

80553	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) (2000). Health effects. Toxicological profile for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), Chapter 3: 33-441. .
80563	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) (Undated). Background and environmental exposures to PCBs in the United States. 2.1. Retrieved 1 February 2017, from <a href="http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp17-c2.pdf">http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp17-c2.pdf</a>
71025	Agnihotri R, Gaur S (2014). Rheumatoid arthritis in the elderly and its relationship with periodontitis: a review. <i>Geriatr Gerontol Int</i> , 14(1): 8-22.
46466	Agrawal S, Misra R, Aggarwal A (2007). Autoantibodies in rheumatoid arthritis: association with severity of disease in established RA. <i>Clin Rheumatol</i> , 26:201-4.
27348	Aho K & Heliövaara M (1998). [Comment] Stressful life events and rheumatoid arthritis. <i>Ann Rheum Dis</i> , 57: 263.
46536	Aho K, Heliövaara M (2004). Risk factors for rheumatoid arthritis. <i>Ann Med</i> , 36:242-51.
5650	Aho K, Heliövaara M (1993). [Comment] Alcohol, androgens and arthritis. <i>Ann Rheum Dis</i> , 52(12): 897.
47840	Aho K, Heliövaara M, Knekt P, Reunanen A, et al (1997). Serum immunoglobulins and the risk of rheumatoid arthritis. <i>Ann Rheum Dis</i> , 56(6): 351-6.
46701	Ahuja SR, Oak J, Sawant S, Kulkarni MV (2003). Arthritis in HIV. <i>Indian Journal of Pediatrics</i> , 70(10):835-6.
27410	Al-Allaf AW, Sanders PA, Ogston SA, et al Marks JS (2001). A case-control study examining the role of physical trauma in the onset of rheumatoid arthritis. <i>Rheumatology</i> , 40: 262-66.
46465	Alamanos Y, Drosos AA, Epidemiology of adult rheumatoid arthritis. <i>Autoimmunity Reviews</i> , 4:130-6.
47061	Alamanos Y, Voulgari PV, Drosos AA (2006). Incidence and prevalence of rheumatoid arthritis, based on 1987 American College of Rheumatology criteria: a systematic review. <i>Semin Arthritis Rheum</i> , 36: 182-88.
46467	Alamanos Y, Voulgari PV, Drosos AA (2006). Incidence and prevalence of rheumatoid arthritis, based on the 1987 American College of Rheumatology criteria: a systematic review. <i>Semin Arthritis Rheum</i> , 36:182-8.
27357	Alarcon GS (1999). [Comment] The influence of sex on the frequency of erosive disease and extraarticular manifestations in rheumatoid arthritis: comment on the article by Weyand, et al. <i>Arthritis &amp; Rheumatism</i> , 42: 587.
27641	Alarcon GS (1999). The influence of sex on the frequency of erosive disease and extraarticular manifestations in rheumatoid arthritis: comment on the article by Weyand, et al[comment]. [Comment. Letter]. <i>Arthritis &amp; Rheumatism</i> , 42(3): 587.
30667	Al-Awadhi AM, Olushi SO, Al-Zaid NS, et al (1999). Prevalence of hypothyroidism among Arabs with rheumatoid arthritis. <i>Rheumatology</i> , 38: 472-3.
27582	Albano SA, Santana-Sahagun E, Weisman MH (2001). Cigarette smoking and rheumatoid arthritis. <i>Seminars in Arthritis and Rheumatism</i> , 31(3): 146-59.
80545	Aletaha D, Neogi T, Silman AJ, et al (2010). 2010 Rheumatoid arthritis classification criteria. <i>Arthritis &amp; Rheumatism</i> , 62(9): 2569-81.
48768	Aletaha D, Smolen JS (2006). Remission of rheumatoid arthritis: should we care about definitions? <i>Clin Exp Rheumatol</i> , 24(6 Suppl 43): 45-51.
48957	Aletaha D, Smolen JS (2006). Remission of rheumatoid arthritis: should we care about definitions? <i>Clin Exp Rheumatol</i> , 24(Suppl 43): S45-51.
30268	Al-Refaie FN, Wonke B, Hoffbrand AV (1994). Arthropathy in thalassaemia patients receiving deferiprone. <i>Lancet</i> , 344: 262-3.

79248	Al-Saadany HM, Hussein MS, Gaber RA, et al (2016). Th-17 cells and serum IL-17 in rheumatoid arthritis patients: correlation with disease activity and severity. <i>The Egyptian Rheumatologist</i> , 38: 1-7.
80915	Alsahy MM, Nasser HS, Hashem MM, et al (2010). Effect of tobacco smoking on tissue protein citrullination and disease progression in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. <i>Saudi Pharmaceutical Journal</i> , 18(2): 75-80.
30578	Alsalameh S, et al (1998). [Comment] New onset of rheumatoid arthritis during interferon Beta-1B treatment in a patient with multiple sclerosis: comment on the case report by Jabaily and Thompson. <i>Arthritis &amp; Rheumatism</i> , 41: 754.
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27613	American Thoracic Society (1997). Adverse effects of crystalline silica exposure. <i>Am J Respir Crit Care Med</i> , 155: 761-8.
80548	Anderson R, Meyer PW, Ally MM, et al (2016). Smoking and air pollution as pro-inflammatory triggers for the development of rheumatoid arthritis. <i>Nicotine &amp; Tobacco Research</i> , 2016: Epub ahead of print.
79231	Andersson E (2009). Studies on the activation of cytosolic phospholipase A2 and 15-lipoxygenase-1 in hematopoietic cells. <i>Karolinska Institutet</i> , : .
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29153	Anthony DD, Haqqi TM (1999). Collagen-induced arthritis in mice: an animal model to study the pathogenesis of rheumatoid arthritis. <i>Clin Exp Rheumatol</i> , 17: 240-4.

