



Australian Government  
Repatriation Medical Authority

## Statement of Principles concerning

# GAUCHER'S DISEASE

## No. 28 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 Gaucher's disease No. 28 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. 4 of 2007 concerning Gaucher's disease; and
  - (b) determines in its place this Statement of Principles.

### Kind of injury, disease or death

3.
  - (a) This Statement of Principles is about **Gaucher's disease** and **death from Gaucher's disease**.
  - (b) For the purposes of this Statement of Principles, "**Gaucher's disease**" means a genetic disorder of sphingolipid metabolism, heritable as an autosomal recessive trait, which is characterised by a deficiency of the liposomal enzyme glucocerebrosidase, leading to accumulation of glucocerebroside in macrophages in various organs of the body.

### 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 **Gaucher's disease** or **death from Gaucher's disease** 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 **Gaucher's disease** or **death from Gaucher's disease** is inability to obtain appropriate clinical management for Gaucher's disease.

#### **Other definitions**

6. For the purposes of this Statement of Principles:

**"death from Gaucher's disease"** in relation to a person includes death from a terminal event or condition that was contributed to by the person's Gaucher's disease;

**"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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PROFESSOR NICHOLAS SAUNDERS AO  
CHAIRPERSON