



Australian Government
Repatriation Medical Authority

Statement of Principles concerning

ALBINISM

No. 20 of 2015

for the purposes of the

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

Title

1. This Instrument may be cited as Statement of Principles concerning albinism No. 20 of 2015.

Determination

2. The Repatriation Medical Authority under subsection **196B(3)** and **(8)** of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (the VEA):
 - (a) revokes Instrument No. 46 of 2007 concerning albinism; and
 - (b) determines in its place this Statement of Principles.

Kind of injury, disease or death

3.
 - (a) This Statement of Principles is about **albinism** and **death from albinism**.
 - (b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, "**albinism**" means one of a group of disorders of melanin biosynthesis, characterised by a generalised reduction in pigmentation of hair, skin and eyes, misrouting of optic nerve fibres and other ocular abnormalities. This definition includes oculocutaneous albinism and ocular albinism.

Basis for determining the factors

4. After examining the available sound medical-scientific evidence the Repatriation Medical Authority is of the view that it is more probable than not on the sound medical-scientific evidence available, that the only factor that can be related to the cause of or material contribution to or aggravation of **albinism** or **death from albinism** and which can be related to relevant service rendered by veterans or members of the Forces under the VEA, or members under the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (the MRCA) is that set out in clause 5.

Factors that must be related to service

5. The factor that must exist before it can be said that, on the balance of probabilities, in relation to the circumstances of a person's relevant service causing or materially contributing to or aggravating **albinism** or **death from albinism** is inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for albinism.

Other definitions

6. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:
 - "death from albinism"** in relation to a person includes death from a terminal event or condition that was contributed to by the person's albinism;
 - "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), Eighth Edition, effective date of 1 July 2013, copyrighted by the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority, and having ISBN 978-1-74128-213-9;
 - "relevant service"** means:
 - (a) eligible war service (other than operational service) under the VEA;
 - (b) defence service (other than hazardous service and British nuclear test defence service) under the VEA; or
 - (c) peacetime 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
 - (e) cessation of brain function.

Application

7. This Instrument applies to all matters to which section 120B of the VEA or section 339 of the MRCA applies.

Date of effect

8. This Instrument takes effect from 27 January 2015.

Dated this *nineteenth* day of *December* 2014

The Common Seal of the
Repatriation Medical Authority
was affixed at the direction of:

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'N. Saunders', written in a cursive style.

PROFESSOR NICHOLAS SAUNDERS AO
CHAIRPERSON