80552	Araujo VM, Melo IM, Lima V (2015). Relationship between periodontitis and rheumatoid arthritis: review of the literature. <i>Mediators of Inflammation</i> , 2015: 259074.
78909	Arkema EV, Karlson EW, Costenbader KH, et al (2010). A prospective study of periodontal disease and risk of rheumatoid arthritis. <i>J Rheumatol</i> , 37(9): 1800-4.
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80564	Australian Medicines Handbook Pty Ltd (2016). Rheumatoid arthritis. . Retrieved 1 February 2017, from <a href="https://amhonline.amh.net.au/chapters/chap-15/immunomodulating-drugs/arthritis-rheumatoid.t">https://amhonline.amh.net.au/chapters/chap-15/immunomodulating-drugs/arthritis-rheumatoid.t</a>
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79008	Ballini A, Cantore S, Farronato D, et al (2015). Periodontal disease and bone pathogenesis: the crosstalk between cytokines and <i>Porphyromonas gingivalis</i> . <i>J Biol Regul Homeost Agents</i> , 29(2): 273-81.
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27362	Barrett JH, Brennan P, Fiddler M, Silman A (2000). Breast-feeding and postpartum relapse in women with rheumatoid and inflammatory arthritis. <i>Arthritis &amp; Rheumatism</i> , 43: 1010-5.

46533	Bartfai T, Waalen J, Buxbaum JN (2007). Adipose tissue as a modulator of clinical inflammation: does obesity reduce the prevalence of rheumatoid arthritis? <i>J Rheumatol</i> , 34:488-92.
30299	Bartram SA (1998). Experience with methotrexate-associated pneumonitis in northeastern England: comment on the article by Kremer, et al. <i>Arthritis &amp; Rheumatism</i> , 41: 1327-8.
47301	Barzilai O, Sherer Y, Ram M, Izhaky D, Anaya JM, Shoenfeld Y (2007). Epstein-Barr virus and cytomegalovirus in autoimmune diseases. Are they truly notorious? A preliminary report. <i>Ann N Y Acad Sci</i> , 1108: 567-77.
46613	Bazzi A, Portnoff K, Pischel KD (2003). [Comment] Is decaf a decoy? <i>Arthritis &amp; Rheumatism</i> , 48(3): 862.
27506	Bazzi A, Portnoff K, Pischel KD (2003). [Comment] Is decaf a decoy? Comment on the article by Mikuls, et al. <i>Arthritis &amp; Rheumatism</i> , 48(3): 862.
80569	Becker J, Winthrop KL (2010). Update on rheumatic manifestations of infectious diseases. <i>Current Opinion in Rheumatology</i> , 22(1): 72-7.
79251	Belcaro G, Gizzi G, Pellegrini L, et al (2014). Pcnogenol in postpartum symptomatic hemorrhoids. <i>Minerva Ginecologica</i> , 66: 77-84.
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80571	Bengtsson C, Kapetanovic MC, Kallberg H, et al (2010). Common vaccinations among adults do not increase the risk of developing rheumatoid arthritis: results from the Swedish EIRA study. <i>Ann Rheum Dis</i> , 69(10): 1831-3.
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80573	Benros ME (2015). [Comment] Posttraumatic stress disorder and autoimmune diseases. <i>Biological Psychiatry</i> , 77(4): 312-3.
80574	Bergsten U, Bergman S, Fridlund B, et al (2009). Patients' conceptions of the cause of their rheumatoid arthritis: a qualitative study. <i>Musculoskeletal Care</i> , 7(4): 243-55.
80575	Bergstrom U, Jacobsson LT, Nilsson JA, et al (2011). Pulmonary dysfunction, smoking, socioeconomic status and the risk of developing rheumatoid arthritis. <i>Rheumatology</i> , 50(11): 2005-13.
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29133	Bethelot JM, Bataille R, Maugars Y, et al (1999). Synovial membrane metaplasia to secondary lymphoid organs: role in the pathogenesis of autoimmune arthritis. <i>Rev Rhum [Eng Ed]</i> , 66: 410-8.
78837	Beydoun HA, Rawan el-Amin DO, McNeal M, et al (2013). Reproductive history and postmenopausal rheumatoid arthritis among women 60 years or older: Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. <i>Menopause</i> , 20(9): 930-5.
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48769	Bombardieri NM, Alessandri C, Labbadia G, et al (2004). Role of anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide antibodies in discriminating patients with rheumatoid arthritis from patients with chronic hepatitis C infection-associated polyarticular involvement. <i>Arthritis Res Ther</i> , 6(2): R137-41.
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24368	Boscarino JA (1996). Posttraumatic stress disorder, exposure to combat, and lower plasma cortisol among Vietnam Veterans: findings and clinical implications. <i>Journal of Consulting &amp; Clinical Psychology</i> , 64(1): 191-201.
49509	Boscarino JA (2004). Posttraumatic stress disorder and physical illness. <i>Ann N Y Acad Sci</i> , 1032: 141-53.
48930	Boscarino JA (2008). A prospective study of PTSD and early-age heart disease mortality among Vietnam Veterans: implications for surveillance and prevention. <i>Psychosomatic Medicine</i> , 70: 668-76.
24365	Boscarino JA, Chang J (1999). Higher abnormal leukocyte and lymphocyte counts 20 years after exposure to severe stress: research and clinical implications. <i>Psychosomatic Medicine</i> , 61: 378-86.
80578	Boscarino JA, Forsberg CW, Goldberg J (2010). A twin study of the association between PTSD symptoms and rheumatoid arthritis. <i>Psychosom Med</i> , 72(5): 481-6.
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79228	Brant KA, Caruso RL (2006). PCB 50 stimulates release of arachidonic acid and prostaglandins from late gestation rat amnion fibroblast cells. <i>Reproductive Toxicology</i> , 22: 591-8.
29079	Breebaart AC, Bijlsma JWJ, van Eden W (2002). 16-year remission of rheumatoid arthritis after unusually vigorous treatment of closed dental foci. <i>Clinical and Experimental Rheumatology</i> , 20: 555-7.
46532	Brennan F, Beech J (2007). Update on cytokines in rheumatoid arthritis. <i>Curr Opin Rheumatol</i> , 19:296-301.
27593	Brennan P, Silman A (1996). [Comment] Role of androgens in the aetiology of rheumatoid arthritis. <i>Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases</i> , 55(6): 404.
5653	Brennan P, Silman A (1994). Breast-feeding and the onset of rheumatoid arthritis. <i>Arthritis Rheum</i> , 37(6): 808-13.
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**1. Submissions**

