

# Statement of Principles

concerning

## **CHLORACNE**

ICD CODE: 706.1

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986  
subsection 196B(2)

1. Being of the view that there is sound medical-scientific evidence that indicates that **chloracne and death from chloracne** can be related to operational service rendered by veterans, peacekeeping service rendered by members of Peacekeeping forces and hazardous service rendered by members of the Forces, the Repatriation Medical Authority determines, under subsection 196B(2) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*, that the factors that must as a minimum exist before it can be said that a reasonable hypothesis has been raised connecting **chloracne or death from chloracne** with the circumstances of that service, are:
  - (a) being exposed to herbicides in Vietnam before the clinical onset of chloracne; or
  - (b) decanting, mixing, applying or ingesting polychlorinated aromatic hydrocarbons within the 14 days before the development of chloracne; or
  - (c) inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for chloracne.
2. Subject to clause 3 (below) at least one of the factors set out in paragraphs **1(a) to (c)** must be related to any service rendered by a person.

3. The factors set out in paragraphs **1(b) and (c)** apply only where:
- (a) the person's **chloracne** was suffered prior to a period, or part of a period, of service to which the factor is related; and
  - (b) the relationship suggested between the **chloracne** and the particular service of a person is a relationship set out in paragraph 8(1)(e), 9(1)(e), 70(5)(d), or 70(5A)(d) of the Act.
4. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

**“being exposed to herbicides in Vietnam”** may be said to have occurred only if the person had:

- (a) rendered more than 30 days service on land in Vietnam; or
- (b) regularly eaten fish, fish products, crustaceans, shellfish, or meat from Vietnam; or
- (c) regularly eaten food cooked with water from Vietnam discoloured by sediment, or regularly drunk water from Vietnam discoloured by sediment; or
- (d) regularly inhaled dust in a defoliated area in Vietnam or regularly inhaled herbicide fog in Vietnam; or
- (e) sprayed or decanted herbicides in Vietnam as an occupational requirement;

**“chloracne”** means an acneform rash, with a preponderance of comedones, developing in association with a history of being exposed to herbicides or being exposed to chlorinated chemicals, attracting ICD code 706.1;

**“ICD code”** means a number assigned to a particular kind of injury or disease in the tenth edition of the *International Classification of Diseases 9th Revision*, effective date of 1 October 1993, copyrighted by the US Commission on Professional and Hospital Activities, and having the Library of Congress number 77-94472;

**“polychlorinated aromatic hydrocarbons”** means chemical compounds containing a benzene ring and multiple chlorine atoms.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 1994

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

KEN DONALD  
CHAIRMAN