- 1.1 Repatriation Commission, 7 August 1996 (submission made to the Authority for consideration in the investigation which resulted in Statements of Principles Nos. 126 and 127 of 1996, including reference list and draft SOPs); (14864R; 14863R; 14862R; 14861R; 14860R; 14859R);
- 1.2 RMA medical researcher discussion paper, 'SOP for rheumatoid arthritis', 2 September 1996; (163949R);
- 1.3 [REDACTED], 26 September 2002 (request for investigation); (163956R);
- 1.4 [REDACTED], undated (received 1 September 2004); (163955R);
- 1.5 Repatriation Commission, March 2003 'Rheumatoid arthritis and smoking' (submission made to the Authority for consideration in the investigation which resulted in Statements of Principles Nos. 32 and 33 of 2004, including reference list);( 163957R);
- 1.6 RMA medical researcher briefing paper, 26 May 2004; (13111727R; 13111725R; 13111724R);
- 1.7 RMA medical researcher discussion paper, 'Does smoking cause RA?' 1 June 2004; (163958R);
- 1.8 RMA medical researcher addendum to briefing paper, undated (September 2004?); (163959R);
- 1.9 [REDACTED], 14 February 2005 (request for investigation); (163985R);
- 1.10 RMA medical researcher discussion paper, 'Rheumatoid arthritis and PCBs' 15 February 2005; (163986R);
- 1.11 [REDACTED], 14 June 2006 (request for investigation); (163987R);
- 1.12 [REDACTED], 20 July 2006; (Parts 1-5) (164290R; 164291R; 164292R; 164289R; 164294R; 164293R);
- 1.13 RMA medical researcher discussion papers, 'Mineral oils and RA' & 'Polychlorinated biphenyls and rheumatoid arthritis' 24 July 2006; (164223R);
- 1.14 [REDACTED], 21 November 2007; (164225R);
- 1.15 RMA medical researcher briefing paper, October 2008; (13111774R; 13111773R);
- 1.16 RMA medical researcher summary of issues, October 2008; (13111771R);
- 1.17 RMA medical researcher summary of studies, October 2008; (13111772R; 13111770R);
- 1.18 [REDACTED], 28 January 2009 (request for investigation); (162069R);
- 1.19 RMA medical researcher briefing paper (focussed review), August 2009; (13111818R);
- 1.20 [REDACTED], 10 February 2016 (request for investigation); (161830R);
- 1.21 DVA adviser comments for RMA meeting February 2017 (17662R);
- 1.22 DVA adviser comments - RMA meeting April 2017 - 28 March 2017 (171936R).

## APPENDIX B2: NEW MATERIAL WHICH WAS NOT BEFORE THE RMA

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Background and Environmental Exposures to PCBs in the United States, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. Available from: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp17-c2.pdf>

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